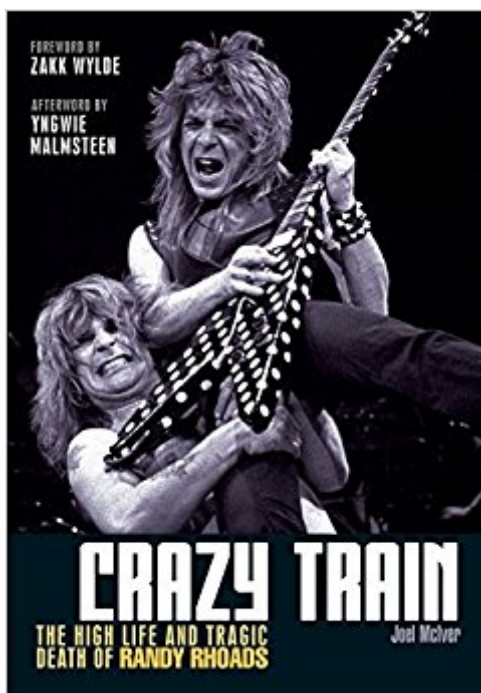


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# Crazy Train: The High Life And Tragic Death Of Randy Rhoads



## Synopsis

Randall Rhoads, born in California in 1956 and cut down in his prime at the age of only 26, has been an immense influence on a whole generation of musicians in rock and metal. He first came to international prominence in 1979, when he was recruited from the cult metal band Quiet Riot to play with Ozzy Osbourne, who had been fired from Black Sabbath for his drink and drug addictions and was in urgent need of a co-writer to kickstart a solo career. How and why Ozzy and Randy went on to find enormous success is one of the key themes of *Crazy Train*, named after the first and most famous Osbourne/Rhoads co-composition. It was Randy's pioneering combination of neo-classical soloing, catchy riffage and unforgettable songwriting which propelled Ozzy. The two albums that Randy recorded with Quiet Riot and the two with Ozzy showcase the young guitarist's immense ability, although the full extent of his talent may never have been revealed. In 1982 he died in an air crash. The parallels between *Crazy Train* and the author's best-selling *To Live Is To Die: The Life And Death Of Metallica's Cliff Burton* (Jawbone 2009) are intentional and obvious. Both books deal with a musical prodigy who died tragically in his mid-20s; both men have a vast following and a profile which has risen in the years since their deaths; and both men have a large coterie of friends, family and associates prepared to tell their stories for the very first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joel McIver is the bestselling author of *Justice for All: The Truth About Metallica* which has been translated into 9 languages. He has written for *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, *Metal Hammer*, *Classic*

Rock, and he is the occasional guest on BBC. He is currently the editor of Bass Guitar magazine. Classic Rock magazine has called him "by some distance Britain's most prolific hard rock/metal author." He wrote the official biography of the world's biggest death metal band, Cannibal Corpse and co-wrote Megadeth's bio from bass player David Ellefson.

It is interesting to watch Randy's legend slowly grow stronger through the generations. The first two decades after his untimely passing he was often overshadowed by Eddie Van Halen's incandescent talent. But the passionate, intelligent intensity of Randy Rhoads forever burns among those refined to separate the silver from the dross...Randy's talent had the depth to span ages. Randy was killed before he got to tell us much of his story and before he was a household name. Over the years his name appears at the top of the guitar magazines faithfully on the anniversary of his death or birthday. We buy the issues just to glean any small new insight into our heroes life, and usually end up disappointed. This book collects all of those gleanings and sets them in a very logical order while at the same time filling in a lot of the mortar between the bricks. I finally feel I have some insight into the life of young Randy Rhoads for the first time since I became a fan at 13 years of age, way back in 1982. I'm thankful for Rudy Sarzo's first hand recollections in "Off The Rails", but this book was much more satisfying because it revealed so much more about his history, influences and personality. Great book on my personal hero...Randy Rhoads.

As a guitar player who is primarily into hard, bluesy rock, I would be lying if I said Randy Rhoads didn't influence my playing in some way. Along with Roth, Blackmore, and Michael Schenker, Randy was one of the first to combine the blues with the classical elements that would go onto form the neo-classical shred movement of the mid to late 80s. This book gives a great account of the rise and tragic death of a master musician. It's a great, quick read that will have you ready to crank up the Blizzard of Ozz and Diary of A Madman albums. To quote Ozzy, "Long live Randy Rhoads.

For diehard Randy fans this book will feel like a patchwork from old guitar magazine interviews and rehashed quotes you have read many times before. There are also plenty of typo-o's etc., which appears very unprofessional and suspiciously rushed for publication to coincide with Ozzy's newly released box set...However, if you are a newer Randy fan the content might appear fresh and informative. And if nothing else, bless the writer for keeping Randy's memory alive and well :-)(I also would have loved more pics! There are only a handful at the beginning of the book.)**TO ALL FANS - PURCHASE "OFF THE RAILS" by Rudy Sarzo which includes stories and vignettes told from a first**

hand account and much of the information has never been revealed in interviews, etc. until this book was published. R.I.P. Randy

Fantastic book about the life of a legend. I learned many new facts about Randy. Buy this book, you will not be disappointed.

If you are a diehard Randy Rhoads fan you won't find too much new in this book. As you are reading it you will say to yourself "yeah i already read that on wiki"... "yep I read that here, ok yeah I heard that there". To be fair, it was such a fast rise and fall I'm not sure what I was expecting... A few new things and its an easy read so it was worth the money for me.

Well packaged, solid book, but terrible editing and literally pages that repeat themselves. Some really cool information about Randy, but whoever edited this book should be fired.

Learned a few more details I've never heard before, so content-wise, it was a decent read. What I hated about it was the poor editing. There were a multitude of times where things were repeated - sometimes word-for-word - in the same paragraph, or later on in the book. Very distracting, aggravating, and downright negligent.

what a great read..lots of info,stories,and hard to put down...ive been an ozzy fan since day one,and the book was still a great read..one of the few people that have passed away that i miss(selfishly),,because i would have loved to hear,,more from...others i miss..layne staley,chris farley.....if that gives you any idea....if youre a randy fan,and havent bought the book,this one you should buy...

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