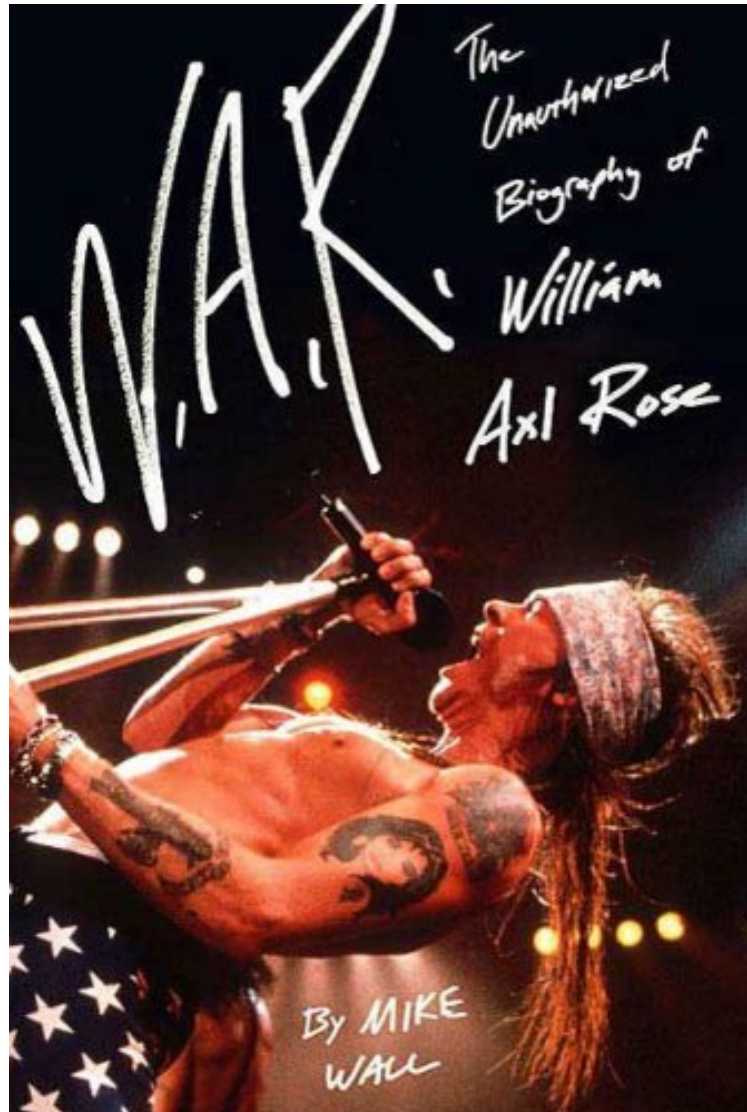


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W.A.R.: The Unauthorized Biography of William Axl Rose

Mick Wall

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Mick Wall : W.A.R.: The Unauthorized Biography of William Axl Rose before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised W.A.R.: The Unauthorized Biography of William Axl Rose:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read but not terribly Axl insight offeringBy CustomerIt was interesting but it was sort of a touring memoir. Great read but not terribly Axl insight offering. Fun, though. Reading Slash's book and he tells you what was in his head through it all. A lot more personal and therefore more meaningful to a fan like me. That original 5 will always be Guns and Roses for me. Just thought I would spit that out there.33 of 35 people found the following review helpful. An informative but superficial biographyBy SastenioIf you don't already know too much about Axl Rose and Guns 'n' Roses, this is a very informative read. On the other hand, there's

nothing here that's really new. Most, if not all, of the information is from secondary sources (published articles and interviews, website posts, etc.) rather than original research. It's as much a biography of the original members of Guns 'n' Roses as about W. Axl Rose. Their stories are inextricably interwoven--it's only to be expected that a bio of Axl will cover a lot of GNR territory; however, as the title promises a bio of Axl, I was expecting a little more than I got. It's tempting to compare this book with the recently published biography of ex-GNR guitarist Slash, but I won't, because Slash was cool enough to give us a window into his own life in the writing of that book and was completely on board with its content, while this bio of Axl is, as the title says, unauthorized. It does cumulate to some degree the timeline of Axl's *still* unreleased CD Chinese Democracy, and I came away with a slightly better understanding of the mystery behind its perpetual delay. Writer Mick Wall also covers the known facts of Axl's seclusion and the emotional and legal entanglements of the years following the disintegration of the original Guns 'n' Roses, the evolution of the "new" Guns 'n' Roses, and the persistent striving toward perfection that seems to inform (and torment) every choice made by Axl Rose. While this is a worthwhile read for anyone who wants to know something about the provocative frontman to one of the world's biggest rock bands and how it all went down, as a biography W.A.R. fails to meet its own challenge. True biography requires much more in-depth research into the biographer's subject, with input from the primary players in the life of the subject, from the subject him/herself when possible, and it requires a willingness to delve in a balanced, serious way into the influences and motivations of the subject in order to see the large framework of a life and its influence, and what that life can contribute to our understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit. Axl and his raw genius deserve as much. Hopefully his story will one day be told with the honesty it deserves. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Paul Bliss Best book on GNR hands down.

A journalist who had unprecedented access to Guns n' Roses at their peak delivers a big, brash history of the band's charismatic, fantastically talented and idiosyncratic leader; W. Axl Rose. Even in the world of rock and roll, a figure like Axl Rose doesn't come along very often. Mercurial and brilliant, deluded and imperious, Rose defies easy description or analysis. Few people have studied Rose as closely as Mick Wall has. Traveling with Guns n' Roses and writing about them in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Wall first earned Axl's trust and later his fury. W.A.R. goes back to the beginning, revealing Rose's childhood influences (and how he got his name), and tracking the birth of the band and their enormous success with albums like "Appetite for Destruction" and "Use Your Illusion." With fame and money came substance abuse and infighting, and a lead singer who morphed from eccentric to seemingly unhinged. Wall's book is richly detailed and offers surprising new views on some celebrated Guns 'n' Roses and Axl Rose incidents, including: --the death of two fans at a concert in Donington Park in England, --Rose's fall-out and eventual split from every one of the other original Gn'R band members, --fights with perceived enemies like Kurt Cobain, Motley Crue's Vince Neil and fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, --Rose's consistent refusal to show up at concerts throughout his career, --Axl becoming a virtual recluse at his Malibu mansion for most of the past 15 years. The book goes right up to the present, to explore why a new Guns n' Roses; with a reconfigured band; has toured but still hasn't released their long-awaited album "Chinese Democracy", now over a decade in the making at a cost of over \$13 million. W.A.R. is about great music, bad relationships, and the public and private personas of one of the most controversial performers of our time.

"You don't have to be a Guns 'n' Roses fanatic to dig this energetic, comprehensive, few-holds-barred portrait of modern metal's most charismatic figure." --Kirkus