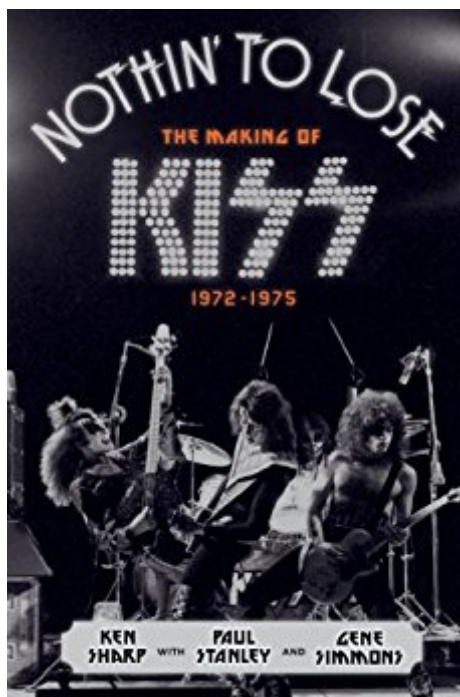


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Nothin' To Lose: The Making Of KISS (1972-1975)



Synopsis

Nothing to Lose: The Making of KISS (1972-1975) chronicles, for the first time, the crucial formative years of the legendary rock band KISS, culminating with the groundbreaking success of their classic 1975 album *Alive!* and the smash single "Rock and Roll All Nite," a song that nearly four decades later remains one of rock's most enduring anthems. Drawing on more than two hundred interviews, the book offers a captivating and intimate fly-on-the-wall account of their launch, charting the struggles and ultimate victories that led them to the threshold of superstardom. Constructed as an oral history, the book includes original interviews with Paul Stanley, Gene Simmons, Ace Frehley, and Peter Criss, as well as with producers; engineers; management; record company personnel; roadies; club owners; booking agents; concert promoters; costume, stage, and art designers; rock photographers; publicists; and key music journalists. Many of KISS's musical contemporaries from the time, most of whom shared concert bills with the band on their early tours, also lend their perspective via new interviews; these include Bob Seger, Alice Cooper, and Ted Nugent, as well as members of Aerosmith, Black Sabbath, Rush, Slade, Blue Åyster Cult, Mott the Hoople, Journey, REO Speedwagon, Styx, Raspberries, The James Gang, The New York Dolls, Iggy & the Stooges, The Ramones, Suzi Quatro, Argent, and Uriah Heep, among others. The result is an indelible and irresistible portrait of a band on the rise and of the music scene they changed forever.

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Customer Reviews

I really dislike books about KISS. I've read Gene's, Peter's, and Ace's, and felt that the things which interested me were glossed over. Meanwhile, band drama was highlighted with these books. Nothin' To Lose takes a different take on the early formation of the band. Instead of a subjective commentary on band members and their squabbles, the book focuses on factual events which lead to KISS's rise to fame. PROS:-Excerpts from many folks who worked in and around the band are prominently featured in this book. In short, it isn't just the words of Paul & Gene.-The book focuses on the band's formative years, until just after the release of "Alive!".-It gives the reader better insight into the band's logistics, and the amount of support employed to get this band off the ground.-It is a fun read for most readers, and features info that would surprise even the most die hard KISS fan.-The early photos of the band without makeup were pretty cool. CONS:-The book probably would've been better off without any band member commentary. I've pretty much heard all they've had to say. The only thing revealed by the band that I didn't know, was that they used to do AMC car company commercial recordings.-I was bummed when it ended.-I wish they went into more detail on the costumes and instruments. Then again, the general reader may find that boring.-I wish it was an unauthorized book, because I felt that some observations were overly flattering of KISS. This is the first KISS book I've read that I really enjoyed. I'd highly suggest it.

Ken has been known for years as an authority on KISS and rock n' roll in general but with this book he took things to another level. The depth of the information from all aspects of the band's formative years is incredible. Ken puts it all together in a great timeline. Amazing insight into how the band came to be the stage presence they are today. The old crew, managers, assistants, friends etc. make for a view from the inside that is not solely that of the band. A very unique view and well put together. The photos, especially those from Eddie Solan's collection are incredible. KISS in studio as starving kids chasing the dream. There are dozens of KISS books but this sits right up at the top. A recommended read for any KISS or music fan. Kudos to Ken!

Before I start I will state that I am a lifelong die hard 70's KISS fan that has spent thousands of dollars on them so I have earned the right to complain...Honestly ; this book is Not a book with a

story line...It's just a bunch of quotes and comments from Kiss members and roadies, techs, record execs, and so on. What pissed me off the most is that the reader has No idea when the quotes are from, they could be from 1974 or 2013. There are a few cool photos but overall I was kind of disappointed..I was expecting a behind the scenes type of story with maybe a few quotes from people who were there.. But what I got was JUST quotes ..Most of which I'd heard before ^; Nothin To Lose? Just more money...lol

Told through a mix of multiple interviews criss crossing years, but mostly chronological, this book was difficult to read at time. It was, however, truly fascinating to read to story of how KISS got started. To see all the behind-the-scenes goings on of the management and road crew was terrific. It was also neat to see so many photos from their early days. All in all, it was a difficult, but rewarding read for any KISS fan.

I'm only about half-way through this book but I am enjoying it immensely. Fans who've read everything else will STILL find lots of cool tidbits throughout this well-organized retelling of their early years. Even the familiar stories are fleshed out with all sorts of little details that really bring you back to those early days and make you feel like you are there. I put it right up there with Chris Lendt's "Kiss and Sell" (which picks up just where this book leaves off), "Kiss: Behind the Mask," and the Paul Stanley autobiography. Highly recommended. (I didn't give it five stars only because I didn't want casual readers to assume I was the sort of fan who just puts 5 stars on everything, but actually it's good enough to get them all.)

Nothin' To Lose is an appropriate title. You wanted the best and you got lotsa text! Same anecdote, different person though not an EDITOR in the bunch. Once every waitress and lighting guy weighs in it takes all of 350 pages before Kiss even start on their 2nd album. Most revealing is nearly all credit going to manager Bill Aucoin and mentor Sean Delany who manipulated a so-so rock band from Queens into The Monkees with candelabra and dummy Marshall stacks. Shock me indeed! Kiss couldn't even figure out their makeup without the genius of Neil Bogart, Aucoin, Delany and whomever else might have wandered into The Nighttime World for a brief stay. Among them producer Eddie Kramer painstakingly re-creating Kiss "Alive!" (in the studio) saving the band, management and Casablanca Records from certain obscurity. But you won't find those certain obscurities in this book... that's Peter's bio. It's amazing. However unlike all other Kiss 'n' Tell's, "Kiss: Nothin' To Lose" has genuine warmth and heart. Much sincere praise from other touring

bands - a welcome redundancy. As for a hilarious redundancy: Various promoters all in agreement that although Kiss was outrageously theatrical and cutting edge, the music really sucked. Regardless, Paul Stanley's entries are GREAT! Candid, witty, laughs a lot. And with Paul and Gene as co-authors it's no wonder Peter's brother is allowed as much dialogue as his Cat-faced sibling while Ace eventually vanishes altogether. Perhaps they should have had Bob Kulick do Ace's interview? A solid read for the purist and anyone dismissive (Kissmissive?) of this rock band's perseverance. Todd Rundgren hated them of course but...where is Todd now? Ooooh snap! Nothin' To Lose finds Kiss relentlessly dedicated if not a bit clueless but very lucky and very loud.

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