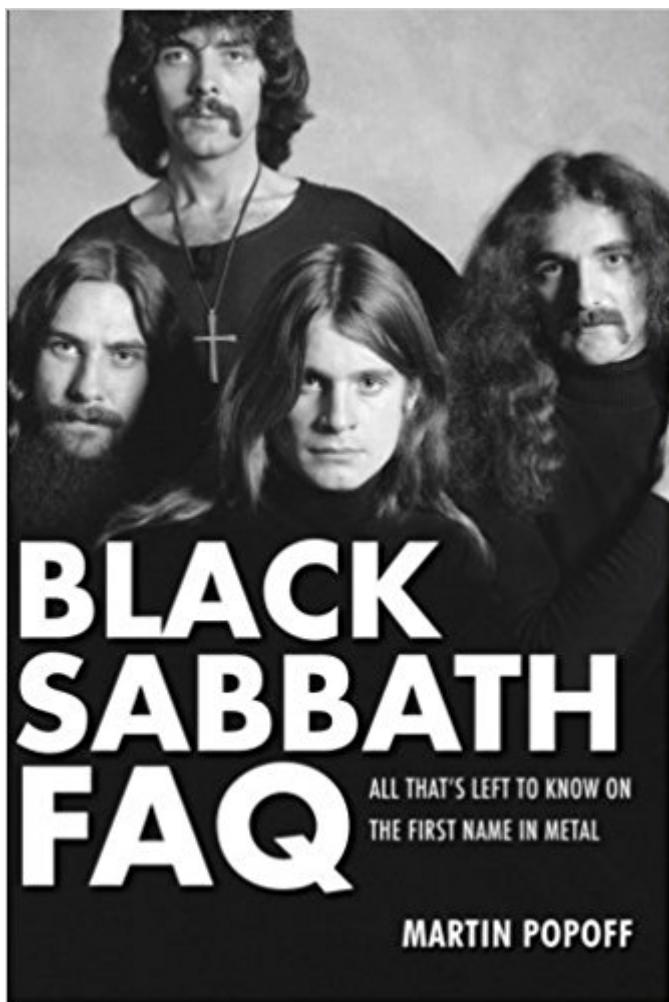


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Black Sabbath FAQ - All That's Left To Know On The First Name In Metal (FAQ Series)



Synopsis

(FAQ). Unlike any Sabbath book thus far, Black Sabbath FAQ digs deep into quirks, obscure anecdotes, and burning questions surrounding the Sabs. In a fast-moving, topical format, this book covers a tremendous amount of information, delectable to any Sabbath fan, but hard to find in a traditional biography. This rich history lives and breathes and shouts right here. And the voice behind it could not be stronger: Martin Popoff is a heavy metal expert who has authored over 30 books on the subject, including *Doom Let Loose*, which is widely considered the definitive biography of the band. In *Black Sabbath FAQ*, Popoff is like a rabid detective unearthing (and sometimes debunking) ancient lore, valiantly covering new ground, applying academic rigor, but then wildly sounding off with lurid opinion. The pendulum swings, and, though disoriented, the serious Sabbath studier is better for it come the book's doomy conclusion. Dozens of images of rare memorabilia make this book a must-have for fans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Popoff has written 30 books on heavy metal, classic rock, and record collecting, including biographies on Rush, UFO, Rainbow, Judas Priest, Deep Purple, Blue Oyster Cult, and Black Sabbath. At approximately 9,000 published record reviews, Martin has (unofficially) written more record reviews than anybody living or passed on. Martin is currently working on a 16-episode documentary on heavy metal for VH1 Classic.

Seriously, the people who are giving this low ratings need to consider reading the description of the book they are buying. It clearly states this is NOT a biography of the band; Mr. Popoff already did a bang up job of that in his Black Sabbath: Doom Let Loose tome. If a biography is what you are looking for, the book exists, it just isn't this one. What this is is a collection of chapters that are more like articles focusing on particular subjects related to the band. There is the story of the formation of their first record label and how they got signed, the creation of the Sabbath Bloody Sabbath cover artwork, the controversy of the Black and Blue tour, etc. This is a book for Black Sabbath nerds, by a Black Sabbath nerd. It is not for everyone. For me, I enjoyed every page of it. Martin Popoff is very knowledgeable and very opinionated. I disagree with him strongly on some points (really dude, how can you not LOVE "Dehumanizer"?), but it is the disagreement of true music fans who can argue to death about the production merits of certain albums but in the end both love the band and their music. The end of the book goes back in to "biography" mode as the Heaven and Hell band is covered extensively (this all happened after Doom Let Loose was written), so the two books together give a complete story of Black Sabbath before their reunion with Ozzy for the "13" album. I advise anyone with a deep love for Black Sabbath to grab this before it goes out of print like Doom Let Loose did. If you are just looking for the basic story, there are 30 other books to choose from, but this isn't it. 5 stars.

Don't get me wrong, Sabbath is the greatest heavy metal band ever and this book goes nicely into all the important stuff. The best part is that it doesn't give you just the basic stuff that any decent Sabbath fan would already know. The book goes WAY above and beyond that stuff. My problem is in the presentation. The book reads like stereo instructions. If you were doing research and needed to know some obscure fact, this is where you'd go. But to sit and read about your favorite band, this wouldn't be the way to go. After a bit you'd fall asleep. Even a baseball fanatic would become bored reading a list of batting averages. This book reads in that way. Awesome information.....OK formatting.

This book was pretty much a snore. I got about 2/3 of the way through and just tossed it. The author's opinions often come off sounding asinine and pompous. His writing style sounds like he just dictated this tripe into a tape recorder while drinking at the local pub and then transcribed it to print with no thought to editing whatsoever. There are a few little pieces of Sabbath trivia here and there for the Sabbath completist, but not enough to warrant spending the money. I want my money

and time back!

birthday present for a friend well received

About fifteen years ago something unexpected happened in the music industry. No, it wasn't that the music business began folding unto itself. After all, years of mismanagement, contempt for the customer and artists and short-sighted greed was bound to dinosaurize the obtuse (my sincere and complete apologies to all the regular retard that are bound to justifiably be insulted by this analogy) that infested the 'industry.' What I am referring to is the proliferation of music-related books. These books - biography or reference formatted - always existed, but a dozen years ago they snowballed with a vengeance. From autobiographies by musicians and authorized reference books on bands to encyclopediac titles flossing as far as the rear end of an 'artist' as was possible the shelves were filled. Martin Popoff has been prolific and has now written a new book on Black Sabbath. You know this is not his first book on the band because he tells you so and even somewhat admits that the other book would be a better starting point for fans of the Sabs. Then again, he would say that given how the reader has presumably already purchased this one, wouldn't he? So, what about the FAQ? Well, firstly, it is not a FAQ. After all, how many people out there are frequently posing the question, 'at which position did Cross Purposes chart in Switzerland?' The 400 pages are better described as a compilation of information and trivia of which there is quite a bit. There is so much of it that it has all been mishmashed, mixed and moulded, for the most part, in no chronological order from start to finish. Much of it is interesting, most of it for diehards and all, but personally - yes this is the subjective part - I was never a big Black Sabbath-with-Ozzy fan. Only the Dio period interests me, but that is just me. And speaking of just me, all preconceived notions and prejudice aside, listen to Black Sabbath's debut and tell me those boys weren't listening to Led Zeppelin 1/Yardbirds and Blue Cheer. Not that revolutionary, - a notion even affirmed by the band's first manager early on in the book - never mind assigning them the title of inventors of heavy metal as on page seventeen. Back to the book and Popoff who has toned his logopathy and run-on sentences down somehow and managed to write something comprehensible. That is a plus for the book, as so much of this information is not easily accessible elsewhere. His - and this criticism applies to all reviewers nowadays - unbridled positivity regarding everything and anything is mostly intact though and made it over for his critic job. Yet, much is as much a mystery after reading the book as it was before. So whose fault was the clash of Black Sabbath and Blue Oyster Cult? Why did Ozzy/Dio really leave (or were they booted out?) and what about Bill Ward's disappearance? Don't look for answers here.

As noted, most reviewers are all cozy with the musicians it seems - or try to be.400 pages does get one loads of information. For example (who knew?) Geezer is Irish.*This book was sent to me compliments of the author or publisher

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