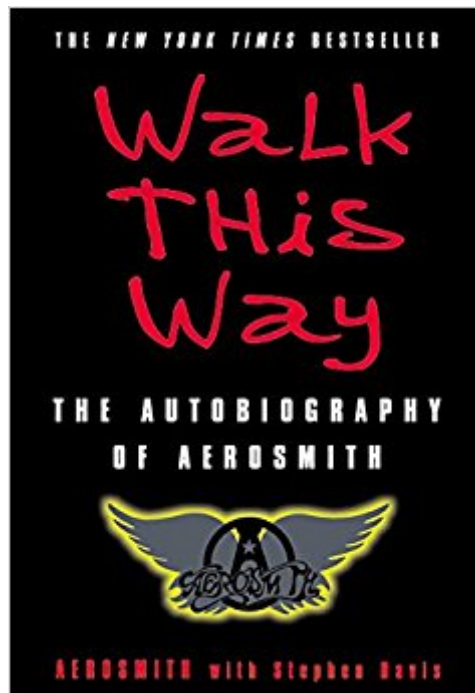




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Walk This Way: The Autobiography Of Aerosmith



Synopsis

Walk This Way: The Autobiography of Aerosmith is available in time for the Aerosmith's 40th Anniversary. It's the New York Times bestselling autobiography by the legendary rock group that lived by the motto "Anything worth doing was worth overdoing." Aerosmith shook the music world out of its '70s doldrums and made living on the edge an art form. **Walk This Way** is the complete and candid story of their meteoric rise to fame, their near destruction due to drugs and excess, and their return to the stage as one of America's greatest rock bands. Cowritten by respected rock journalist Stephen Davis, author of the seminal profile of Led Zeppelin, *Hammer of the Gods*, and with a new afterward from the band, this edition of the memoir to end all rock memoirs is the perfect gift for you and your favorite Aerosmith fan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From Aerosmith's heyday in the late 1970s, which they spent "gacked to the nines" (as lead singer Steven Tyler puts it), to the Aerosmith of today--clean, sober, and adored by millions--the band has a long, hard history. **Walk This Way** chronicles the whole story: drugs, booze, and all. Prefaced with the now familiar rock-star "intervention," when Steven Tyler's loved ones cornered him in his manager's office in 1986, the autobiography traces Aerosmith's twisted road, from their New Hampshire roots to their success in Boston to the worldwide fame that they long craved and currently enjoy. Tyler kicks off this rock & roll exposé, briefly recounting the history of his ancestors in Italy and sharing incidents from his own Northeast childhood. The book is written in

interview style, with all five band members talking candidly about the good times--and the bad. We also hear from girlfriends, wives, friends, and various hangers-on. The story of Aerosmith and their constant ups, downs, and detours never fails to grab you and force you to read another page--if only to see what train wreck awaits around the next corner. *Walk This Way* is a must-read for devoted fans of Aerosmith as well as anybody who wants to live the full-on '70s rock-star life--without having to go through rehab. --Paul DeBruiler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's amazing they can still walk, period. Chronicling these grizzled rock survivors from their '70s heyday through their sobriety-fueled comeback, this oral history finds Steven Tyler, Joe Perry, and cohorts readily copping to excessive partying, under-the-influence record making, band-wife catfights, lost fortunes--and drugs, lots of 'em. Each time they reach a new low in self-abuse, Aerosmith top themselves, making *Walk This Way* a rarity among rock memoirs--a what-now? page-turner. -- Entertainment Weekly --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This autobiography is a tell-all type of book. All of the band members and lots of the people around them participated in the book. What I liked was the format. Each chapter had input from band members and other people that were involved in that particular chapter. You might have a girlfriend or manager also telling their view of an event. It's almost like a series of interviews. The legend of the "Toxic Twins" is well-known to the generation that grew up listening to Aerosmith of the 70s. But the addictions went beyond just Steven Tyler and Joe Perry. It engulfed the entire band and many of the people around them. That makes the comeback of the 80s even more remarkable. The members of Aerosmith climbed their share of mountains and had a lot of battles among themselves before they made what I think was some terrific music on "Permanent Vacation", "Nine Lives", and "Pump." Any good band biography or autobiography will share details about who contributed in what way on each album or song. "*Walk This Way*" delivers on that count. This isn't one of those books that leaves the reader wanting more, it's mostly laid out there in open view. Warts and all. Is everything in the book? Probably not, but it's candid enough that you get a basic idea of just what kind of toll the rock roll lifestyle can take on the individual members of a wildly popular rock and roll band. It's definitely worth the read.

A friend told me about this book and said that after reading it she couldn't believe these people are

still alive. She's right - it's hard to understand! There's no explanation for how they survived such a careless, excessive lifestyle. I'm not going to spoil the book by telling you any of the stories, but many of them are hilarious and many just left me shaking my head in bewilderment. I don't think there is a single dull page anywhere in this book. One of the nice things is, it's not from a single perspective. They've included all the band members, and most of the girl friends and business partners. After an event occurred, you'll hear the various people who were there each give their side of the story. Sometimes similar, sometimes completely different. If you liked *Hammer of the Gods*, this is similar. To paraphrase how someone put it, Zeppelin knew what they were doing. These guys didn't have a clue.

it was a good look at the band..a little confusing at times because everyone in the band told their stories..so sometimes you didn't know who was saying what

This book so far is a little difficult to read because it plays like one long interview where each band member makes statements and then they are all pieced together into one long narrative. I have not read the whole thing because I find it difficult to follow. I would have preferred to have it read like the standard biography or autobiography where there is a cohesive narrative. I guess since this autobiography is technically by the whole band, it is difficult to achieve one long narrative but since *Motley Crue* was able to do it with *"The Dirt"* I figured *Aerosmith* could do it as well. It would have been cool if each member contributed various chapters focusing on various times in their lives. Fortunately, Steven Tyler's solo autobiography reads a lot better and much more easily.

This book always sticks in my mind because I happened to have it in my work bag to read on 9/11, so when I got stuck down in DC waiting for the public transportation to open up again, I just sat on a patch of lawn, cracked open *"Walk This Way"* and spent some quality time with Steven, Joe and the rest of the boys. Later that day I read it in the McDonald's which was the only place we could find open to eat in, and later that week I read it on a couple of planes and sitting up late in a hotel room where I was visiting my band friends on tour. Thanks to *Aerosmith* and the author for giving me a fine easy and not too sleazy rock read to focus on that week, it really helped. Getting on to the merits of the book, I enjoyed the format of having the story told by each of the band members in turn (sort of like *"The Dirt"* which is probably the gold standard for hard rock/ metal band bios). I prefer to get the stories in the band members' own words and their voices come across nicely. The tales of Steve and Joe's teenage band performances go on for a little too long in my opinion, but once you get

over that hump, the band's early years move along at a pretty fast clip, and it's especially fun to read about the origins of the hit songs like "Dream On" and "Sweet Emotion". Before long, the tales of excess begin to crowd out the tales of musicianship, and I was shocked to read about the depths to which Steve and Joe both sunk before they got help. My favorite story was the one about how Aerosmith almost leased the plane that later crashed and killed several members of Lynyrd Skynyrd. Fortunately, Aerosmith had a very responsible pilot who warned that the plane didn't seem safe, so they didn't lease it. Skynyrd leased the plane instead, with tragic results. I would have liked to see a few more pictures, particularly of the band's wives and ladies. It seems like Elyssa Jerret gets the lion's share of the attention in the book (mostly negative) just as she reportedly demanded it for the years she was with the band. I'd like to hear more of that story, but it seems out of place in a book about the band, since she was not a band member as much as she apparently tried to be front and center.

Found it so-so. I like Steven Tyler a lot less now though.

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