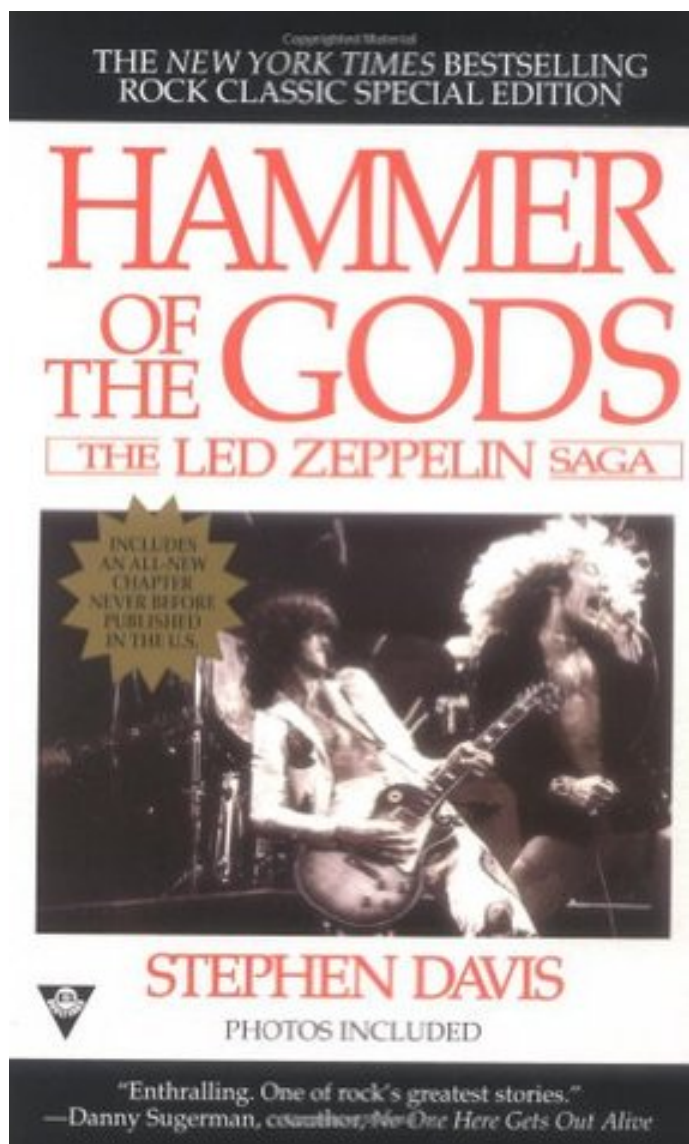

Stephen Davis

Hammer of the Gods



Title: Hammer of the Gods

Author: Stephen Davis

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Description

They were legends based on myths—myths of fantasy, power, and black magic. The tales of their tours were the most outrageous in the already excess-laden annals of modern music. The era of Led Zeppelin personified sex, drugs, and rock & roll. Based on interviews with the band's musicians, friends, employees, and lovers, **Hammer of the Gods** tells the shocking story of Led Zeppelin's successes and excesses in the 70s—when Zeppelin reigned as the industry's biggest act.

Exclusive sources. Documents. Interviews. Photos. Revelations about a band—and an industry—at its shameless peak. Read it all, and see why **Hammer of the Gods** is a classic of rock journalism in its own right.

Insightful reviews

Bex: started: 5/26/08

finished: 5/29/08

First of all, no rock and roll book could possibly be any more shocking than Motley Crue's *The Dirt*. lol. *Hammer of the Gods* is a must read for any Zep fan, really. A classic book about a classic band. It is completely up to date, until 2007 - that's only last year people! :P I really enjoyed it, I always wanted to know what was coming next and I just about cried when it reached 1980 and it was time to say goodbye to Bonzo. Maybe because I love the band so I'm emotionally attached anyway. I loved getting to know Jimmy and Robert and co. more, insight into their personalities and lives. Highly recommended for Zep fans and rock and roll fans in general. A must read!

Also, I'd like to note, that I read this book exactly forty years after the inception of the band: 1968-2008. Sweet.

Troy: *Hammer of the Gods* is missing historical context. I realize Davis was writing about four people and could not cover them all as profoundly as he could have, but despite the actual writing, I think in 1985 he was lacking both the historical perspective and the maturity to be able to give Zeppelin its full due.

Despite the selling one's soul to the devil bit, which is merely a catchy framing device, he starts out well, chronicling Jimmy Page's early musical growth and subsequent session work, understanding that it was a laboratory for his development and his output with the Yardbirds. This portion was fascinating and gave real insight into Page's vision --as well as documenting the intelligent business decisions and transactions he and his manager made, which transformed Rock and the way performers were remunerated.

However, the other three members of the band and their early development are merely glossed over. Jones is given credit as a solid supporting player; Bonham and Plant are depicted as yokels who had the extreme good fortune to be picked up by Page.

1985 was perhaps too soon to understand the social impact of the 1970's -- and so Davis makes the band seem particularly narcissistic as the story moves away from their creative process and musicianship and devolves into a series of debaucheries. Though he is careful to document the antics of the roadies and managers and separate those incidents from the bands actual transgressions, he fails to put those events into context. In fact, the seventies were a time of great excess all around: the sexual revolution was gaining momentum, women's liberation was in its early days, the the social movements of the '60s had gone underground and morphed into all sorts of self exploration including those featuring the occult and transcendence.

Again, though Davis details the recording sessions from a technical perspective, there is no insight into the band's creative process, aside from that of Stairway to Heaven -and this is where the lack of first person interview really comes into play. Some pages are spent on the marketing of the band to a mass audience, but there is little analysis why the band was despised by rock journalists who adored the Stones, and older fans who worshiped Hendrix and Cream, for example. Poor lyrics are suggested as the reason, but listening to Zeppelin's powerful sound forty years later, I think a deeper analysis of the social and historical zeitgeist is merited. Though Zeppelin didn't reach a mass audience until 1973-4, they did arrive in L.A in 1969--so it is inconceivable that the more mature audience had already moved on. As an afterthought, although Plant, Page and Jones were exceptionally good looking, they never exploited that fact in their marketing like the Beatles, Stones, Morrison and others did- which might account for their lack of social prestige and lack of interest from the art crowd --and that their appeal remained predominately limited to a younger male audience, which was concentrated on the sound and the intensity of the performances.

Personally I was impressed with the professionalism and integrity of the band in relation to performing for its fans. There is no gross self indulgence on stage [aside from long solos] - members made it a point of showing up under the most adverse conditions and giving it their all. I don't know about you, but I have to take a nap after working out or doing a bunch of errands--so I can't imagine the kind of stamina it would take to not only tour but to perform night after night raising the kind of energy necessary to whip up the audience to a certain level.

Maybe I am overthinking this and should just uncork the champagne and turn up the volume, but I would like to see a do-over by the author and a serious analysis of Zeppelin with less concentration on bedroom antics and more on the music.

Daniel: **Pebbles & Bam-Bam In Alphaville**

"If you put the germ of an idea in someone's head, then you've not done your job."

Chapter 1

Other than creature comfort books and magazines, hula hoops, and the home version of **Match Game**, everyone treadmills out their lives in a cathode palsy of day-to-day nullness.

Chapter 2

Grim-globed hippies of the future, or not, get bogged down in their own stray dogma. **Never shortchange** becomes a battlecry.

Chapter 3

Riding the crest of the **American** market we find someone well-ensconced in grandeur receiving a **Most Promising Writer of Errata with Ecclesiastical Clarity** nomination. Best quote of the evening: "Canon regulations have no effect on me."

Chapter 4

Q: Who are naturally attracted to anti-establishment concepts and philosophies that they can call their own?

Chapter 5

Unlike the notoriously laidback, a constant feedback is offered. Exact dates will be confirmed later.

Sara: I learn this e-book simply because it really is one of many purely books that my husband has ever learn greater than once. i needed to determine what used to be so nice approximately it, so off I went. First off, this ebook isn't really for me. In my view, it is a 0 famous person book. (Smack-headed pedophiles, offended violent drunks, and dudes who marry a women, have little ones with her, divorce her, then marry her sister and feature young ones along with her also, do not relatively do it for me. heavily -- these youngsters are siblings AND cousins. WTF?) Not merely did my husband love this booklet and browse it a number of times, he wrote an enjoyable publication document approximately it long ago in 1990, whilst he used to be a wee lad of 13. He rated the booklet "excellent", so i have long past forward and given it 3 stars --that's a pleasant stability among his five-star ranking and my zero-star rating. Because it's hugely entertaining, here's my husband's e-book report, verbatim and [sic]: Hammer of the Gods, the Led Zeppelin Saga. Rating: Excellent. March 12, 1990. "Led Zeppelin used to be a rock workforce of the overdue '60s, all the '70s and the early 80s. the band consisted of 4 members, Robert Plant, who was once the lead vocals, Jimmy Page, electrical guitar, John Bonham, drums and John Baldwin, alias John Paul Jones, bass and keyboard. the gang began in 1968 once they recorded their first album referred to as "Led Zeppelin." It in basic terms rate 1,750 kilos to produce, yet grossed over \$7 million by means of 1975. Their moment Album named "Led Zeppelin II" was once recorded the next year. It used to be Attacked by way of critics, however the youngsters enjoyed it. It offered 800,000 copies in 40 weeks. Led Zeppelin's 3rd album...you guessed it "Led Zeppelin III" used to be additionally criticized seriously however the universal humans idea it was once great. once they placed their fourth album out "Led Zeppelin IV" in 1971 the attack from the critics used to be really slight. In 1972 and 1973 they went on an international travel whereas writing the lyrics to and recording the subsequent album "Houses of the Holy." They placed the album out after the journey and it went platinum. They took a while off after that. Their subsequent album, made in 1975 known as "Physical Graphitti" was once additionally a destroy hit album. via 1976 they began to free many of the sparks that they had within the final 7 years. They positioned out an album named "Presence" which no longer many of us loved and neither did the critics. They have been additionally drug addicts or Alcoholics by means of then. Led Zeppelin had cut up for rather less than years and Roberts son, Karac Plant had died from a respiratory disease. Elvis Presley had died too who used to be

an excellent buddy of the bands. In 1979 the band acquired again jointly to make one other album referred to as "In during the Out Door." It did reasonable at the charts and the critics did not love it that much. They published it in 1980. One evening in 1981, John Bonham received quite inebriated and handed out. They laided him down on the inn he used to be staying at and the subsequent morning he used to be dead. the crowd placed out one final album named "Coda" from songs by no means wear the opposite albums. It was once placed out in 1982 and the gang break up up. every one member going solo Robert was once the main successful.Hedonistic - Devotion to pleasure.Gendarme - A French nationwide Policeman.Truncheon - a brief stick carried by way of Policemen.Troth - solid faithTherme - A unit of warmth equivalent toUmbrage - OffenseFracas - noisy quarrelWrangle - to dispute AngrilySpiel - to assert at lengthTumescent - swollenRobert Plant - was once a tall, slender, younger guy with blonde hair, blue eyes and had relatively gentle skin. He wasn't emotional or shy, he used to be relatively robust and had a typical endurance.How many kids did every one workforce member have? Robert Plant had 3 kids, one girl, boys. one of many boys died. John Baldwin had 3 girls. John Bonham had one son who has his personal band now.

Bryan: i have heard it stated that "rock'n'roll ain't pretty".I by no means it anticipated it to be rather so repugnant, however. learn this e-book if you would like additional info than anyone wishes approximately what is going on while teens are allowed to don't have any limits absolutely.I'd need to blame lots of the raucous habit at the highway manager, Richard Cole, and the band's manager, Peter Grant. i would in basic terms been an informal fan of Led Zeppelin (collected all their cds yet hottest my 70's challenging rock a piece extra red or Black), so I had now not formerly heard of both of those guys. among the 2 of them, they primarily set the musicians of Zeppelin as fool kings, capable of fulfill each whim and not fear approximately consequences. now not a superb recipe.I'd learn an analogous account within the Alice Cooper booklet (Billion greenback Baby). Their manager, Shep Gordon, used this tactic to vault the band to stardom. for those who act like stars, and are taken care of like stars, then the boldness you achieve may perhaps truly make it true. In Alice Cooper's case, it used to be additionally to the eventual detriment to the band. in basic terms Alice himself (a actual sheep-in-wolves-clothing) was once capable of get earlier those excesses, even though his battles with alcoholism weren't minor. What price, fame?And in Led Zeppelin's case, you could learn during this ebook how issues fell apart. Jimmy web page starts off out as particularly a pleasant younger man, clever with consultation adventure and possible shrewdpermanent sufficient to not get spaced out just like the elder Yardbirds he had joined. In fact, it really is his imaginative and prescient that helped permit Zeppelin to craft such superior-quality music.But you will discover out too many disappointing issues approximately Jimmy as you learn the publication to its end.Robert Plant comes throughout as a good looking great guy. He is going wild in the beginning yet does appear to rein issues in a piece as time is going on.John Paul Jones could be the just one to continue his sturdy experience in the course of the band's tenure. now not coincidentally, the e-book speaks at size in regards to the distance he stored from the band. He used to be no longer one to spend his time with the carousing team like Bonzo.And Bonham... what should be said? defined as a pleasant man with a center of gold whilst he is sober, he is most likely the type of man who could have problems becoming in (due to his mood and love of drink) in a typical life. yet with Richard Cole and Peter supply round to maintain encouraging the worst kind of behavior, and likewise to assist him stay away from any critical consequences, it really is no shock that he ultimately met with tragedy.But adequate with the excesses of

rock'n'roll. Being just a informal fan, I did study rather a lot in regards to the band. - within the early days of recording rock groups, the manufacturer might herald the crowd of choice. frequently he'd have a track picked out for them. If a number of the musicians could not play their components speedy enough, a consultation musician might instantly step in to complete the track. that is how Jimmy web page (pre-Led Zeppelin) bought such nice experience. (It's additionally the best way that Ritchie Blackmore obtained his commence earlier than Deep Purple, yet that is one other story.) - Jimmy's first "real" crew used to be the Yardbirds, yet he joined at their zenith. They fell apart, leaving him the name. In fact, the 1st set of exhibits that Led Zeppelin did was once less than the identify "The New Yardbirds".[image error] - Led Zeppelin particularly did thief loads of musical ideas. They crafted their songs well, however it might were applicable to proportion a few credit. - Led Zeppelin's double album "Physical Graffiti" used to be no longer all recorded on the similar time. approximately 1/2 it have been tracks unused from prior sessions. it really is not likely that a lot of a mystery to diehard fans, however it used to be information to me. - Led Zeppelin used to be not like different landmark 70's not easy rock bands (Deep pink and Black Sabbath) simply because they have been hugely recognized nearly on the start. Jimmy web page used to be in a position to take his consultation event and his Yardbirds event and use that to orchestrate a band with loads of charm and force correct from the start. what is my proof? I do have a a number of early bootlegs that i have accumulated over the net some time past 10 years, and i have continually questioned why Led Zeppelin had extra on hand than different outstanding bands. correct from the start, lovers have been appreciating Zeppelin adequate to archive their each performance. different bands have a ways fewer such recordings to be had of their early years. it is all because of Jimmy Page, his earlier experience, and his uncanny musical imaginative and prescient of the recent supergroup Led Zeppelin. ** Deep red had the same tale in that Ritchie Blackmore additionally had loads of consultation experience, yet with out robust staff adventure (like Jimmy within the Yardbirds), the 1st incarnation of Deep crimson (with singer Rod Evans) was once essentially the educational floor for whilst the imaginative and prescient will be clarified with new singer Ian Gillan (who introduced with him event with Episode Six, so as to add to organist Jon Lord's event with the Artwoods). ** Black Sabbath had no such consultation event to attract on, nor any past crew experience. They benefited from a powerful imaginative and prescient in their musical kind from their first recorded output. however it takes time for a following to construct up, and difficult rock had no radio airplay at that time. One ultimate Word-----Many reviewers right here have criticized the author's "poor writing skills". i would need to argue, yet i will decide my spots carefully. If you live at the record of hedonistic excesses, the publication will get monotonous. However, should you return and reread merely these sections that take care of the songs (or the performances themselves), you will see that the writer relatively has a manner of describing the song in how one can make it come alive. approximately each time the writer used to be describing a song, I felt the urge to drag up that tune from the album (or from the bootleg of the exhibit he was once describing) and hear it. the writer actually does have a ability in describing the music. it is by means of the a ways the simplest components of the book, and precious of your attention. Like writing various love scenes, it can't be effortless to jot down approximately a variety of songs and cause them to come alive.

Blair: i have to say that the Led Zeppelin 'family', generally the manager, Peter Grant, Richard Cole and their street team behaved extra like a violent mob now and then than a rock and roll

entourage. in actual fact they have been bullies. They bullied their method off and on of stages, beat onlookers up for very little reason, etc. Luckily, this writer does specialize in the tune a little bit and does supply a few stability among the mayhem and the artistry of the band. It used to be a slightly quickly read. I loved so much of it. My favourite parts: trying to photograph Jimmy web page operating his 'black magic'; web page and Plant's admiration for Joni Mitchell; understanding that Bonham used to be a lot a bully and a 'beast' as he used to be an improbable drummer; John Paul Jones handed out with a drag queen in New Orleans; his less-known inclination to subvert others. Despite having fun with the learn and studying extra approximately them, I nonetheless give some thought to Robert Plant feels like a blues muppet lots of the time. 'Hammer of the Gods' could be a stable position to begin sooner than relocating directly to a denser booklet at the band. - learn Sept 14th 07

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