



# My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top: 100% Real\*, Never-Before-Seen Documents from the World of Rock and Roll

*Jon Glaser*

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An irreverent and ridiculous collection of "found" documents that will change everything you thought you knew about rock and roll, by the creator and star of Adult Swim's *Delocated*

Jon Glaser delves into the unknown and highly secretive histories of dozens of rock and roll's greatest bands with sometimes spectacular, sometimes heartbreaking, always completely made-up results. In this book, you'll discover the following:

- Handwritten letters by Glaser's own father, which reveal him to be an early member of the band we now know as ZZ Top
- Old lyrics journals of, among others, Bob Dylan and David Bowie, featuring a collection of songs they probably hoped would never see the light of day
- A letter from Ringo to the rest of the Beatles, the week after their breakup, informing them of his plans to start a Beatles tribute band
- Formerly classified government documents with shocking revelations about the Navy SEALs and the Butthole Surfers
- Prince's set list for the bat mitzvah of Steven Spielberg's daughter Rachel, including the songs "Purple Oy Vey," "I Could Never Take the Place of Your Rabbi," and "When Doves Kvetch"

*My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top* is for everyone who loves absurd, made-up stories about their favorite bands. It's also for everyone who doesn't love absurd, made-up stories about their favorite real bands—they just might not enjoy it as much.

## My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top: 100% Real\*, Never-Before-Seen Documents from the World of Rock and Roll Details

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Author : Jon Glaser

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# **From Reader Review My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top: 100% Real\*, Never-Before-Seen Documents from the World of Rock and Roll for online ebook**

**Mary (BookHounds) says**

LOVED IT -- THIS BOOK ROCKED!

I think this book is what happens when you mix a rock nerd with some photoshop skills, some old paper and the ability to think in the absurd. The "lost" lyrics are spectacular and I have a feeling that they probably could have been the actual lyrics in some cases. My all time favorite is the letter from Ringo telling his mates that he is starting a Beatles Tribute band, which is something that isn't really so far from the truth with his All Starr Band. This is one of those books that are coffee table worthy. It would also make the perfect gift for that uncle you never know what to buy. I received this book at no cost from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

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**Jennifer Rayment says**

The Good Stuff

- \* Truly unique, I can honestly say I have never read anything quite like this before
- \* You will snort out loud at times - obviously still have not learned to read stuff like this on public transit
- \* Prince's set list for Spielberg's daughters bat mitzvah is hilarious
- \* The reason behind the naming of the Butthole surfers will make you snort coffee out your nose -- trust me DO NOT read this bit in public
- \* The before they made it section is funny
- \* Quick short read when you are looking for something to pass the time

The Not so Good Stuff

- \* A little too obscene at times & I am not prudish
- \* Expected it to be funnier
- \* lot of it lost on me since I am really not the intended audience for this one
- \* The Rod Stewart bit grossed me out!

Favorite Quotes/Passages

"And your suggestion of "several slices of Lindsey Bucking-ham, white cheddar cheese that represents the cocaine Stevie Nicks is addicted to, Mick Fleet-wood smoked bacon, and John and Christine McVie-al (veal)" does sound yummy." But two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions, on a sesame seed bun seems to work very well for us, so we're going to stick with that."

"The father of the Butt-hole Surfers' lead singer Gibby Haynes, was a Navy SEAL who was killed in the line

of duty while surfing the butthole of Idi Amin."

### What I Learned

\* About Paul Anka berating his band and some of the quotes from this recording were used in Ocean's Thirteen

\* Nothing else since it is all fake -- but it was fun

### Who should/shouldn't read

\* This is one for fans of rock and roll, especially classic rockers

\* Not for prudish, there is a lot of obscenity and naughty descriptions

\* Great coffee table book, will start some interesting discussions

\* Again if you are easily offended by off colour language, this will offend you!

### 3 Dewey's

I received this from HarperPerennial in exchange for an honest review

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### **Tyler says**

Very silly, very funny.

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### **Jessi says**

I'm going to preface this review by saying that I change words to songs to make them about my cats. I think it's silly and fun, but I don't expect anybody else to think the same or to sing them with me.

This book does try hard to be funny, but a lot of it felt like some kind of "inside joke" that the reader isn't let in on. Some of it got a snort from me, some of it got a smirk, but none of it really made me laugh. I like funny. I like the absurd and silly. I read The Onion. This book just isn't funny.

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### **Terri says**

The book "MY Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top" is a hilarious romp through super-secret documents of some of the world's most famous musical acts. Although the 100% Real\* (\*100% Fake) guarantee is prominently displayed on the cover, throughout the book the author keeps letting you know that the truth, as printed in this book, is really, really the truth.

This book sends the reader on a roller coaster of emotions. If you don't know who the band is or really just don't like that particular band, you'll think the documents provided are hilarious. If you have no feelings toward the band whatsoever, some documents may bring a smile to your face. If you're an overly-obsessed

fan, you will grimace at the thought of some dum-dum pop out there who believes this is the gospel of the rock gods. You know there's at least one person out there that has blinders to asterisked footnotes.

If I had to choose a favorite part of the book, it would be the discovery of a certain landlord named Greg that just may have attributed to the style of Flock of Seagulls and System of A Down. I also really enjoyed Jay Leno's correspondence for finding a replacement for Kevin Eubanks.

\*Reviewer received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads

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## **Court Hansen says**

The original ZZ Top bit was so good, but it gets less and less good when it's the same thing over and over again. Still, there was usually some pretty funny stuff throughout.

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## **Matthew says**

Awesome book - super funny, super fast read. The details in all of these 100% REAL documents are spot-on and the jokes nail it for rock music fans. Highlights include the Secret Sellout section with legendary icons shilling for corporate gigs (David Bowie's "Changes" re-imagined as "Chang's Grill," "Aqualung" transformed into "Vick's Vaporub") and the 100% REAL and documented story behind the naming of the Butthole Surfers. Spoiler alert: Gibby Haynes's dad was a Navy SEAL who died on a secret mission into an Idi Amin's butthole. Jon Glaser's willingness to be ridiculously stupid in a great way without pandering or being broad really shines. Not surprising coming from the creator and star of the also-awesome "Delocated" on Adult Swim. TWO THUMBS UP (Idi Amin's butt)!

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## **stormhawk says**

I must first make it clear that I have not merely a sense of humor, but a finely honed sense of humor. From the subtle to the slapstick, I savor funny things. This book is not funny. It tries, but fails miserably, like when your drunk uncle tries to tell a joke. I found this as a cast-off on the mail room table, and that's right back where it's going. with a note of warning attached.

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## **Sara Habein says**

This is a funny, quick-read book that probably does better with readers who are familiar with the musicians referenced throughout. One does not need in-depth knowledge, but having spent time listening to both classic rock radio and the first incarnation of MTV's 120 Minutes certainly helps. There are not a lot of music books that reference Yo La Tengo, Bob Seger, Fleetwood Mac, and The Butthole Surfers within such a short collection of pages.

Glaser's previous writing credits include *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *Saturday Night Live*, and like those shows, not every joke is hilarious, but there were certainly enough to keep me reading. He rides the

line between stupid-funny and witty-funny well, and it would be a good book to give to a music-loving friend with a sense of humor. Is it anything groundbreaking? Perhaps not, but I still really enjoyed reading it.

(Full review appears on Glorified Love Letters.)

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### **Denise says**

I won this book from GOODREADS- I give them (and the author/publisher) much thanks!

Jon Glaser is one funny guy. "My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top" is written with much wit and humor. Anyone who is a fan of rock & roll will enjoy this book and learn a few things they never knew about their favorite bands! A sucker really IS born every day.

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### **Edwina says**

Tramps like us, baby we were born to brunch.

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### **Tim says**

Although many may consider it a less important symbol than the dollar sign, never underestimate the power of the asterisk. Jon Glaser certainly doesn't.

After being estranged for years, Glaser was going through his father's belongings following his death when he stumbled across rock and roll history.\* He learned his father was a member of an early incarnation of ZZ Top.\* The senior Glaser didn't make a mark on the music world, though, because he was the keyboard player who urged the band abandon the name ZZ Top and to become "Houston's biggest soul fusion quartet."\* Yet the revelation his father was in ZZ Top led Glaser on a mission to uncover the hidden history of rock and roll, culminating in *My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top: 100% Real, \* Never Before Seen Documents from the World of Rock and Roll* .

But why is the asterisk important enough to end up in the subtitle? Because the bottom right hand corner of the book's cover bears the legend "(\*100% Fake)". That's right. Glaser wasn't estranged from his father, his father isn't dead and his father was never a member of ZZ Top (although I can't vouch for whether he played keyboards in a soul-fusion band). The material in the book is all the product of Glaser's imagination, one tinged with an attention to detail that may border on minutiae. Yet it's the detail that lends the artifice a layer of authenticity. And some of the humor has a biting edge. Given how the music of rock icons such as Bob Dylan, Led Zeppelin and the Allman Brothers now seem omnipresent in television commercials, Glaser's section on songs these artists wrote to advertise local establishments is more biting than blasphemous. Likewise, his chapter on Jay Leno's efforts to replace Kevin Eubanks as *The Tonight Show* band leader has far more edge when you take into account Glaser wrote for and played various characters on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

A lot of the humor is more basic. Did you know Van Halen was the second choice for the band's name, once Eddie found out his real family name, Bran Fralen, was the name of a two-man jazz combo in St. Paul?

There's Mick Fleetwood's suggestion McDonald's create a Fleetwood Mac Big Mac with "several slices of Lindsey Buckingham, white cheddar cheese that represents the cocaine Stevie Nicks is addicted to, Mick Fleetwood smoked bacon, and John and Christine McVie-al (veal)." Glaser does all this through documentary evidence. There's a copy of Ringo Starr's letter to the other Beatles -- on Apple letterhead no less -- about his plans to start a Beatles tribute band. Glaser uncovered the classified documents showing the Butthole Surfers got their name from a classified Navy SEALs program. He also explains the truth behind a nasty Rod Stewart rumor and reveals a secret Keith Richards and Mick Jagger have kept since before The Rolling Stones did their first show.

As imaginative and as detail-oriented as the contents may be, the problem Glaser can't quite overcome is that the concept isn't deep enough to sustain itself for long. It isn't so much a flaw in execution as much as the book is a one trick pony where the pony shows up for each show in different tack. It more likely reflects the fact that it is spun off from a stand-up routine Glaser did a number of years ago. Both explain why the book is short enough that it can be read in an hour or so. This also is not knee-slapping humor. At times it is obvious and perhaps smirk-inducing. Other times it is a bit more subtle. Then there's some material that just doesn't pan out, something that may be influenced by the reader's familiarity with the particular artist.

As far as spoofs go, *My Dead Dad Was in ZZ Top* succeeds a couple times. Ultimately, though, it may be as good at pointing out the significance of the asterisk as it is earning a place on the music or humor fan's bookshelf.

(Originally posted at A Progressive on the Prairie.)

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### **Jim says**

Kind of a mixed bag. Some of the "found documents" are laugh out loud funny, others stretch jokes too far. It's a quick read though (you can get through the whole thing in about 2 hours), and I'd recommend it to fans of Glaser's Adult Swim series "Delocated" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien (Glaser was on the writing staff).

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### **Travis says**

Comedians I love keep writing books I don't care for. :( Jon Glaser is amazingly funny. Just not here. Then again, I don't know anything about rock history, so some of this surely went over my head. Also, do not buy this on an e-reader unless it's a full-color e-reader capable of properly displaying images. I bought it on my black-and-white Nook, and it was useless. Had to read it on my computer. Which is a miserable experience.

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### **Dann says**

Ch- ch- ch- ch- Chang's Grill  
(Try the fried lo-mein)

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