



Running with the Devil: Power, Gender, and Madness in Heavy Metal Music (Music/Culture)

By Robert Walser

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Running with the Devil: Power, Gender, and Madness in Heavy Metal Music (Music/Culture) By Robert Walser

A Choice Outstanding Academic Book. A musicologist and cultural critic as well as a professional musician, Robert Walser offers a comprehensive musical, social, and cultural analysis of heavy metal in *Running with the Devil*. Dismissed by critics and academics, condemned by parents and politicians, fervently embraced by legions of fans, heavy metal music attracts and embodies cultural conflicts that are central to our society. Walser explores how and why heavy metal works, both musically and socially, and at the same time uses metal to investigate contemporary formations of identity, community, gender, and power.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Heavy metal music, one of the most significant musical influences of the 1980s, has received little serious attention by academics. This ethnographic study goes a long way toward counteracting the disdain held by musicologists for heavy metal by presenting a solid, scholarly analysis of the power, meaning, musical structure, and sociopolitical contexts of the most popular examples of heavy metal. Along with consulting basic texts, Walsh read fan magazines, as well as interviewing and surveying fans and musicians, and his effort shows. This is a comprehensive, often engrossing study of heavy metal music and its followers. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.-- Debora Richey, California State Univ.

Fullerton Lib.

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Review

"Walser belongs to a small but influential group of academics trying to reconcile 'high theory' with a streetwise sense of culture . . . an excellent book." —

Rolling Stone

"Making surprising connections to classical forms and debunking stereotypes of metal's musical crudity, Walser delves enthusiastically into guitar conventions and rituals." —

Washington Post

"Walser is truly gifted at doing what few critics before him have done: analyzing the music . . . In virtuoso readings of metal music that forge persuasive links between metal and particular classical music traditions, Walser reveals the ways that musical structures themselves are social texts." —

The Nation

"Running with the Devil takes musicology where it has never gone before; I once saw the chapter on metal guitarists and the classical tradition performed live in a lecture hall, but even on paper it smokes." —

SF Weekly

Review

"Essential reading in all popular music (and cultural studies) courses." (Simon Frith)

"An eye-opening account of the world of heavy metal, as well as a model for how Cultural Studies work ought to be done. Walser lays bare the vision embodied in metal as a total cultural phenomenon—music and words, performers and fans, critics and devotees. The book is exemplary in its rich material, subtle positionings, and elegant writing." (Sherry B. Ortner, University of Michigan)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Keith Barnett:

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