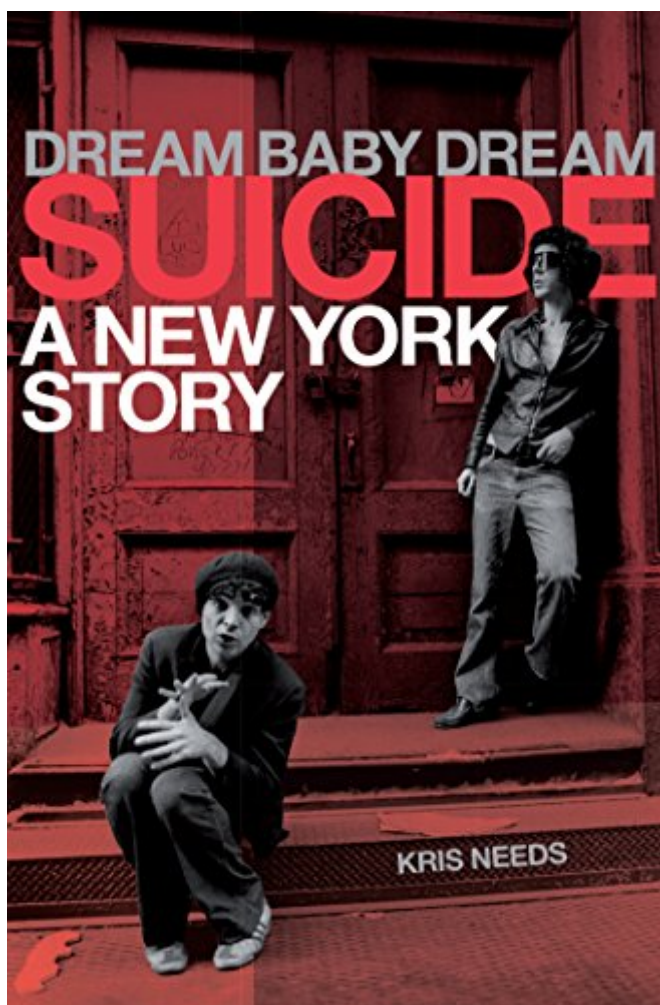


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# Dream Baby Dream: Suicide: A New York City Story



## Synopsis

“We were living through the realities of war and bringing the war onto the stage... Everybody hated us, man.” Alan Vega Born out of the city’s vibrant artistic underground as a counter-cultural performance art statement, opposing the war by mirroring its turmoil, Suicide became the most terrifyingly iconoclastic band in history, and also one of the most influential. By the time the punk scene they’re usually associated with came out of CBGBs in the mid-seventies, Suicide had already been causing havoc in New York’s clubs for several years. Working closely with the author, Rev and Vega explain the influences and events which led to the birth of Suicide and their early struggles. They invoke another world and era, peppered with smoky jazz clubs, Iggy Pop in his new-born Stooge persona and even suffer an attack from beat guru Allen Ginsberg. Along with interviewing major figures in the Suicide story, the author reaches back into 40 years chronicling and interviewing major players in New York’s musical history, including Blondie, Jayne County, James Chance and the New York Dolls. While the city changes around them, it all adds up to the definitive account of the lives and times of this unique duo.

## Book Information

File Size: 20470 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Omnibus Press; 01 edition (October 12, 2015)

Publication Date: October 18, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B0100QGEGW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #487,612 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk #159

in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Punk #260 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk

## Customer Reviews

Nice overview of New York City when it was a dangerous creative cauldron of activity. Furthermore, Harry Hill supplies insightful writing that adds resonance to Suicide's musical contributions to the period and the history of electronic music. BUY their first album and this tome!

A great read

Fantastic.

So happy, the book came when expected, was grateful to know the exact shipping window. Very pleased thank you so much!!

Suicide Lives: Dream Baby Dream By Rob Jones Kris Needs is an acclaimed musical journalist with a wealth of experience and a catalogue of credits. *Needs Must: A very Rock n Roll Story* is the 1999 autobiography of a renowned writer and this riveting read gives kudos to its talented writer. Needs has also explored the careers of Blondie, George Clinton and others but it is now the turn of Suicide, the New York electro punk pioneers. *Dream Baby Dream: Suicide: A New York City story* published by Omnibus Press spans the 45 years of a unique act. However, Needs goes way back beyond 1970 and collates a series of scenes, sounds, figures and phenomenon that led to the meeting and momentum of the key components of one of the cult colossuses of modern music. The research is remarkable and there is a gradual build up to the union of Marty Rev and Alan Vega (who become the sublime Suicide). This potent pair of players created a monster and wedded experimentation sparked through factors such as: a strong jazz background, basic (and maybe broken) instrumentation, an anti-war stance (added to other political opposition) and then the fire of Iggy Pop iced the product! There is so much more to assess in this counter culture, aural art account-and, Needs does justice to a tantalising tale. The literature most definitely claims official backing from Suicide because their views and visions are extensively shared. To experience the on and off stage battles that Suicide encounter would have led to the majority of musicians to call it a day. These street survivors have physical knives thrown at them and literal knives placed in their backs! Nonetheless, as the years pass and others plagiarise or popularise their template Suicide refuse to be beaten. To offer an assessment of Suicide these couple of comments are poignant, i.e. If Elvis joined Kraftwerk to make soundtracks for horror films and nerve jinglingly terrifying! There are plenty of high profile fans

including Nick Cave, Bobbie Gillespie, Marc Almond and Ric Ocasek. Meanwhile, Bruce Springsteen and The Horrors amongst others have covered Suicide tunes. Rev and Vega were ahead of their time and of no time at all! Suicide billed themselves as "punk music" several years before that genre was even identified and their anarchic attitude was riddled with rebellion. The problem was that their sometimes sonorous savagery and a wish to prod paying punters led to riots on the stage circuit-and, that was exemplified by their tumultuous 1978 UK tour with The Clash and The Specials. A mate of mine was present at a Cardiff gig on this schedule and he said that the songs of Suicide were difficult to decipher as the crowd bayed for blood! An extremely hostile audience offered a torrent of abuse and countless projectile objects aimed at the performance area confirmed that the audience wanted Suicide to vanish a.s.a.p. During this era the likes of the first two Suicide albums appeared and even when played today these works stand the test of time and make for an amazing listening experience. As the years have passed whether together or as solo entities Rev and Vega have continued to push the avant-garde envelope while at the same time composing some incredible pop pleasures. Love or loathe them but if you claim to be a rock fan there is absolutely no way that Suicide can be ignored. To parallel an extensive recording back catalogue with this well constructed book is a rewarding task. Check out both the tunes and this text! Suicide lives!

Great book! Magnificent band!

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