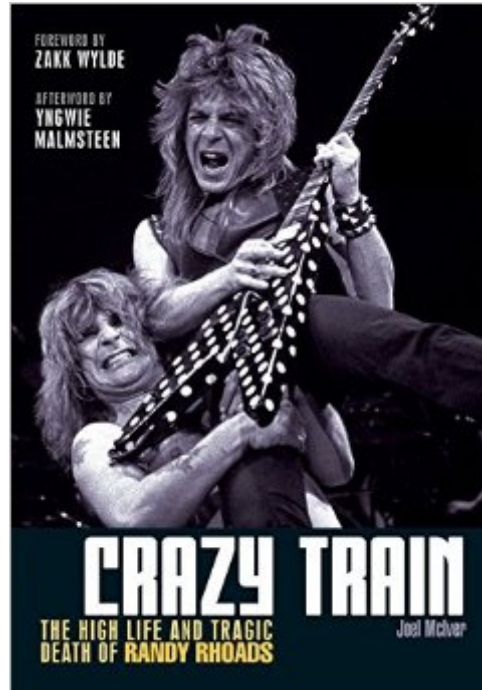


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# Crazy Train: The High Life And Tragic Death Of Randy Rhoads



## Synopsis

Randall Rhoads, born in California in 1956 and cut down in his prime at the age of only 26, has been an immense influence on a whole generation of musicians in rock and metal. He first came to international prominence in 1979, when he was recruited from the cult metal band Quiet Riot to play with Ozzy Osbourne, who had been fired from Black Sabbath for his drink and drug addictions and was in urgent need of a co-writer to kickstart a solo career. How and why Ozzy and Randy went on to find enormous success is one of the key themes of *Crazy Train*, named after the first and most famous Osbourne/Rhoads co-composition. It was Randy's pioneering combination of neo-classical soloing, catchy riffage and unforgettable songwriting which propelled Ozzy. The two albums that Randy recorded with Quiet Riot and the two with Ozzy showcase the young guitarist's immense ability, although the full extent of his talent may never have been revealed. In 1982 he died in an air crash. The parallels between *Crazy Train* and the author's best-selling *To Live Is To Die: The Life And Death Of Metallica's Cliff Burton* (Jawbone 2009) are intentional and obvious. Both books deal with a musical prodigy who died tragically in his mid-20s; both men have a vast following and a profile which has risen in the years since their deaths; and both men have a large coterie of friends, family and associates prepared to tell their stories for the very first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading reviews of Mr. McIver's other rock bio's I was a bit hesitant to purchase "Crazy Train", but I gave into the allure of the hype. When I received the book I was pleasantly surprised by the beautiful packaging, but quickly realized it was hiding several faults. Other reviewers are correct in

that it feels rushed and poorly edited. The typos and multiple times is repeats direct quotes for different stories are annoying, but when he tells the story of the fateful drive from Knoxville, TN to Leesburg, FL he repeats several times that it was a 2000 MILE DRIVE. Get out a map Mr. McIver. It is impossible to drive 2000 miles overnight. According to MapQuest it is 612 miles. Quite a bit of difference. If this glaring error was allowed to stay in the book what other half truths and exaggerations are floating around? Save some cash on the glitzy packaging and hire an editor next time!!

For diehard Randy fans this book will feel like a patchwork from old guitar magazine interviews and rehashed quotes you have read many times before. There are also plenty of typo-o's etc., which appears very unprofessional and suspiciously rushed for publication to coincide with Ozzy's newly released box set...However, if you are a newer Randy fan the content might appear fresh and informative. And if nothing else, bless the writer for keeping Randy's memory alive and well :-)(I also would have loved more pics! There are only a handful at the beginning of the book.)TO ALL FANS - PURCHASE "OFF THE RAILS" by Rudy Sarzo which includes stories and vignettes told from a first hand account and much of the information has never been revealed in interviews, etc. until this book was published.R.I.P. Randy

This is a pretty quick read due to the size of the book itself. It is printed on very heavy paper though. To get the Randy picture you really need to read all three books . This one, Off The Rails and the Ozzy book. The Ozzy book is hilarious, and Ozzy conveniently uses being trashed all the time as an excuse for all the unpleasantness of the Arden family. Ozzy just doesn't remember things , so he says. I found Sarzos book to have very few if any laughs in it. He has an axe to grind with the Arden family and Ozzy from the day they hire him. This book, lies in the middle. A joy to read and full of good insight. You would think that even in 1981 people would know that small planes and rock stars are never a good idea. Randy of course was brilliant. The fact that we are reading these books 30years on attests to that. Of the 3 books I liked this one the best. It's very factual and informative. Great stories about Randys guitars too. And once again we learn that the Sharon and her dad - The Ardens- screwed everyone that ever has anything to do with Ozzy. Pretty much every day,all the time. Weather its money ,or royalties, or publishing rights. Or even paychecks in some cases. And yet we got two great records out of all that. And they have stood the test of time.

If you are a diehard Randy Rhoads fan you won't find too much new in this book. As you are

reading it you will say to yourself "yeah i already read that on wiki"... "yep I read that here, ok yeah I heard that there". To be fair, it was such a fast rise and fall I'm not sure what I was expecting...A few new things and its an easy read so it was worth the money for me.

I just finished this book this evening. I must say I was a bit let down. There are several passages and quotes that are repeated over and over as well as grammatical errors and like the other reviewer stated, exaggerations (no way Knoxville is 2000 miles from Orlando). Still it was an ok title, but if you are looking for an all encompassing authoritative bio on Randy Rhoads...this is not it.

Not sure how tasteless Joel's reporting is, but clearly, not researched is a better word. The eruption took place when I was a kid living in the NW, and Randy's death occurred almost two years afterwards...The Climactic Eruption of May 18, 1980The climactic eruption in full fury in the late morning of May 18, 1980.Book Quote"The day before Randy's death, the Washington volcano Mount St. Helens erupted, killing 57 people. It would be both tasteless and trite to compare the events in terms of their impact, but then again, ask any metalhead of a certain age which event of that tragic week has lingered with him or her longest, and there will only be one answer."Randy died March 19th 1982

This wasn't an awful book, but I've definitely read better. As other reviews say, it does repeat information, and is littered with typos. One typo being that "Ozzy" is spelled "Ozzie" at the beginning of a chapter and then repeated at the top of every page of that chapter. You would think something that obvious would have been caught by editors. At times, it read like a high school biography paper for English class. By that I mean, I had to force myself to keep reading it because it couldn't keep my attention. Also, parts were just quote after quote after quote. I understand quotes are great for biographies, but there would be 10-15 of them lined up back to back. It wasn't horrible, but like I said, I've definitely read better. If you want a good Ozzy biography, you can't go wrong with his autobiography "I Am Ozzy." Now that's fantastic book.

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