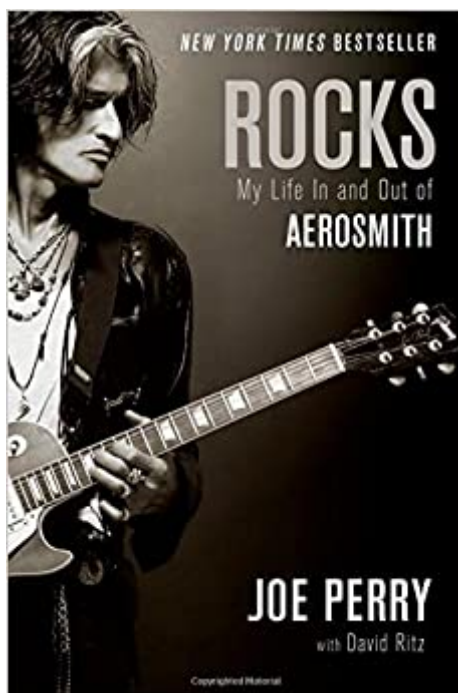


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Rocks: My Life In And Out Of Aerosmith



Synopsis

“An insightful and harrowing roller coaster ride through the career of one of rock and roll’s greatest guitarists. Strap yourself in. • “Slash “Rocking Joe Perry “rocks” again! • “Jimmy Page Before the platinum records or the Super Bowl half-time show or the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Joe Perry was a boy growing up in small-town Massachusetts. He idolized Jacques Cousteau and built his own diving rig that he used to explore a local lake. He dreamed of becoming a marine biologist. But Perry’s neighbors had teenage sons, and those sons had electric guitars, and the noise he heard when they started playing would change his life. The guitar became his passion, an object of lust, an outlet for his restlessness and his rebellious soul. That passion quickly blossomed into an obsession, and he got a band together. One night after a performance he met a brash young musician named Steven Tyler; before long, Aerosmith was born. What happened over the next forty-five years has become the stuff of legend: the knockdown, drag-out, band-splintering fights; the drugs, the booze, the rehab; the packed arenas and timeless hits; the reconciliations and the comebacks. Rocks is an unusually searching memoir of a life that spans from the top of the world to the bottom of the barrel “several times. It is a study of endurance and brotherhood, with Perry providing remarkable candor about Tyler, as well as new insights into their powerful but troubled relationship. It is an insider’s portrait of the rock and roll family, featuring everyone from Jimmy Page to Alice Cooper, Bette Midler to Chuck Berry, John Belushi to Al Hirschfeld. It takes us behind the scenes at unbelievable moments such as Joe and Steven’s appearance in the movie of Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band (they act out the murders of Peter Frampton and the Bee Gees). Full of humor, insight, and brutal honesty about life in and out of one of the biggest bands in the world, Rocks is the ultimate rock-and-roll epic. In Perry’s own words, it tells the whole story: “the loner’s story, the band’s story, the recovery story, the cult story, the love story, the success story, the failure story, the rebirth story, the re-destruction story, and the post-destructive rebirth story.”

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Customer Reviews

“An insightful and harrowing roller coaster ride through the career of one of rock and roll’s greatest guitarists. Strap yourself in. • (Slash) “Rocking Joe Perry rocks again! • (Jimmy Page) “Joe Perry has been the AxeMeister longer than some of you have been alive. He’s been there, and done that. He has been the consummate six-string gunslinger for a band that has always done things their own way. Joe never went Hollywood. Joe never looked over his shoulder to see who was running behind him. Ever the gentleman rocker, Joe sits high atop of rock royalty. Admit it. You’re jealous. When I grow up, I want to be Joe Perry. • (Gene Simmons) “Joe Perry describes with amazing detail and passion the virtual odyssey of his life as the quintessential rock star in America’s most famous rock band of all time. Like his riffs, his story is inspired, crisp, and packs a punch. Joe Perry has done for rock and roll what the human genome project and stem cell technology have done for medicine – broken it wide open to inspire and shape our music for many decades to come. I could not stop reading this book! • (Rudolph Tanzi, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and New York Times bestselling coauthor (with Deepak Chopra) of Super Brain) “One might guess that I, Perry Farrell, would admire Joe Perry because he is a legendary guitar ripper, and you’d easily be right on the button – however, what you wouldn’t have guessed is that I admire, respect, and have looked up to Joe Perry for years because he is a mad passionate, devoted husband and loving daddy who rocks. Viva familia Joe!” (Perry Farrell)

Lead guitarist Joe Perry and singer Steven Tyler wrote the majority of the songs that form the backbone of Aerosmith’s catalogue. In 2013, they were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. David Ritz is the only four-time winner of the Gleason Music Book Award.

Joe Perry has always been the seemingly quieter side of the Toxic Twins. If you’ve read Steven Tyler’s autobiography, this book will serve as a fitting companion. Everything from Perry’s writing style to his interpretation of events highlights the sharp contrast between the two men, who retain a

combustive, combative and yet brotherly relationship. Joe Perry's book - no doubt aided by bestselling biographer David Ritz - is enjoyable and readable. While intoxicated and drugged during the '70s, the overall calm and determined focus of Perry helps to convey the story of Aerosmith in a clear business like way. Tyler's biography was way more colourful, impulsive, stream-of-consciousness and anecdotal. Perry focuses on his personal decisions (shedding light where Tyler did not) in leaving the band; his ongoing frustrations and his inner life. Without saying, Perry really is the backbone of Aerosmith while Steven is the consummate frontman, and the two play out their roles in Perry's story. So while Tyler's voice shouts louder and is more sensory - Perry's tale is one of a geek who became a guitar god. It's fascinating to hear both men speak, even if one wonders how accurate events were. Whatever the case, Perry's love of music triumphs above the chaos. And for Aerosmith, one of the most remarkable rock and roll bands in history - the Train Keeps A Rollin'...

I've read many books about Aerosmith. This is my favorite. Joe's writing style is warm and inviting. I found it hard to put this book down. It was like Joe was sitting with me in my living room telling me his story. I was left feeling like I knew Joe. Yes he is a Rock Superstar. Guitars and music are his passion. He makes no excuses and he doesn't have to. He adores his wife and family, loves nature and appreciates simple things. Who knew? Through the good and the bad --it's obvious that Joe has an appreciation for the lessons he has learned along the way. He candidly talks about the struggles between he and Steven, yet he leaves me believing that he truly loves the guy. The incorrigible yet adorable Steven Tyler will forever be his brother. (okay maybe Joe wouldn't call him adorable - that part is me talking) Joe admits that "lack of communication" on both of their parts was often to blame for many of their issues. He explains in more detail the issues with Tim Collins and owns his part in bringing him into the fold. Before I read this book, I thought of Joe as an awesome guitarist who seemed as sullen and mysterious as he was sexy and gorgeous. In my mind he is still all that, but so much more. Buy the book! It is a worthy read!!

Aerosmith fans will mostly love this book. General rock and hard rock fans and guitar gear geeks will probably really like it or like it somewhat. Popular culture fans, and students of the psychology of fame and addiction, will find it interesting. For most others, it will probably have not much of interest, but the book wasn't written for them. Fans will not find a lot new here. The Judy Carne romance episode is fresh and interesting, though the young folks won't know of her fame. Still, Perry and his ghost author explain the story of his life and career well and Perry comes through as a sincere lover

of rock and blues music and his fans. The book's does confirm, intentionally or not, who the band's biggest talent is: its singer, Steven Tyler. Perry can riff with extraordinary creativity and, over (a long) time, Perry self-learned to make the guitar into a dynamic tool of his natural talent and devoted work. But Tyler, whose music background was bred from childhood and family professional history, and who possesses a natural feel for melody, lyric wordplay and rhythm (along with a unique voice and a behind-the-scenes mastery of many instruments) really was the main force that propelled the band and its songs into classic and monster-selling status. The other members of the band contributed a lot as well, and one of the weaknesses of this book is that Perry speaks so little of them, though he is gracious when he does. But the sound of Aerosmith's strong and versatile instrumentation is hardly just Perry. His self-confessed vice of arrogance (and apparent envy here and there) creeps through. Perry's clear anger at Tyler's ego, behind-the-back maneuvering, and weak work-ethic (as compared to Perry and the other band members) remains justified nevertheless. Some of this book is letting off that steam while admiring Tyler and even appreciating Tyler's virtues of helpfulness, talent, and in earlier days, friendship and loyalty. "Rocks" manages to be effective as both tribute and complaint. Perry and Tyler's famed drug issues remain mysterious before and after this book. Perry is candid enough, despite anti-addiction sentiments, to admit that the appeal of drug use was simply that it is fun, and it even helped with some creativity in their growth period. But the origin of that addiction -- a self-medication for ADD?; a self-destructive alcoholic granddad's genes? -- or of his drive-to fame is not clarified. In the case of Tyler and Perry the addictions also come paradoxically in the face of being raised comfortably and non-abusively by loving and supportive parents, whose love and memory are returned and celebrated here. The only generation gap issue for Perry was long-hair in his high school days and Perry's parents were more supportive than harassing. Ultimately, Perry is his origins -- a moderate conservative American white guy (of immigrant Portugese-Italian background) from middle class suburbia but who has an unusual career and a high-energy drive towards it. He supports Republicans and brags about his kids' careers and his later stable long-term marriage and family. He is very very subtly disdainful of, or perhaps more fairly said, distancing of, gays, or at least being identified with non-heterosexuality. His blues-fan sense is also more directed at English white blues-rockers than original black bluesmen. (This doesn't make him racist -- he is sincerely proud of having helped break MTV's video bias-barrier against black videos with the Run-DMC "Walk This Way" collaboration. But he is not some social radical seeking new and "diverse" experiences.) Joe Perry is one of the genuinely stuffiest of genuinely cool dudes. Again, the book tells us not much more than fans already knew. But fans will mostly enjoy it. And one final section -- an extended discussion of his "backline" and

equipment -- will give those who love their amps, guitars, and effects, and all the brand names and models that go with that, a full out gear-gasm. This is a fine book, aimed at fans, with no great revelations or insights, but enough adventures and information to keep interested readers. . . . interested. And it will keep fans pleased and rewarded, though probably not wholly satisfied if they want new information or perspective.

Joe's always been the one to watch in Aerosmith. The man can pretty much out-riff and out-groove anyone on the guitar, and keeps the music grounded and chugging along while that motormouth frontman (who shall remain nameless because he needs no further attention) bounces off the walls and mugs for the camera. Joe always let the music do the talking for him, so it's a treat to hear him finally open his mouth and tell his story. I liked this book because it was about him and his family and their lives, not just the usual litany of groupies laid, concerts played and records made (though that's in there, too). It's a good book. Nice collection of photos, and a detailed run-down of his gear for any guitarists wanting to know how he does what he does. Long life to you, Joe.

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