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Disco's Out...Murder's In!: The True Story Of Frank The Shank And L.A.'s Deadliest Punk Rock Gang

DISCO'S OUT...MURDER'S IN!
*the true story of frank the shank and
L.A.'s deadliest punk rock gang*



BY HEATH MATTIOLI AND DAVID SPACONE



Synopsis

Famous for its revolutionary aspects in musical, political, sexual identity and consumerist ideas, punk rock also has its lesser-known gangster ethos as well, explained here by players in the various punk gangs. The Los Angeles, Orange County, and South Bay punk scenes, populated by blue collar kids who responded to the violence and aggression of punk songs and shows. A number of them formed punk gangs that got into beatings, drug dealing and murder. Among them, no gang was more notorious than La Mirada Punks, or LMP. Says LMP chieftain Frank the Shank after getting arrested by police for murder: "After having my hands in so much bloodshed over the years, I most certainly had it coming. I deserved whatever I got." Unexpectedly Frank was bailed out from prison by his father's friend, a mob gangster. "Too many people died at the hands of punk rock violence," said Frank. "I got lucky, some didn't. As an ultra-violent punk rock gangster, I admit my part in ruining the scene. L.A. punk was a magical moment of youth expression like no other. And the gangs ruined punk rock. I still have people telling me today that they quit punk because of LMP. I dig graves at a small cemetery just outside Los Angeles. What else would you expect for Frank the Shank?" Cover illustration by the renowned Raymond Pettibon.

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Customer Reviews

I can verify this did go on at a lot of punk shows in LA back in the 80's. I saw a lot of shows back then and I always thought the gangs ruined the scene. Luckily , I made it out unscathed and not messed up .This is a great read for anyone who experienced the LA punk scene from 1981-1987.

"I just finished this book yesterday, and, though I am still processing all the stories, I am amazed at how riveting and compelling this book was. As an east coast kid growing up in this scene, we had always heard outrageous tales of hardcore violence from the wild west of LA, but to have these first-hand accounts collected in one volume is priceless. The unapologetic tone; the brutal honesty... This is a VERY important chapter in the overall history of Hardcore; one that most people find distasteful and one that recidivist historians would like to erase from memory. That makes it no less valid; Hardcore was never a "nice" thing, and the violence was a factual part of it. Good or bad, right or wrong; these terms do not apply. Violence was a part of our scene and that's just the way it was. While these stories may make the PC punks; the peace punks, the vegan do-gooders, et al, uncomfortable to acknowledge, this is a part of our history that should NEVER be swept under the rug, sanitized, or sugar-coated. I applaud the authors, the publisher and, most of all, Frank and his cohorts, for having the balls to own what they did and who they were and to put it out there for the world to see. Truly courageous. If the authors get to read this, I hope you realize the galvanizing, forceful impact this book has had on me, personally, and i hope those that grew up in the scene during this same era get a chance to check it out.I am wishing you all the success in the world, and, again, thank you for putting this out there."-Steven DiLodovico Author of "No Slam Dancing, No Stage Diving, No Spikes : An Oral History of the Legendary City Gardens

If you are interested in the history of this scene, it's definitely worth the read. The only book I know of on this particular aspect of hardcore/punk.Though I devoured the book in less than two days, I found myself wishing the authors had written a "nonfiction work about all the punk rock gangs of the time," as they expressed was their original intention in the prologue. I hope they still decide to write that book.This book only mentions the other gangs by way of explaining how they were inferior to LMP. Frank's bias and opinions sometimes interfered with my enjoyment of the book, such as when he comments that he wishes his ex-girlfriend would get "gang-raped and set on fire." I was looking for factual information about what went on with these punk gangs, not the bitter, misogynistic ranting of a derelict.Still a good read, just would have preferred a more objective perspective.

One of the best non fiction books I have ever read. Really sets the scene for a time and place that doesn't exist anymore. This book really gives you a "Slice" of what 1980's Punk and Gang culture was like in Los Angeles, a "Hardcore" and intensely entertaining (and at times hard to stomach) story, to say the least. Highly recommended

I finished this book in one sitting. I spent all day reading it, and just couldn't put it down. Even though I was never in the punk scene, I still found the stories fascinating. The book was well written and held my interest from cover to cover.

While the prose cannelling this singularly arresting book is undoubtedly somewhat crude, it's a near certainty that the brutality peculiar to its contents would lose *much* of its rapier edge filtered through the cheesecloth of excessive elegance. Frank the Shank's borderline-apocalyptic tale of unimpeded LA-hardcore violence will shock and disturb most who have become familiar with punk only since the advent of the internet (and the myriad historical PC-revisions that have ensued since) - but it rings true in nearly every regard to folks who had the fortune, or misfortune, of living through those turbulent days. A very worthy companion to 2015's other significant 80s hardcore epic, Tiger Moody's superb "HEART OF BRASS", and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend "Disco's Out...Murder's In" to anyone interested in the transcendental beauty of *warts and all* truth.

True history of teen years in suburbia from the early 80's! A must read! One word - "Savage". This book will keep you up on edge then PUSH you over! I grew up in La Mirada during this time and only heard the rumors and stories of LMP (La Mirada Punks)....brings everything full circle. WOW!

"I just finished this book yesterday, and, though I am still processing all the stories, I am amazed at how riveting and compelling this book was. As an east coast kid growing up in this scene, we had always heard outrageous tales of hardcore violence from the wild west of LA, but to have these first-hand accounts collected in one volume is priceless. The unapologetic tone; the brutal honesty... This is a VERY important chapter in the overall history of Hardcore; one that most people find distasteful and one that recidivist historians would like to erase from memory. That makes it no less valid; Hardcore was never a "nice" thing, and the violence was a factual part of it. Good or bad, right or wrong; these terms do not apply. Violence was a part of our scene and that's just the way it was. While these stories may make the PC punks; the peace punks, the vegan do-gooders, et al, uncomfortable to acknowledge, this is a part of our history that should NEVER be swept under the

rug, sanitized, or sugar-coated. I applaud the authors, the publisher and, most of all, Frank and his cohorts, for having the balls to own what they did and who they were and to put it out there for the world to see. Truly courageous. If the authors get to read this, I hope you realize the galvanizing, forceful impact this book has had on me, personally, and i hope those that grew up in the scene during this same era get a chance to check it out. I am wishing you all the success in the world, and, again, thank you for putting this out there."-Steven DiLodovico Author of "No Slam Dancing, No Stage Diving, No Spikes : An Oral History of the Legendary City Gardens

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