

# THE BUSINESS BOOKS

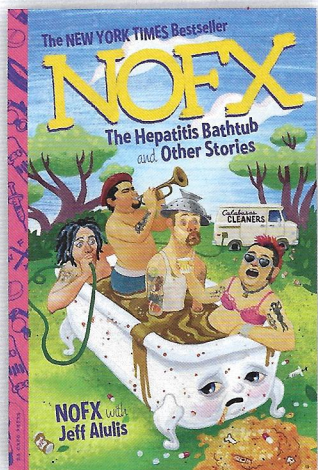
## NOFX THE HEPATITIS BATHTUB AND OTHER STORIES

NOFX with Jeff Alulis  
(Da Capo)

8/10

If the title and the twisted take on a children's book cover art aren't enough to clue you in, this 350+ page book is as shocking and controversial as NOFX have been over their more than 30 year career. Hammering the point home with bookending chapters about drinking urine, NOFX and Alulis' technique here is quite refreshing compared to many band books and rather than a straight-up retelling of their history with quotes from the band is selected stunning, dark and hilarious stories, told entirely by the band members themselves. Concentrating on their early years, with El Hefe only brought in later, it covers everything from their first shows where people would sit down and face away from NOFX as they played (there's pictures for proof). Smelly's totally open account of his heroin addiction and recovery, accidentally stealing the Red Hot Chili Peppers' costumes and Fat Mike's discovery and love for S&M, there's also tales of murder, suicide, counterfeiting, riots, terminal illness and the Yakuza! Few bands have as crazy, harrowing and inexplicable stories as NOFX and that makes 'Hepatitis Bath tub' an absorbing read.

John Truman



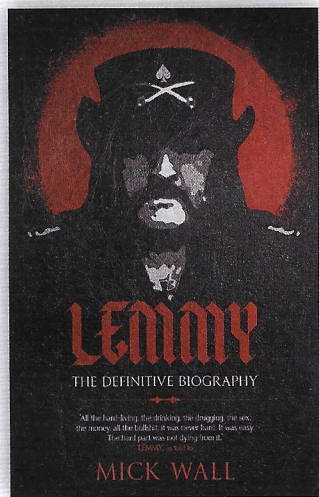
## LEMMY: THE DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY

Mick Wall  
(Orion)

9/10

"All the hard-living, the drinking, the drugging, the sex, the money, all the bullshit, it was never hard. It was easy. The hard part was not dying from it." That's what legendary Motorhead frontman Lemmy told author/music journalist Mick Wall and that's exactly what he managed to do for 70 years. This beautiful hard back 314 page book sees Wall look back over many interviews he did with the much-missed rock star over a 35 year friendship, as well as talking to former bandmates, friends, managers and fellow artists. From growing up in North Wales to his '60s success with the Rockin' Vicars ("we were very big up north, I had a Zephyr 6") and being Hendrix's roadie ("I would score acid for him") to '70s chart topping with Hawkwind ("I was fired for taking the wrong drugs") and '80s and beyond notoriety and fame with his own mighty Motorhead ("I wanted to call the band Bastard but my manager wouldn't let me"), Lemmy was one of a kind. This certainly is the definitive biography on the life of one of the most iconic musicians ever who truly lived sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

Karen Turner



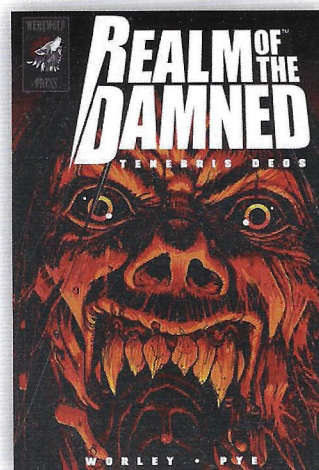
## REALM OF THE DAMNED

Alec Worley, Pye Parr  
(Werewolf)

8/10

This graphic novel takes you to the dark side. In a world where savage monsters have overrun the world, "our heroes are all; only the damned remain." One of the survivors is Alberic Van Helsing, an addict and murderer being pursued across America by hellish creatures. Once a hunter, he has to take on that role again to fight an apocalyptic evil resurrected in the forests of Norway. Battling across Europe against everyone from the vampire queen of the Vatican to the mummified ruler of the slums of Cairo, this raw tale from writer Alec Worley is brutal, gothic and unrelenting. The art from Pye Parr is stunning, with most of the book in greys and subdued colours except for the explosions of gore and gushes of blood. Featuring appearances from punk legends The Damned as well as black metallers Behemoth, Emperor and Mayhem, this is a book of the damned that any fans of gothic horror and monsters will love. Grimly fiendish fun.

John Truman



# FILMS & DVDs

## THE DAMNED DON'T YOU WISH THAT WE WERE DEAD

(Cleopatra)  
Not the straight and narrow path.

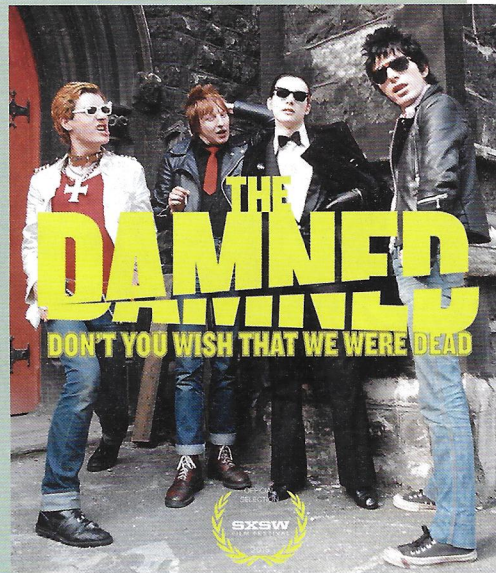
8/10

The eagerly awaited DVD release of Lemmy director Wes Orshoski's well-received 2015 documentary progresses seamlessly across the often rocky terrain taken by the Damned's torrid forty year history to provide a pretty thorough record of a band unlike any other. Framed by footage and interviews with the current line-up, filmed during tour dates spanning three years, 'Don't You Wish That You Are Dead' progresses episodically from the band's pre-history through to its present. The film makes good use of a rich broth of archive material, interviews with most of the band's key personnel (Algy Ward being a notable absence), those who played alongside them, or simply followed the Damned from a safe distance. This latter group includes a broad range of contributors; from Depeche Mode's Dave Gahan, who admits to appropriating elements of Dave Vanian's frontman persona, to the rock 'n' roll tour guide whose enthusiasm for the Damned mitigates against the slightly wobbly factual content of his expeditions.

The narrative core of the movie is largely concerned with the complex interpersonal relationships between the original four members. Through this, it succeeds in providing some insight into the differing natures of Vanian, Sensible, James and Scabies, and while the impact of Scabies' climactic peripatetic rant is tempered by the glint of self-awareness in his eye as he delivers it, other scenes, such as those that depict the band discussing the pros and cons of performing 'Stab Your Back', or Scabies' emotional reminiscence of the group being at a point where they "had everything we ever dreamed of" afford a genuine sense of *vérité*.

Although topics including the fraught relations between former bandmates and Bryn Merrick (to whom the film is posthumously dedicated) and Paul Gray's battles with cancer give the movie genuine emotional resonance, the documentary also fully represents the way in which the Damned brought fun to the po-face of punk rock. It is a slick, enjoyable ride that moves so smoothly that it's easy not to notice that the period encompassing 'The Black Album' and 'Strawberries' flashes by in a mere moment. But such quibbles are small beer; on disc this engaging film also features such bonus delights as the Captain's guide to sunny Croydon and a look back at the band's early ejection from the 1976 Anarchy Tour. Watch it with your sister.

Dick Porter



vivelerock.net