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Hit So Hard: A Memoir



Synopsis

A stunningly candid and inspiring memoir of recovery from addiction and the '90s, by Hole drummer Patty Schemel. Patty Schemel was a drummer at the epicenter of the Seattle grunge scene in the early '90s, best known for her work with the alternative rock band Hole. *Hit So Hard* begins with stories from a childhood informed by the AA meetings Schemel's parents hosted in the family living room. Their divorce triggered her rebellious adolescence and first forays into drinking at age 11, which coincided with her passion for punk rock and playing drums. Her efforts to come to terms with her sexuality further drove her memorably hard playing, and by the late '80s Schemel was performing regularly in well-regarded bands in Tacoma, Seattle, and Olympia. She met Kurt Cobain at a Melvins show, pre-Nirvana, and less than five years later she would be living with him and his wife, Hole front-woman Courtney Love, at the height of his fame and on the cusp of hers. As Hole's new drummer, Schemel contributed memorable, driving drum parts to hits like "Beautiful Son," "Violet," "Doll Parts," and "Miss World." But the band was plagued by tragedy and addiction, and by the time Hole went on tour in support of their ironically titled and critically acclaimed album *Live Through This* in 1994, both Cobain and Hole bassist Kristen Pfaff were dead at age 27. With surprising candor and wit, Schemel intimately documents the events surrounding her exit from the band in 1998 that lead to her dramatic descent into a life of homelessness and crime on the streets of Los Angeles and the difficult but rewarding path to sobriety after over twenty serious attempts to get clean. *Hit So Hard* chronicles the extraordinary coming of age of a musician and an addict during the last great era of rock 'n' roll excess.

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Customer Reviews

Hit So Hard, A Memoir, by Patty Schemel, is the story of Patty's life from her teenage years, through her experiences as the drummer for Hole, up to now. She was a close friend of Kurt Cobain's and traveled with Courtney Love's band for years. During this time you will read about her multiple drug addictions, drinking, smoking, and sex addictions (she is gay). I found that the book was very thorough. I chose to read it because I like music. I especially like rock music. Patty was an amazing drummer. However, I am not crazy about drug addicts and it was rough to read, over and over, about her slips and self destructive behavior. She was in 14 detoxes and 22 rehabs over the years. It is agonizing to read this book for this reason at times. Ultimately, I am incredibly happy that at fifty she now has a wife and a six year old daughter. I only wish she had given herself a serious chance to get clean earlier, but who am I to judge someone else's life?

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