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# Only Death Is Real: An Illustrated History of Hellhammer and Early Celtic Frost 1981–1985

*By Tom Gabriel Fischer, Martin Eric Ain*



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## **Only Death Is Real: An Illustrated History of Hellhammer and Early Celtic Frost 1981–1985** By Tom Gabriel Fischer, Martin Eric Ain

In the early 1980s in the rural outskirts of Zurich, Switzerland, author Tom Gabriel Fischer assembled the groundbreaking heavy metal band Hellhammer a dark, dramatic force that flew in opposition to his surroundings in every way, even the flashy party-hearty hard rock music of the day. Slowly, Fischer pulled together an ever-larger legion of similar-minded outcasts and adventurers. In a few short years, Hellhammer vanished and Celtic Frost was born, and in this remarkable volume the tale is told with vivid photographs and exacting narrative detail. Only Death Is Real is essential for hundreds of thousands of Hellhammer and Celtic Frost fans worldwide, followers of heavy metal history, and anyone who has ever wondered about the dark, artistic side of metal music. Without a doubt, Fischer is a singular figure responsible for untold innovation, and his book is sacred scripture for understanding the origins of underground heavy metal. Here he explains in intimately human terms how extreme metal was born, detailing the hardships and triumphs he faced bringing Hellhammer and Celtic Frost to reality.



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**Only Death Is Real: An Illustrated History of Hellhammer and Early Celtic Frost 1981–1985** By Tom Gabriel Fischer, Martin Eric Ain Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #914923 in Books
- Published on: 2010-03-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.75" h x 9.25" w x 1.50" l, 3.85 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“Fischer’s delving deeper into his past than ever before...very interesting reading. It’s as much a document of metalhead life in the early ’80s as the story of one band.”—MSN Music

"Not just the story of two bands who became genuine linchpins in metal history, it’s also a universal tale about the power of heavy metal to provide a shelter from alienation"—*Metal Hammer*

“Immaculately presented...a tale of disenfranchised youth with the dedication to follow through with their dreams, against significant odds”—PopMatters

“A proud and regal commemoration of a band that clawed its way to legendary status. Five stars.”—Austin Metal Examiner

“A must-have... authoritative, and the hard work is evident. Only Death Is Real was created by people who respect fans and know what they want.”—*Invisible Oranges*

“...the heartfelt and open narration from Fischer makes it a genuine asset to the understanding and appreciation of his canon, what was overcome and what was sacrificed in the name of music that has since become classic.”—*Terrorizer* [10/10 review]

“An astonishing book, both in its subject matter and its presentation... It’s the antithesis of the standard trade paperback rock tome.”—*Hellbound*[10/10 review]

“Absolutely amazing.”—*Deaf Sparrow* [5/5 review]

“A killer look into the mind of the band.”—*BrooklynVegan*

“The apex of extreme metal texts”—deathmetal.org

“Recounts the hard work, unlimited dedication, and immense confidence it took for this group of amateurs to create one of the darkest and most influential metal bands of all time: Hellhammer”—Associated Content

“Highly recommend this to anyone with even the remotest interest in the beginnings of the extreme metal scene” [4.5/5 star review]—MetalCrypt.com

“This is a book about the real Hellhammer, the essence of that group, the aura it carried, and the truly unique spirit of revolution of the times in which it existed. It is a book about a group of outcasts—about persistence, dedication, and an utterly personal vision. I have worked very hard to make sure it will do justice to the work of a number of very unique people who shared the same ideas at a very unique point in time.”—Tom Gabriel Fischer

#### About the Author

This is a book about the real Hellhammer, the essence of that group, the aura it carried, and the truly unique spirit of revolution of the times in which it existed. It is a book about a group of outcasts about persistence, dedication, and an utterly personal vision. I have worked very hard to make sure it will do justice to the work of a number of very unique people who shared the same ideas at a very unique point in time. Tom Gabriel Fischer

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#### **Lorene Lord:**

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