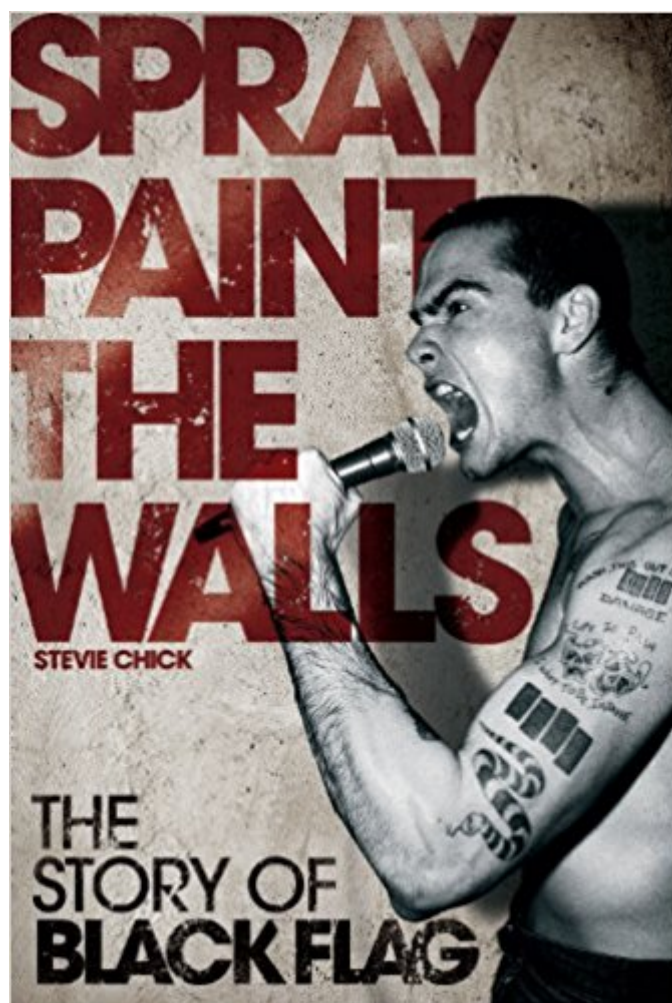


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# Spray Paint The Walls: The Story Of Black Flag



## Synopsis

Black Flag were the pioneers of American Hardcore, and this is their blood-spattered story. Formed in Hermosa Beach, California, in 1978, they made and played brilliant, ugly, no-holds-barred music for eight brutal years on a self-appointed touring circuit of America's clubs, squats, and community halls. They fought with everybody—the police, the record industry, and even their own fans—and they toured overseas on pennies a day in beat-up trucks and vans. This history tells Black Flag's story from the inside, drawing on exclusive interviews with the group's members, their contemporaries, and the bands they inspired. It depicts the rise of Henry Rollins, the iconic front man, and Greg Ginn, who turned his electronics company into one of the world's most influential independent record labels while leading Black Flag from punk's three-chord frenzy into heavy metal and free jazz.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Here is an exhaustive prequel to, followed by a more balanced re-telling of, Rollin's Get in the Van journal, chronicling [Black] Flag's emergence in suburban Hermosa Beach, . . . and how their ultra-harsh, hi-speed riffage sparked moshpit violence. . . . A gory, gobsmacking read."

—Andrew Perry, MOJO  
"Chick's analytical and in-depth biography of the progenitors of SoCal Hardcore builds up to a page-turning, scene-setting climax. . . . Chick does a fine job of detailing the importance, influence and dedicated touring ethic of the band."  
—Alex Burrows, Classic Rock  
"Stevie Chick chronicles Black Flag from both ends, mapping how they careened from menacing, berserk, and beachcore outsiders to grizzly hardcore icons to bizarre, and sometimes

boring, post-hardcore pioneers that chewed through miles, tours, members, and songs."

•www.PopMatters.com"Chick's well-researched and readable book immerses the reader in Black Flag's world, recreating the violent yet creative atmosphere of the early Hardcore scene through new interviews with the band and their peers." •Mat Croft, Record Collector"The book's real strength comes from Chick's use of research and his ability to place Black Flag's story in a wider context. Whether he's writing about surf culture, skate culture, or the history of garage rock, Chick does so with authority, and he braids these loose asides beautifully into the "facts" of Black Flag's history." •Adam Ellsworth, The Arts Fuse

Stevie Chick has written for the Guardian, Melody Maker, and MOJO, and is the author of Ninja Tune and Psychic Confusion.

I've been a big fan of Black Flag since 1985. This book answered a lot of questions I've always had and painted a well-rounded picture of the history of the band and the scenes that it was a part of. Sure, there were some mistakes but none that I considered crucial (like saying the Misfits were from CA). I found myself gripped with the story and read it for hours on end. This is no brief overview, it's extremely in-depth and in the beginning it seemed TOO in-depth but all of the "too in-depth" parts made sense when I realized it was to give the band's history and broader context. I am way more than satisfied with the money I spent on this book. My biggest complaint? Greg Ginn should have been on the cover! Greg's guitar playing, not Henry's bodybuilder poses define the band.

Being a big Rollins fan and a Flag fan, I couldn't wait to get my hands on this. I've read Hanks "Get in the Van," and was a little confused about the end of Black Flag. This book puts it all out there and comes from multiple sources. At several points the book gets off course into other bands and people, but by the end of the book, I found that these "side trips" added substance to the overall story, especially concerning the LA/Hermosa/HB punk and hardcore scene. I would give this book five stars, but it was missing interviews with two main Flag members. It was still a great read regardless. Cheers!

I heard about this Book & thought: "Great! Some Tiny little Book about Black Flag..."BUT This is One Well Researched, Interesting, & like their Music, EXCITING Biography, of these Icons of

Hardcore. They Were One of my Absolutely Favorite Bands ever since Everything Went Black. so I Eagerly Dove in! I was actually Surprised how Well it was Written, & how Great it was to Read. All About Everyone in Black Flag & SST as well! How They Lived, Rehearsed, Toured, Survived, Back when Hardcore was actually Going on. These were real Pioneers. I was Lucky Enough to see them Once on the Loose Nut Tour & I'll Never Forget it! The Story does end on some Bummer Notes, But The Truth can't always be as Sunny as Sunny Southern California! Spray paint those Walls!

Just saw FLAG at Montebello rock fest and it had Keith Morris and Dez signing and it was amazing was on stage behind band was amazing. This book is awesome very well written and very informative. I couldn't put it down I just kept reading and reading until it was done. Some much good stuff in the book I loved it needless to say. Thanks for writing this book.

Yes, you can get most of what was written in this book from other sources....but it is GREAT having it all in one book...Flag was a large part of my "growing up" phase of life and their DIY attitude remains with me to this day....as do the bars tattooed on my left bicep. LONG LIVE BLACK FLAG!

Great book. Amazing stories and facts about this seminal L.A. punk band

Phenomenal book with great interviews and really nicely put together! Great work here!

I love Black Flag. I love all eras of the band's recorded output (save the 2013 release). This was a good book but the diversions into non Black Flag topics were a little long

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