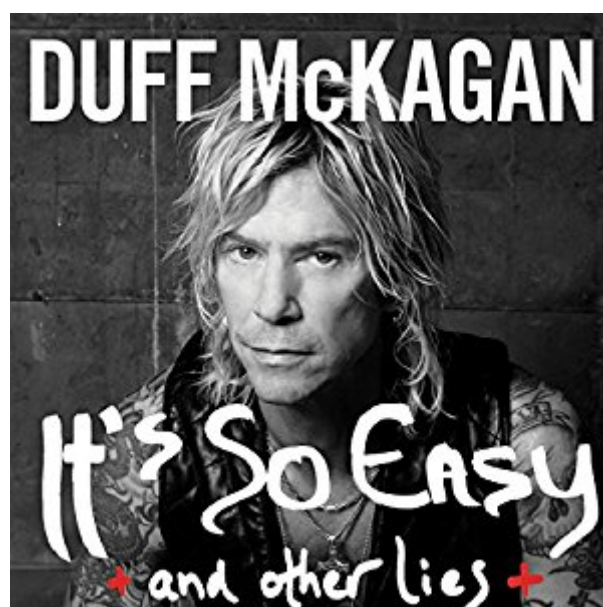


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It's So Easy: And Other Lies



Synopsis

In his New York Times best seller, Duff McKagan, founding member of Guns N' Roses and Velvet Revolver, shares the story of his rise to fame and fortune, his struggles with alcoholism and drug addiction, his personal crash and burn, and his life-saving transformation via a unique path to sobriety. In 1984, at the age of 20, Duff McKagan left his native Seattle - partly to pursue music, but mainly to get away from a host of heroin overdoses then-decimating his closest group of friends in the local punk scene. In LA only a few weeks and still living in his car, he answered a want ad for a bass player placed by someone who identified himself only as "Slash." Soon after, the most dangerous band in the world was born. Guns N' Roses went on to sell more than 100 million albums worldwide. In It's So Easy, Duff recounts Guns' unlikely trajectory to a string of multiplatinum albums, sold-out stadium concerts, and global acclaim. But that kind of glory can take its toll, and it did - ultimately - on Duff, as well as on the band itself. As Guns began to splinter, Duff felt that he himself was done, too. But his near death as a direct result of alcoholism proved to be his watershed, the turning point that sent him on a unique path to sobriety and the unexpected choices he has made for himself since. In a voice that is as honest as it is indelibly his own, Duff - one of rock's smartest and most articulate personalities - takes fans on a harrowing journey through the dark heart of one of the most notorious bands in rock and roll history and out the other side.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Duff, dude, you tell a great story! I was a little leery of buying this book, but I am such a fan of the genre of biographies and I do know the lyrics to a couple of GN'R songs, so I thought... what the heck! I was pleasantly surprised. I had no idea this guy could write, much less tell a story in such a way you find yourself not wanting to put the book down. The book flows very well, it's nicely put together and edited. I've even recommended my 60 year old mother read it (she's a big fan of bio's as well). This is the best book I've read in a while. From living in filthy back-alleys of LA to rocking the largest stadiums in the world... it's a fascinating story and McKagan tells it well. I was hooked after the first chapter, I was so surprised. I really didn't expect to like this book as much as I did. I bought this book on my Kindle the first day it was released (Oct. 4) and here it is 2 days later and I finished it already. Buy this book, especially if you are a fan of GN'R or a fan of well-written biographies.

First, a very well written book by one who clearly is serious about the craft of writing! Second, if you are reading a review by someone who is describing Duff as a "Rock Star" - the reviewer clearly did not finish the book, or simply doesn't get it. I am a life-long Seattle resident and through family, saw and met Duff for the first time when he was a little kid running around with my ex-brother-in-law, one of Duff's good friends to this day. I also have met with many of the Seattle people described in the book and used to play in a band with the brother of the drummer in the Vains. I've briefly met Duff at house parties over the years, and he was always kind and socialable to me, whom he had no reason to even speak to. So after reading his book, I can tell you from all this history that I never really knew a thing about him. I've witnessed his journey periphally from a kid on a BMX dirt bike to a punk rocker, to a world renowned musician, to an out of control drinker, to an athlete, to a father, to an educated financial adviser and now an accomplished writer with a great future before him. I could not put the book down and it actually brought me to tears a few times. Truly a moving and well constructed book - so like someone else here said, stop reading the reviews and get the book. You won't regret it! Kindle Edition)

To say I was pleasantly surprised by this book is understating it. I am not a fan of Guns 'N' Roses or Velvet Revolver at all but I found Duff McKagan's book both fascinating and inspiring. Unlike other rock stars (Slash & Ace Frehley for example) he truly takes responsibility for the way he messed up his life (and for the effects his actions have had on the people close to him). The way he climbs out of the deep dark hole he is in and then turns his life around is awe-inspiring.

This is much more than a book about a musician. Its a book about an inspirational life story. And it is a great deal of fun to read - I could not put it down! Duff's story will appeal to fans of Guns N Roses, sure, but it will appeal to anyone who enjoys a well written story of an interesting life. One of the things I found most enjoyable about the book is the feeling that you really get to know Duff. Having seen him in concert before, it is only after reading his book that I felt like he'd be someone I would really enjoy meeting and spending time talking to. A very compelling book. Way to go Duff!

Duff McKagan has lived an incredible and gutsy life so far, from dropping out of high school, leaving Seattle for LA, and playing in numerous bands until the alchemy of Guns and Roses transformed his journey. This book is a great rundown of that journey, and includes in detail the Guns and Roses years of intense musicianship and success, his struggle to dry out and kick his addictions, his newer bands Loaded and Velvet Revolver, his reentry into school for a finance degree, and his fathering and raising of two daughters. It is a very interesting read, and his insights into the dynamics of a band as awesome as GN'R are very special. During the success of GN'R, the depths into which Mr. McKagan descended, where he was gulping quarts of vodka every day, day after day, and snorting so much cocaine that his nasal passages burned out (requiring two operations), are well described, but, unfortunately, I had hoped for some introspection. In other words, what is it that makes an intelligent and successful musician gravitate to this self destruction (as not only he, but his bandmates Steven Adler (who suffered a drug induced stroke at 31), or Slash and Izzy Stradlin, who both were heavily into heroin)? McKagan gives us some idea of the constant touring and stresses of following up the Appetite for Destruction album with another winner, but I kept asking "Why? He had everything, could play anything, was in the biggest band on the planet, had plenty of money, such incredible success, and smart as well". So why the self destruction? If you are looking for the 'inside scoop' on Guns and Roses, along with some very touching scenes (like meeting Axl in London a decade after leaving GN'R and being asked to jump on stage and grab the bass), this is a book you should read. I enjoyed every page.

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