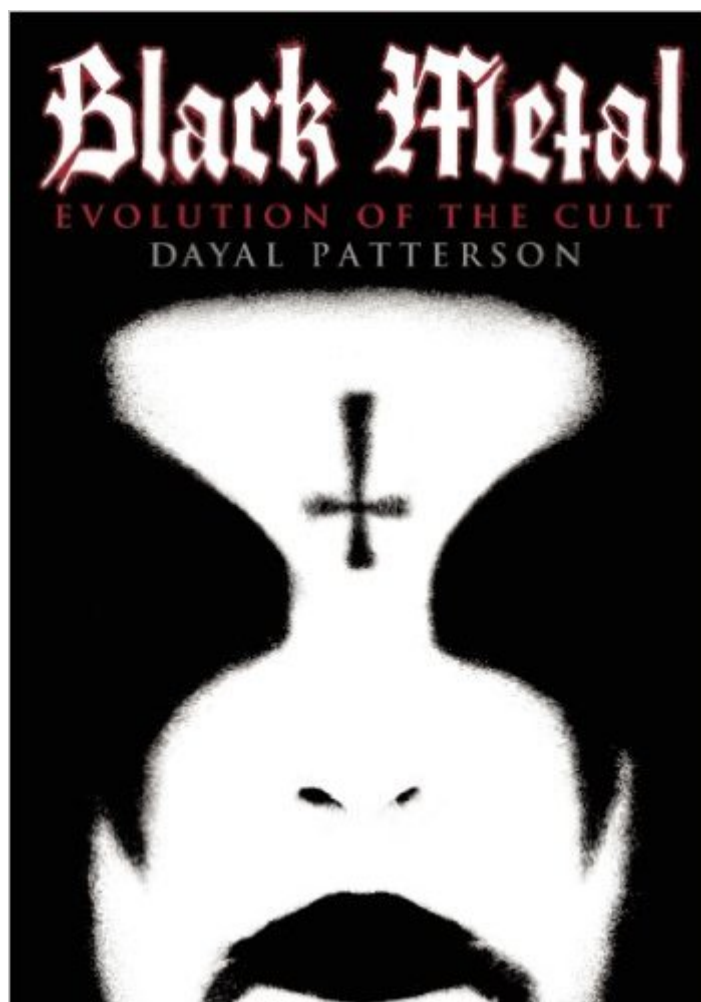


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Black Metal: Evolution Of The Cult



Synopsis

Black Metal: Evolution of the Cult features over one hundred exclusive new and archival interviews with the genre's most central figures. It is the most comprehensive guide yet to this fascinating and controversial form of extreme metal. It is encyclopaedic in length and breadth. From the early 1980s pioneers to its fiery rebirth in Scandinavia through to today's increasingly diverse groups, this epic tome captures the movement's development in unparalleled detail and images through such bands and personalities as Dimmu Borgir, Mayhem, Behemoth, Tormentor, Emperor, Darkthrone, Samael, Gorgoroth, and many dozens of others. Increasingly influential, black metal continues to grow and expand as a musical form as well as the subject of serious and satirical, animated, documentary, and narrative feature films. Publisher Feral House has already published the most famous and award-winning book about this subculture, Lords of Chaos, soon to become a narrative feature film directed by Jonas Ackerlund, an ex-black metal musician who has directed feature films and award-winning videos for the likes of Madonna and Lady Gaga.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What I love about Dayal's book is the wide range he covers in this book. It seems like every book or documentary on black metal focuses on Burzum, Mayhem, and Varg Vikernes vs. Euronymous. Dayal touches on this briefly, but more as a side note. It's very refreshing to read a black metal book that starts with the guys who started it all: Mercyful Fate, Venom, Celtic Frost, etc. and how it progressed into what it is today. Dayal's look at modern bands of all subgenres of black metal really

put this book over the top and make it the best black metal book out there. Lords of Chaos for years have set the standard, but that book was last revised in 2003, so there is a whole decade of black metal culture and goings on to report on, especially with the thousand different directions black metal has gone since then. Dayal really nailed it with this book and Feral House will continue to be my favorite publisher. Dayal puts every major (and minor) black metal and props for mentioning bands like Ulver, Samael, old Cradle of Filth, Beherit, Fleurety, Dodecahedron, Vlad Tepes, and especially Marduk. Marduk is my all time favorite band and get overlooked constantly, so it is nice to see some representation here. ANother great aspect of this book is the breakdown of scenes from various countries from around the world and the introduction to many of us such great bands like VON, which I had heard the name, but had to check out on Youtube, and am now depressed on missing out on those guys back in the day. This book is not just the best music book I have read this year (honorable mention: Al Jourgensen), but probably the best book of any kind period I have read in 2013. Props to Dayal Patterson and Feral House. This book is an encyclopedia and worth the money.

This is a pretty thorough retrospective of what has grown to be an enormous sub-culture/ genre. At 600 or so pages, it's well paced and and sewn together quite well, capturing the essence of multiple eras. As someone who fiended for information (generally pre-internet,) through 'zines, letter writing, tape trading and buying from small distros in the states during the early/ mid 90's, this book collects a lot of the information (in addition to some new insights) without overly relying on the same old hype stories. Though the retelling of some of the "shock stories" from Norway have grown tired, this text handles them without them having to be the central focus, while painting the scene with a broad enough brush to capture many of the splinter genres that have developed over the last 30 years. While it may be a matter of personal taste, my one criticism would be the overlooking of particular bands (Immortal, Ancient, Abigor, Summoning) in favor of some of others who have had less of an impact (DHG, Storm, etc.). Perhaps it was just the accessibility of the aforementioned bands' products in the States (getting imports in the US was a challenge at this time) that made them important to me, but it seems odd to have not spent time on them. If you are a long time fan of the genre, this book is a solid collection of stories and reflections, with enough new information to make it a worthwhile read. If you are newer to the scene, it is a large but digestible overview of one of he more intriguing sub-cultures of the last 30 years.

Forget Lords of Chaos, this is the one book every black metal fan should own. Absolutely a joy to

read. Gave a linear insight into how 2nd wave black metal came to be, without the hype and bias every other writer has. Obviously a well-researched labor of love for the author.

After reading "Lords of Chaos," I was left with the impression that Black Metal was defined solely by Varg Vikernes' criminal racist battiness and the genre extended no further the bounds of Scandanavia. How wrong I was! "Black Metal: Evolution of the Cult" unveiled a world of black metal spanning as Canada (Blasphemy), Romania (Master's Hammer) and Italy (Aborym). I acquired many of these albums since reading "Evolution of the Cult" and eagerly delved into the realms created by these acts. I highly recommend this book for those who have listened to Darkthrone's "A Blaze in the Northern Sky" for the 5000th time and are hungry for more!

Casual readers can enjoy this, but it definitely satisfies the aficionado as well. Lots of interviews and research has been done by the author. You can tell he has a real love for extreme music, especially Black metal. Less emphasis on the sensational like 'Lords of Chaos' and more info about the bands and the people behind them. It's up to date as well and doesn't linger on the early years of 2nd gen Black Metal in Norway, yet he covers it fully as well. Tons of great b&w pics with a good section of color as well. I only wish he'd covered 1349 and Nattefrost. Oh well. Can't have everything I guess. Highly recommended.

Good book that tends to focus on individual bands and their influence, but also devotes some pages to the overall "scene" as a whole. The author definitely did his research, as there were a few things in this book that I had not heard before, and I am a pretty devoted Black Metal fan. I would recommend this book to any music fan.

I've never really been into Black Metal when I was growing up. I chose Death, Thrash Metal in those days. This book really explained a lot, and opened my eyes to the history of Black Metal and the waves it went through. Great read, and I would recommend this book to anyone interested in Metal period! Horns up!

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