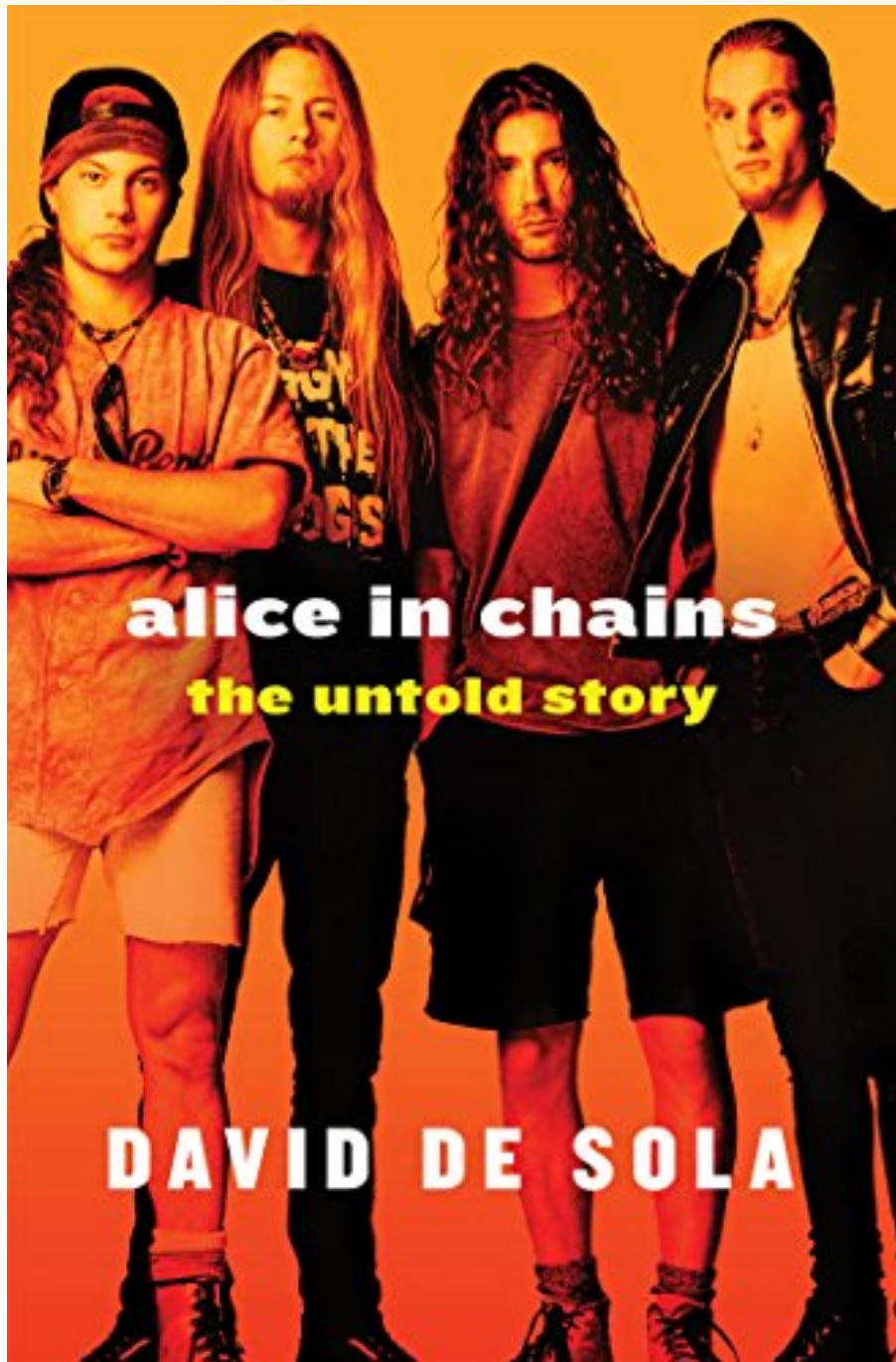


ALICE IN CHAINS: THE UNTOLD STORY BY DAVID DE SOLA



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Review

“The early-'90s Seattle grunge band, long overshadowed by its hometown peers (Nirvana, Pearl Jam), gets its due in this debut book from a Georgetown graduate student. Taking center stage is original frontman Layne Staley who, like Kurt Cobain, found celebrity and success difficult and drugs an easy out. But there's also a deep dive into the band's musical influences and its impact on the broader rock scene, explaining both its roots and its reach” ?Billboard, Summer Book Preview

“De Sola explains in riveting detail how AIC became one of the most important bands to emerge from the Seattle rock scene, and throws new light on the dark impulses that drove it to both greatness and tragedy. Compulsively readable.” ?John Jobling, author of U2: The Definitive Biography

“A stellar grasp of document sources interwoven with an incredible depth of all-new interviews are the making of the first truly comprehensive biography of Alice in Chains. The story blends musical world, personal lives and the demands of the business Alice in Chains entered – whether the cut-price early days or the bombastic cash-overload of their peak success – to show how each element coexisted, impacted, clashed or simply destroyed the other.” ?Nick Soulsby, author of I Found My Friends: The Oral History of Nirvana

“A well-reported history of one of the most important and influential bands to emerge from the Seattle scene. Alice in Chains will appeal to grunge fans and metal-heads alike.” ?Mark Yarm, author of Everybody Loves Our Town: An Oral History of Grunge

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About the Author

No Bio

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Alice in Chains was the first of grunge's big four - ahead of Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden - to get a gold record and achieve national recognition. With the charismatic Layne Staley behind the microphone, they became one of the most influential and successful bands to come out of the Seattle music scene. But as the band got bigger, so did its problems.

Acclaimed journalist David de Sola follows the members from their inauspicious beginnings at a warehouse under the Ballard Bridge through the history of the band, charting:

- The local hair metal scene in Seattle during the 1980s.
- How drugs nearly destroyed the band and claimed the lives of Staley and founding bassist Mike Starr.
- Jerry Cantrell's solo career and Mike Starr's life after being fired from the band.
- The band's resurrection with William DuVall, the Atlanta singer/guitarist who stepped into Layne Staley's shoes.

Based on a wealth of interviews with people with direct knowledge of the band and its history, many of whom are speaking on the record for the first time, Alice in Chains will stand as the definitive Alice in Chains biography for years to come.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

AIC

By Andrew

I love the grunge bands, especially Alice in Chains, and bought this with birthday money for Amazon. From the first words I was engrossed. The author constructs an impressively complex portrait of a fairly enigmatic band. From the beginning you know where the story is going (if you're familiar with Alice) and as it progresses it becomes more and more heartbreaking as the details surrounding Layne and Mike Starr's addiction unfolds. I would highly recommend this book not just for fans of the band, but for those seeking to understand addiction in general.

If there's some minor quibbles, it's these 2 points. One is I would've liked to have learned more about Jerry Cantrell, who undoubtedly was an important creative force behind the music. Granted, this is an unauthorized account, and Cantrell didn't offer his blessing with access. There is some information about him, but nothing compared to the attention given to Layne. Another source of irritation was how sometimes the author didn't clarify who some of the minor players associated with the band were. Lots of people are referenced with few sticking details provided to distinguish them throughout the book. But these are minor gripes.

I loved this book. Get it if you're even the least bit interested in AIC. The journey is as difficult and uncomfortable as some of their best music. A fitting tribute to a legendary band.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Finally!

By Amazon Customer

I've been listening to AIC since I picked up a copy of Facelift on cassette way back in the early 90's. I was hooked immediately and have been ever since. Unfortunately, because of this I witnessed the rise and fall of this epic band. The really weird part is that through the years nothing has really ever been openly documented in one well compiled, deeply detailed, and verified account of what really happened behind the scenes. This book did just that and did it well. I feel like I actually have a much clearer picture of what could be called the rise and fall of the first iteration of this band. The dismissal of Mike Starr, the integration of Mike Inez, Layne's drug use and how it affected the band in so many ways. This book also proved to be one

of the most depressing books I've ever read regarding the tragic loss of such great talent to an out of control drug addiction. The death of Andrew Wood, the loss of Demri Parrott, Layne's spiral into the abyss, and finally Mike Starr's tragic end. Even if you aren't an Alice in Chains fan, this book really does give you a great insight into the Seattle music scene during the late 80's and early 90's. Well worth the read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Must-read for AIC fans

By sillysetters

David de Sola did a great job in gathering information for this book and it's refreshing to see how true he kept to the story of the band. Even almost 12 years after the death of Layne Staley it's still hard not to be angry at how the industry used him up and spit him out and how oblivious his family was. It was hard to read the chapters about Layne and his slow death without wishing you could jump into the pages and change the outcome. I wish Jerry and Sean would have contributed and I wish Layne's mother would have too. I think the time and effort de Sola really shows.

I will say that the writing style was a bit different but once the flow got going it read very fast.

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