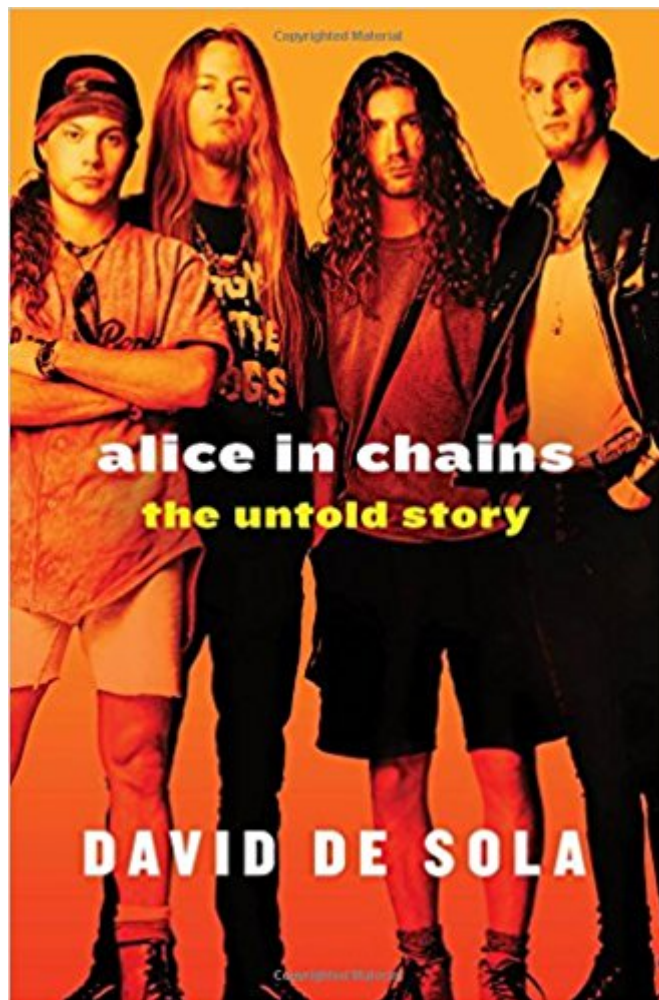




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Alice In Chains: The Untold Story



Synopsis

Alice in Chains were among the loudest voices out of Seattle. They were iconic pioneers who mixed grunge and metal in ways that continue to influence today's artists, and theirs is a story of hard work, self-destruction, rising from the ashes, and carrying on a lasting legacy. Four years after their first meeting at a warehouse under Seattle's Ballard Bridge, Alice in Chains became the first of grunge's big four - ahead of Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden - to get a gold record and achieve national recognition. With the charismatic Layne Staley behind the microphone, they became one of the most influential and successful bands to come out of the Seattle music scene. But as the band got bigger, so did their problems. Acclaimed journalist David de Sola delves beneath the secrecy, gossip, and rumor surrounding the band to tell their full story for the first time. Based on a wealth of interviews with people who have direct knowledge of the band, many speaking on the record for the very first time, de Sola explores how drugs nearly destroyed them and claimed the lives of Staley and founding bassist Mike Starr, follows Jerry Cantrell's solo career and Mike Starr's life after being fired from the band, and chronicles the band's resurrection with new lead singer William DuVall. From their anonymous struggles to topping the charts with hits like "Would?," "Man in the Box," and "Rooster," Alice in Chains reveals the members of the band not as caricatures of rock stars but as brilliant, nuanced, and flawed human beings whose years of hard work led to the seemingly overnight success that changed the music scene forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“The early-’90s Seattle grunge band, long overshadowed by its hometown peers (Nirvana, Pearl Jam), gets its due in this debut book from a Georgetown graduate student. Taking center stage is original frontman Layne Staley who, like Kurt Cobain, found celebrity and success difficult and drugs an easy out. But there’s also a deep dive into the band’s musical influences and its impact on the broader rock scene, explaining both its roots and its reach.”

Billboard, Summer Book Preview “De Sola explains in riveting detail how AIC became one of the most important bands to emerge from the Seattle rock scene, and throws new light on the dark impulses that drove it to both greatness and tragedy. Compulsively readable.”

John Jobling, author of U2: The Definitive Biography “A stellar grasp of document sources interwoven with an incredible depth of all-new interviews are the making of the first truly comprehensive biography of Alice in Chains. The story blends musical world, personal lives and the demands of the business Alice in Chains entered whether the cut-price early days or the bombastic cash-overload of their peak success to show how each element coexisted, impacted, clashed or simply destroyed the other.”

Nick Soulsby, author of I Found My Friends: The Oral History of Nirvana “A well-reported history of one of the most important and influential bands to emerge from the Seattle scene. Alice in Chains will appeal to grunge fans and metal-heads alike.”

Mark Yarm, author of Everybody Loves Our Town: An Oral History of Grunge “De Sola brings a refined sensibility to the tale of Alice in Chains... exhaustively researched.”

Kirkus Reviews

David de Sola is a journalist with experience working at CNN, 60 Minutes, and Reuters, whose work has also been published in The Atlantic, The Huffington Post, and other print and online publications. He lives in Los Angeles.

I am an absolute huge Alice in Chains fan. I have all their vinyls, I have met them, I have seen them live, but I have never found a good book about them and Layne Staley until now. Out of all the grunge bands to come out of Seattle, they definitely had the least amount of press coverage. So much has been published about Nirvana, Kurt Cobain, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden, but Alice in Chains never got that. This book is what I have been looking for. I have studied AIC and Layne up and down since I was 16 and I always thought I knew it all until I opened this book. By page 10 I was already immersed in it. If you are a die hard fan, this is what you have wanted. I don’t understand how this could be classified as ‘disappointing’, as this is the most information I have ever been able to find. I highly recommend reading this, whether you are a life long fan or just

wanting some information, you will not be disappointed. Thank you David De Sola for finally writing something amazing and heartfelt about my favorite band.

It was interesting to gain some insight into the recording process and details I was previously unaware of. One thing that took me out of it was some of inconsistent time lines and events that appeared in this book. I realize when discussing things that happened 20 plus years ago that happens. But when certain stories have different accounts of different events happening at different times then what exactly am I supposed to believe? Part of me feels bad that the talent that Layne Staley had is forever gone and cut woefully short. The bands that Alice in chains influenced can't hold a candle to Alice in chains in their prime. But part of me feels frustrated by his chosen path of self destruction. Whatever the reasons (beyond Layne's death) we all have our demons and sometimes we can't overcome them. I wish the band continued success.

This is a great book. This is the first time the author wrote a book & he has done a superb job. It moves quickly. I must have had Layne Staley on a pedestal & this book has told the truth about Layne. Well, I know longer have him on a pedestal. He started using drugs early on & his mom plus stepdad did nothing about it. There is a sadness about the book since it's mostly about Layne. But it had to be about mainly Layne since he was Alice in Chains.

its been a slow read so far....i may come back to this post....not as catchy and grabbing as other books...I'm a metalhead who reads...I know, youre thinkig ,no way...but its true...and this has been going down like a pill without the coating so far....

I'm giving this 4 stars, because it's not written from a first hand point of view. It's all stories and quotes the writer got from other people and publications. But, i love AIC so of course i like the book.

Very interesting book about my favorite band. A lot of the accounts in the book I had already heard but there were other stories that took me by surprise. Great read for any AIC fan.

You definitely have to be a an AIC hardcore fan to read this. So many names thrown around. Glad I read it. If you do much research on AIC there won't be a ton of Aha moments. Everyone knows how the story ends, really a shame, so talented!!!!

Huge AIC/grunge fan. It's a shame that there aren't more stories and books about this genre/era available or written. Considering the author didn't have a lot of help from the band and their affiliates themselves, it's an excellent book full of information. I actually already knew most of it from my 'Layne Staley black-hole' binges where I would be online for hours, but if you haven't scoured the depths of the Internet, this is a very informational book. The reason for four stars doesn't take away from the book, I just wish more of the people involved would have allowed the author to interview them.

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