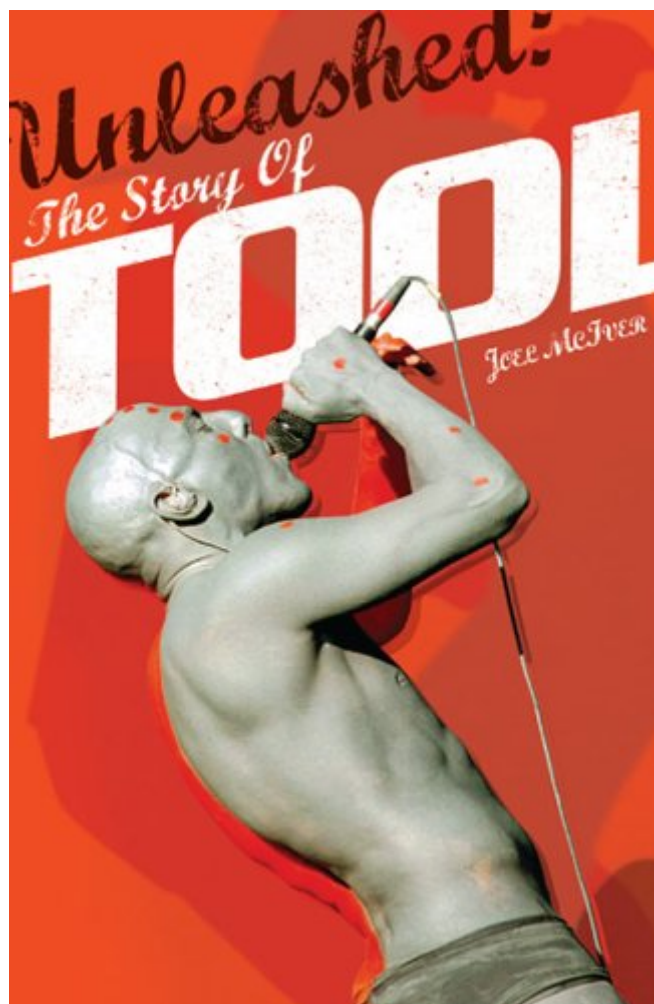


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Unleashed: The Story Of TOOL



Synopsis

The very first book about the Anglo-American metal band Tool explores not only their uncompromising music but also their unsettling, self-made image based on mythological symbols and arcane theories. The quartet of master musicians – Maynard James Keenan, Danny Carey, Justin Chancellor and Adam Jones – emerged from the club scene in Los Angeles in 1990 alongside their friends Rage Against the Machine, grabbing the concept of heavy music and then completely redefining it. With a sixties-style commitment to art and agit-prop, they have now attained a level of artistic complexity and depth which makes their enduring success a miracle in today's culture of bland, corporate entertainment. Their rise to glory has been one of the stranger rock tales of our time. Joel McIver leaves no detail omitted as he delves into the mystery behind Tool's music

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a fan of Tool, this book seemed pregnant with possibility when I discovered that someone had been bold enough to try and write a complete and current narrative about such an important and enigmatic band. What becomes apparent early is that the book is a distillation of magazine articles

spanning Tool's history. It held my interest because I was reading it as background to their body of musical work, but it suffers from the obvious fact that the author has little to no face time with any members or even associates of Tool. There might be a single reference made to an interview Mr. McIver conducted himself in the whole 246 pages. His descriptions of song ideas and the almost total omission of any studio/songwriting process leave a reader w/out any insight that you might hope for. For instance, McIver makes a lot of the birth of MJK's son; but misses any connection in his exposition of the lyrics of "H" from AEnima even as he includes the detail that Maynard gave his son the middle initial H. A serious devotee of Tool would be better served seeking out some King Crimson or by reading Bob Frissell's "Nothing in This Book Is True..." This wasn't great writing even considering it as reportage. Perhaps Tool will endorse a different venture in the future whose examinations are conducted with more literate prose and more inspired attempts at revelation.

McIver goes into a good amount of detail about the band and he definitely appreciates Tool's ideals. His writing is OK, but not amazing. The best part, however, is his extensive use of quotes from the band. I would say literally over a third of the book is simply quotes from Tool. That's easily the most valuable part of the book. In addition McIver sheds light on the background of the band members and their creative influences and process. For more on Tool I also recommend The Book of Tool from Revolver (second printing is sold out so it may be tough to come by) for a different look at the band--it's more album/artwork/photo oriented.

As soon as I saw this book online, I knew I had to have it. I have seen Tool, A Perfect Circle, and Puscifer live in concert, and I feel like my life has been fulfilled haha. Anyways, I really enjoyed reading this. It is written well and has some really cool pictures in it too of the band members. I highly recommend this to any Tool and/or Maynard fan.

Good book, if you are a fan of the band it's quite the page-turner. A lot of cool stuff about the group, although there were a few quotes from band members I've already read in magazines and such, and their origins was uncovered while reading. I only dropped one star because there was no mention of Children of the Anarchronistic Dynasty (C.A.D.) or T.E.X.A.N.S. (Tex and the anti-Nazi squad), bands Maynard was in before the formation of TOOL. I highly recommend this book I'd say it's even a little inspiring!

Good book, a lot on Maynard. But that's obvious since he is the singer. Quite a bit of quotes from

other interviews. In the end the message the music gives, is the same the band gives. Think for yourself, question authority.

Brilliant book, brilliant band, great author, although the quality isn't that great. Pages falling out on first read, bad batch of glue or something?

I enjoyed reading this. As a fan of the band, I have had the privilege to experience each tour since Undertow. Mciver did a fantastic job describing the thoughts and personalities behind some of the greatest music of a generation.

This book offered some good insight into the band. A few things I didn't care for are as follows: Repetitive, the author rehashed things throughout the book which caused it to drag on much longer than necessary. When reviewing/analyzing songs, the author would dive deep on some songs and barely discuss others. As he points out many times, the band writes to have the listeners determine their own meaning, however I felt as though the author tried to impart his interpretation too much. What I did enjoy was more of the background on the band members and how the band was formed. I thought the book would be more about the journey and less of a review of their songs, it's for this reason that I have mixed feelings about this book and give it three stars.

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