



Turned on: A Biography of Henry Rollins

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A vivid portrait of Henry Rollins - singer, writer, publisher and poet. Parker has talked to many of those closely involved in the scene and has uncovered many previously undisclosed - and often outrageous facts about Rollins' life.

Turned on: A Biography of Henry Rollins Details

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Author : James Parker

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Dan Ray says

I never do this, but I actually threw this book in the garbage unfinished.

This was clearly written by a fan, not a writer and it was written against Henry Rollins express wishes. Hint - if you're writing an unauthorised biography, and the subject warns their staff not to talk to you specifically by name, you're barking up the wrong tree.

I'm a fan of Henry Rollins, but this book is unreadable.

James says

I didn't know much about Henry Rollins, the post-punk early 80s, Black Flag or any of those things, which made this read really engrossing.

An impressive amount of research and interview went into the book, creating a pretty convincing picture about the man and the world he came from. The author is sympathetic to Rollins, though tries to keep things reasonably objective. As a biography about a musician, this was an interesting read, covering post Rollins and the post-punk/hardcore era in the US circa late 70s to mid 80s.

My only major complaint is that the author tends to take a lot of poetic license and indulges in extravagant writing. This does a good job countering the blasting hard edges of the music in question (it's worth digging up the albums mentioned in the book, if only for context), but can also go a bit over the top.

Still, fun and interesting read. Good biography.

Marc says

let you know hard is hard .

Antonis Moras says

A concise story, full of contrasting standpoints, maybe a little bit overdramatic in some points but why not. Now i should read "Get in the van" and that's all.

Liam says

I didn't expect much from this book, but ended up being pleasantly surprised; it was a much better read than I

had anticipated. That being said, this is certainly not a definitive biography of Henry Rollins. I suspect we may have to wait a while for that, and it may well be that Rollins will opt to write an autobiography or memoir rather than allow anyone else to write any sort of "authorised" biography of him during his lifetime. This book is probably just about as good as it's going to get, at least for a while. If you are a big fan of the man's work, and/or simply curious about him, it's worth reading; nowhere near worth the \$17.95 cover price (especially since it's a paperback), however, and frankly not really even worth the \$8.50 I paid for a used copy. If I had to do it again, I'd try the library first...

Leigh Roberts says

Thoroughly researched and informative

Steven Spector says

An engrossing read featuring the LA punk scene, a band called Black Flag, and a very complicated and at times tortured individual square at the center of it all.

Jennifer Quigley says

Really enjoyed it, learned so many things I didn't know about him. Excellent in depth behind the scenes peak at an interesting slightly enigmatic character.

Alex Ankarr says

Highly informative. Does what it says on the tin. I suppose Rollins would approve that, right?

catechism says

I love Henry Rollins kind of a lot, but this read more as hagiography than biography.
