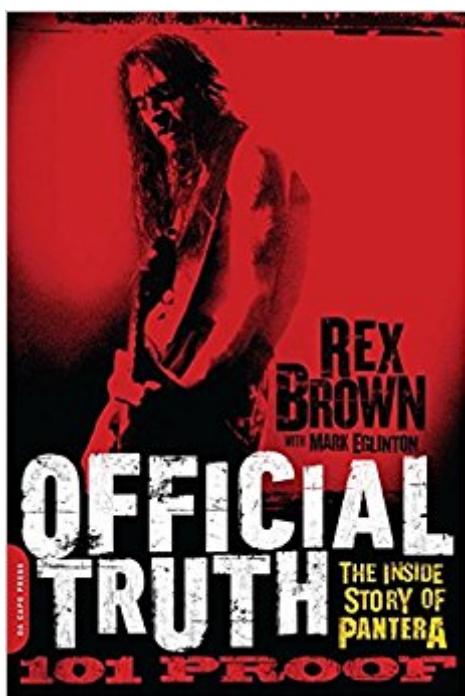


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Official Truth, 101 Proof: The Inside Story Of Pantera



Synopsis

Few heavy metal acts survived the turmoil of the early 1990s music scene. Pantera, featuring the peerless guitar playing of the late "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, was different. Instead of humoring the market, the band demanded that the audience come to them by releasing a series of fiercely uncompromising platinum albums, including *Vulgar Display of Power* and *Far Beyond Driven*—albums that sold millions of copies despite minimal airplay. This is the previously untold story behind one of the most influential bands in heavy metal history, written by the man best qualified to tell the truth about those incredible and often difficult years of fame, excess, and tragedy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Brown gives us the inside story in his new book; it's a great read.”
FullMetalRock.com, 3/24/13
“This is the real deal inside story, from the man himself, who was there and lived it; A no holds barred account of the rise and fall of Pantera; It is all covered here straight up; A must read for any fan of Pantera or Rock and Metal.”
Every Day is a New Day blog, 3/28/13
“The story of one of the craziest party bands of all time; This book was an eye opener; If you've ever been into Metal music, I'd say this is required reading.”
The Metal Den, 4/8/13
“Hands down the most brutally frank rock memoir you will ever read in your life; This is a cautionary tale (beware of the ‘hangers on’); that will make you laugh out loud and wipe away a few

tears at the same time. [About.com](#) Heavy Metal [About.com](#) Heavy Metal “Brown pulls no punches in the book…The behind the scenes story of Pantera is fascinating…There have been a lot of books written about Pantera, but Brown provides insight an outside author simply can't…It's a very well-written and compelling book. [Music As Therapy](#) blog, 4/14/13 “No one was closer to the heart of the band than Brown. He was there from the beginning and relates the ups and downs with an unabashed honesty…A book about one of the most original metal bands ever. [Illinois Entertainer](#), 7/1/13“[A] tell-all. [Soho Tribune](#), 6/22/13“A poignant and heartfelt account of life in a monstrous heavy metal band…Read the book. It's like finally getting the quiet kid in class to open up. [GhostCultMag.com](#), 7/12/13“The book has an easy-going style, and doesn't seem to be ghost-written like so many other tomes of this sort...If you are a fan of Pantera or ‘90s metal in general, this book is essential reading. [Metal Hammer](#)“A no-holds-barred insight into the mind of someone who became known as ‘the drunk guy in Pantera,' which is some feat. [Hard Rockin](#)' Homemaker, 7/29/2013“A notable and refreshing change from the vast majority of other memoirs I've read. [MetalKaoz.com](#), 9/7/13“I enjoyed every page of Official Truth, 101 Proof and learned a ton of stuff about this band. [HeavyMetalICU.com](#), 9/9/13“Gives you insight to the real world of Pantera and makes no qualms about it…An extremely honest look at the behind the scenes of one of the biggest bands of all time. [Brown] pokes a few holes into the fabric of our perception of band life and what being a rock star is all about…If you are a fan of Pantera and road stories then you should definitely pick this book up. It will make you laugh, choke you up, and blow your mind with the reality of what some of your favorite personalities are really like. [MTVHive.com](#), 3/18/13 “Wildly entertaining. [Boston Phoenix](#), 3/20/13 “'No holds barred' and 'warts and all' are typical qualifiers when it comes to rock-and-roll memoirs, but rarely do they fulfill the promise. Which makes it all the more refreshing when something like Official Truth, 101 Proof comes along. Pleasantries are dispensed sparingly in this unflinching, and often biting, but also affectionate portrait. [Dallas Observer](#), 3/18/13 “Rex takes readers into the familiar world of the Rock Star, where rivers of whiskey flow like cash pouring into the band members' bank accounts…Rex's memoir delivers to fans what the bassist intended: a behind the scenes look at the events that led to the downfall of one of America's greatest rock bands. It's full of conflict, raw emotion and backstage antics. [Dallas Observer](#)“Offers a very inside look at the band that we were never afforded the opportunity to voyeur into back in the day…Straight up, if you're a Pantera fan then read the book, you'll enjoy it…A

satisfying read. As a fan of Pantera I couldn't put the flippin' thing down. [Bass Guitar magazine](#), May 2013 [Rock star autobiographies are everywhere these days, some of them great, some less so. Official Truth, 101 Proof](#) falls easily into the former category. Brown waited years to tell his tale, but the wait has been worth it. Official Truth recounts the formation and rise to prominence of Pantera, as well as the stories of Brown's later bands Down and Kill Devil Hill, with unflinching courage, offering a new perspective on the chaos within those bands. [SLUG \(Salt Lake Under Ground\) magazine, May 2013](#) [Loudwire.com, 3/21/13](#) An unflinchingly honest look at the group, from their earliest beginnings to the ending moments and the things which have happened since then. The first official statement on Pantera and the legacy of the group from a band member. [NoTreble.com, 3/21/13](#) Describing the book as "starkly honest" almost seems like an understatement as Brown details his ride with anecdotes on events and the characters involved in the band's story. [MediaMikes.com, 3/18/13](#) A gritty in your face tale from the man who lived it. Here is your chance to get whole truth and nothing but. Candid, brutally honest, and at times shocking Rex Brown touches on everything and pulls no punches while doing so. From start to finish a great read. [North Coast Voice, 3/20/13-4/3/13 issue and The Cleveland Sound, 3/21/13](#) A candid, unpretentious autobiography from one of rock's modern day survivors; a southern-fried, fist-pumpingly fun read. [Alternative Control blog, 3/22/13](#) A great read about one of the best metal bands of all time. [Houston Press, 3/29/13](#) A tell-all history of the band. The most comprehensive insider account of Pantera's rise and fall. [BackstageAxxess.com, 3/24/13](#) Record Collector (UK), Issue 414 Brown recounts his life in parallel to Pantera's story, exploring his addiction to alcohol in courageous detail and pulling no punches when it comes to explaining the band's split and its tragic aftermath. He ascribes the various fallings-out to each of the personalities involved, without leaving anyone (including himself) blameless. Kudos to the guy for digging deep into a set of obviously painful memories to get this book done, and to his co-writer Mark Eglinton for focusing Brown's recollections into an eminently readable memoir. [Decibel, June 2013](#) Revealing. Brown deftly explains why Pantera's music works. This book won't interest the casual Pantera fan. But are there any casual Pantera fans? [Metal Forces, March 2013](#) Official Truth, 101 Proof sugarcoats nothing. [John Shelton Ivany Top 21](#) Definitive. This is a lucid account of the previously untold story behind one of the most influential bands in heavy metal history, written by the man best qualified to tell the truth about those incredible and often difficult years of fame and

excess. [WomanAroundTown.com](#), 5/28/13; A book detailing the highs and lows of super-stardom. [Curled Up With A Good Book](#) A compelling read. [SonicExcess.com](#), 3/12: Offers a perspective from the eyes of the silent member of Pantera. Often humorous, tragic, brutally honest, and always entertaining; A must read for any fan of Rock, Metal, and Pantera; Official Truth is similar to the music of Pantera, no compromise with no room for bullshit. [SkullsNBones.com](#), 3/12; Rex holds nothing back and really invites you into his Pantera world like never before; Now with this new book, we understand a little more about one of the most historic bands to ever walk this planet; A very blunt and honest read that will definitely get people talking in the metal scene; A must read for all metal fans. [Examiner.com](#), 3/12; Will appeal not just to fans of Pantera and heavy metal, but anyone interested in a look at that time in music. [Horns Up Rocks](#), 3/12; [A] very honest piece of literature; Not only is it a great read, but it will open your eyes about how the music industry works. [TheGauntlet.com](#), 3/13; The journey of the rise and fall of one of the biggest bands in heavy metal history; An honest account of what transpired during [Brown's] years in Pantera. [Rich Stambolian](#), 3/15; Rex Brown has long since taken the 'voice of reason' mantle in the ever-fracturing post-Pantera camp. Though he's the group's least public member, he's the most fit to write a memoir on the experience. Brown pulls no punches in his yarn, nonchalantly discussing the spandex-clad inception, multiplatinum explosion and untimely demise of the '90s; most definitive metal band. Most compelling are his unflinching looks into the band members' individual demons, which never come off as antagonistic or gossipy, but genuine attempts at 'telling it like it is'; As the murder of one Dimebag Darrell becomes more and more distant, no other publication has come this close to truly exploring the impact and meaning of what this band meant to the heavy metal landscape, and for that, Brown's work shouldn't go unnoticed, and is highly recommended. [PowerlineMag.com](#), 4/27/13; Pantera's fans will enjoy this up close and personal look at the band, especially those interested in hearing how the band's classic records came together. [Examiner.com](#), 4/30/13; If you are looking for dirt or something shocking, its all there as Rex didn't pull any punches and told it how it was including the bad times as well. If you are a fan of Pantera or if you just like a good biography I recommend this book because it will not disappoint. [AOL Music](#); [Noisecreep.com](#), 3/6/13; A warts and all look at Brown's journey from small town Texas music geek to platinum-selling, arena-filling rock star. Besides the insightful, and always colorful, Pantera stories included throughout Official Truth, Brown also comes clean about his own personal

battles with drugs and alcohol. [SkullsNBones.com](#), 3/6/13 “ Rex is completely honest and forthcoming in this book, and it's a major insight to one of the most influential bands of all time…A must read! [The Aquarian](#), 3/13 “ Offers the shocking insight into one of the most influential and extremely popular metal bands to ever reach the annals of heavy metal history!... Fans of Pantera and Rex Brown will love this book! [BackstageAxxess.com](#), 3/10: “ Rex's story is both honest and brutally real… Rockstars are often put on a pedestal and made to seem larger than life. Rex Brown gives us the other side of the story. His heartfelt account tells us the good, the bad, and the ugly, making Official Truth, 101 Proof much more than just a book about a rock band. It is a tale of friendships made and friendships lost and the triumphs and tragedies along the way. Dust off your bookshelf and clear some space. You're going to want to add this one to your collection. [RidgewoodPatch.com](#) 3/11

Rex Brown was born in 1964 in Graham, Texas. He joined Pantera in 1982 and has also played with Down. His new band, Kill Devil Hill, is climbing the charts. [Facebook.com/RexBrownMark](#) Eglinton is the author of James Hetfield: The Wolf At Metallica's Door. He divides his time between Scotland and the Pacific Northwest. [mark-eglinton.com](#)

Not a bad read. I read on it when I get a few minutes here and there and am close to finished. I've found it interesting. Some might find it refreshing that Rex doesn't pull any punches, but at the same time it really shows how big his ego is. And if Vinnie is as big a douche as Rex makes it sound, it's amazing that anyone would want to hang out with him at all, much less be in a band with him. The book itself could do without a lot of the short passages from managers and friends and Rex's sister. They're very uninteresting, and honestly the sections about Rex's upbringing and family life aren't relevant to the story of Pantera for the most part. He's a decent writer, albeit unpolished (not that I would expect polish from someone who likely doesn't consider himself a "writer") and writing more from a conversational style (not necessarily a bad thing), so it's not been a difficult read at all. Overall I've liked it, and to some degree I do get a better view of Pantera. It could have benefited significantly from a writing partner though.

I took an interest in the book due to me being a Pantera fan back in the day and I currently still listen to the music... I will always be a Pantera fan til the day I die. Before reading the book, I wanted to read Rex' tales and point of view about the band and about his life. Rex was always the seemingly quiet member of the band and I didn't know much about his family roots or musical background. In

the beginning portion of the book, you learn about his family upbringing..both of his parents dying when he was young and having an older sister who helped raise him. He was in a jazz band in school where he met Vinnie and he was granted a scholarship to attend a prestigious music college but didn't accept it. I enjoyed reading his explanation of how a lot of the guitar riffs from the songs from the Cowboys from Hell album were derived from old blues tunes. I don't want to give too much away about the book, but it's an overall good read...not the best but it's still good.

A first hand account from Rex on the rise and fall of Pantera, and the effect that Darrell's murder had on him. What made this even more interesting to me, as a long-time Pantera fan, is that Rex was the one that never said much in the press during the band's run. So for him to commit his memories to words, really hit home for me. The stories are not all sunshine and roses, but they feel honestly written. The book also includes anecdotes from others in the inner circle that shed even more light on things that happened. As with most fans of the band, there are a lot of "what ifs" for me. Mainly, if the members had been able to communicate better during the time they needed away, to recharge...

Very interesting, compelling story if you love Pantera like I do, but the writing is somewhat schizo bouncing around from POVs that I found confusing. Rex seems authentically acerbic and seems to have a profound love hate relationship with his old band mates. Pantera put out the heaviest billboard number one album ever made and the stories regarding the bands career and the creation of Down did keep me turning pages. . Wish Phil would put out his autobiography as he is an excellent writer and probably has some interesting stories to tell. . .

I believe Rex was a fairly under rated part of Pantera all things considered. His book offers some (heavily biased) insight into many behind the scenes factors during their uprising, though at times his ever present high opinion of himself can get a bit difficult to stomach. For what it's worth, I believe there's a heftier amount of humble pie present here than you'd get from guys like Mustaine over-praising their own contributions to the metal world. The constant tough guy posturing just makes it difficult to take the work as a whole seriously at times. At the very least it's entertaining, and if you buy it on that premise it likely won't be a disappointment. Rex himself mentions this isn't meant to be taken as the one source of truth in regards to all things Pantera, it's just his own take on how things went down. Fans of Vinnie may want to pass..

Too much rita interference, plus not near enough on panteras early days- 1980's....

It's been a while sine I've dug into a biography, and takes a special book to get my attention, and this is it. Throughout the 90s, I got into a metal band named Pantera, they were from Texas and were breathing life into a dying metal scene. Other metal bands were changing their sound to get on rock radio, these guys got heavier. Of course this book tells the story of one of the craziest party bands of all time, and the drama they went down. The book itself is presented in a manner where Rex recalls things from segments of time, and couples with sidebar interviews with management Walter O'brien, Producer Terry Date, Dimebag's life partner Rita Haney and a few other close friends. The thing I liked most about the book was how humble Rex was throughout the whole experience. While at times the band was raking in the cash, Rex stayed away from being frivilous, while the others not so much. He does explain that the Abbott brothers weren't the sharpest knives in the drawer, but they were great at what they did musically. Also covered is detail about the albums they made, connections and friendships, and what tore the band(s) apart. Things like drugs, alcohol, strip clubs, overbearing parents stealing royalties; all contributing factors. I think if anything the book serves as a warning. While the band had a ton of success they were not without their pitfalls. The biggest downer of the book is the passing of Dime. The things said about that situation really dissapointed me, and you can cross reference it in other books such as Sammy Hagar's biography. More importantly, it was equally bad to hear about Vinnie's stubborn mentality, and while we all know about Phil's drug problem, never dawned on me until hearing this story that Vinnie contributed heavily into the band's downfall as well. Either way this book was an eye opener, and it re-enforced and went further behind the scenes of Pantera's infamous home videos. If you've ever been into Metal music, I'd say this is required reading.

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