

Bon: The Last Highway: The Untold Story of Bon Scott and AC/DC's Back In Black

Jesse Fink

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"A fascinating read. You won't be able to put it down once you get started."

- **Chris Jericho, *Talk is Jericho* (Westwood One)**

"After being made aware of the previous poor attempts to tell Bon's story, I decided to read *Bon: The Last Highway*. Fink's book deserves 10 out of 10 for effort in gathering all the information possible.... Theory Two [about how Bon died] could not be any closer to the truth. I know, because I was there."

- **Joe Fury, Bon Scott's friend who went to the hospital in London when Bon was declared dead-on-arrival**

Books of the Year - *Planet Rock* (UK)

Books of the Year - *Herald Sun* (Australia)

Books of the Year - *Loud Online* (Australia)

Books of the Year - *All Music Books* (USA)

Books of the Year - *Inquire*, University of Kent (UK)

Praise for *Bon: The Last Highway* by Jesse Fink:

"A fascinating portrait of a troubled man with a serious alcohol addiction... the literary equivalent of a road movie." - Ronan McGreevy, Irish Times

"One of 2017's most essential rock reads." - al.com (Alabama)

"Over the years Bon Scott has become an untouchable rock god; but this book digs deeper. It's something that hasn't really been done before... it's a whole new look on the troubled frontman and a fine biography." - Jyrki "Spider" Hamalainen, Vive Le Rock (UK)

"After being made aware of the previous poor attempts to tell Bon's story, I decided to read *Bon: The Last Highway*. Fink's book deserves 10 out of 10 for effort in gathering all the information possible.... Theory Two [about how Bon died] could not be any closer to the truth. I know, because I was there." - Joe Fury, Bon Scott's friend who went to the hospital in London to identify Bon's body

"Hand-on-heart clarity and the haze of memory merge here to do justice to what is both a celebratory and cautionary tale... you will learn much on this road trip. You already know the soundtrack." - RTE (Republic of Ireland)

"Jesse Fink is a very courageous writer... a fact-rich, exciting book that reads in places like a crime story. Investigative journalism at its best." - Metal Glory (Germany)

"Just like the object of his desire (it is his second book on AC/DC), Fink is prone to perfectionism. He meticulously dedicates himself to the last three years in the life of Ronald Belford Scott ... Fink's book is a real gift for the fans of the tragically and much too early deceased singer." - Classic Rock (Germany)

"Of the 20-plus books written about AC/DC, this one comes closest to the truth about how former singer Bon Scott died and his uncredited legacy as a songwriter... not just for fans, this is equal parts cautionary tale and meticulously researched document." - Courier Mail (Australia)

"Fink's book meticulously explores the man and the many myths about Scott's life and death, and his hell of a ride in between." - Herald Sun (Australia)

"A literary masterpiece." - Soundanalyse (Germany)

"One of the most important publications on AC/DC... Fink has become something of an AC/DC detective

and shines light on parts of the AC/DC story which have always been dimly lit. Music fans around the world have been waiting for this book - and it does not disappoint." - Denis Gray, Australian Rock Show

"I read this book in seven hours, with a 20-minute break for dinner, and put it down almost breathless at the non-biased, staggering research. Bon: The Last Highway is probably one of the best books I've ever read - on anything! And I read a lot. This book goes up to 11! Extremely well done. A magnificent book." - Paul Chapman, guitarist, UFO

"Crossing continents and tracking key figures down, Fink's work is impressive; his book is exhaustively investigative and engrossing." - Exclaim

"Painstakingly researched." - Dangerous Minds

"Phenomenal." - Sirius XM VOLUME "Debatable"

"Brilliant writing, many revelations. A must-read. Astonishingly good reporting." - Lori Majewski, SiriusXM VOLUME "Feedback"

"A great page-turner... a riveting read." - The Rockpit (Australia)

"Jesse Fink is not the first writer to suggest there's something fishy about the official version of [Bon] Scott's death and its aftermath, but no one else has offered such a plausible or exhaustively researched alternative theory... vindicating old-school journalistic rigour, Fink compiled a vast testimony from multiple sources and invites the reader to decide where the truth lies, Rashomon-style. This is no easy task: key witnesses are either dead, like [Alistair] Kinnear, or their memories are clouded by the fog of war, like UFO's Paul Chapman and Pete Way. But as with his previous book, the absence of co-operation from the AC/DC inner circle has been to Fink's benefit... [he has] effectively undertaken the detective work that wasn't conducted at the time. It's a dense, tangled tale but Fink reveals the humanity behind the myth: Bon was a flawed, conflicted character, trapped in a persona, who ultimately chose the path he took and got unlucky." - Keith Cameron, MOJO

"The most extensively researched book on AC/DC ever... it's outstanding. If you thought you knew Bon Scott, think again. This is as close as anyone is ever gonna get to the complete truth behind the legend, warts and all." - B.J. Lisko, Canton Repository, Ohio

"The most in-depth investigation into what happened to Bon Scott on the night of his death you'll ever read." - Rich Davenport, Rich Davenport's Rock Show

"This one-man investigation, born of respect for the truth and for Scott as a human being, blazes a new trail." - Joe Bonomo, author of AC/DC's Highway To Hell (33 1/3 Series)

"Jesse Fink has done rock fans a great service. He dispels the many myths about how AC/DC's Bon Scott lived and died, and in doing so, brings to life one of the most influential, memorable, and complex figures in rock history." - Greg Renoff, author of Van Halen Rising

"Fink leaves no stone unturned in this deep biography of Bon Scott." - Publishers Weekly

"Amazing... the most in-depth researched book on Scott's final years ever written. The story of Bon's last days on earth has never been properly told...until now. This book is good enough it has me waiting for the movie." - Classic Rock Revisited

Bon: The Last Highway: The Untold Story of Bon Scott and AC/DC's Back In Black Details

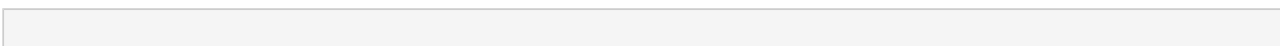
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From Reader Review Bon: The Last Highway: The Untold Story of Bon Scott and AC/DC's Back In Black for online ebook

BMR, LCSW says

Jesse Fink, who wrote the great book about AC/DC architects *The Youngs*, has delved even deeper into the AC/DC story and examined the back story of *Back in Black*. As opposed to a tribute to Bon Scott, turns out the album was probably written by but uncredited to Bon.

Fink makes the case from previously unseen and undiscovered evidence, interviews with major players in Bon's life during his last 3 years, and exhaustive research. The definitive story may never come out, but this is a pretty good estimate of it.

Recommended for the fans, especially those who were previously unaware of the controversy, rumors, and company line.

Tom Edwards says

“Bon The Last Highway,” by Jesse Fink is a highly entertaining trip back in time to the halcyon days of the late 70’s when Bon Scott, the lead singer and his band AC/DC, were blazing a trail across the USA trying to crack it. It’s a warts and all portrayal of a lovable but flawed character which turns into a mystery novel after his untimely death in London in Feb 1980 due to alcohol poisoning and maybe something else. After conflicting accounts Jesse Fink decides to piece together exactly what went down on that fateful final night. It’s very well written and extensively researched, a riveting read.

Gass Wild

Duncan Smith says

Jesse sure knows his AC/DC.

He makes a convincing case as to Bon's authorship of a significant amount of the Back in Black lyrics.

Matthew Ancarrow says

Jesse Fink’s BON: THE LAST HIGHWAY investigates the questions still lingering about Bon Scott’s mysterious death and the questions still in the air in the making of BACK IN BLACK after this many years. Interesting book to read shortly after the death of rhythm guitarist/band taskmaster Malcolm Young.

Highly recommended for fans of AC/DC, rock n’ roll, tragedy, and investigative journalism. Fink is the authority on uncovering all the facts AC/DC / the Youngs would rather leave lost in years and years of

contradiction.

EDIT: Fink also (through interviews with buddies from tour, former lovers, and fellow musicians on the road) illustrates an oft-overlooked or forgotten part of Bon Scott's legacy: a deeply insecure yet ambitious talent on the cusp of his breakthrough who fell victim to the loneliness and demons of the rock n' roll image he macabrely and accidentally personified.

And that's the great tragedy of Bon Scott, that his story is so often overlooked by the bizarre circumstances of his death.

"Inconsistencies have been around for years, but all most music or celebrity journalists seem to care for is asking Angus where he got the idea for his schoolboy outfit or how AC/DC got their name or how many records they've sold and isn't it great they continued on bravely without Bon.

These inconsistencies should be noticed.

Instead the world laps up the heroic narrative: two grieving brothers and a greenhorn with a Geordie accent and next-to-no experience in lyric writing who against all odds managed to write one of the biggest selling albums of all time in a matter of weeks after the death of the single greatest life-force in the band: Ronald Belford Scott."

Nick Cavuoto says

I'm only about a quarter of the way through but I have to say that I am not loving this book. It's not especially well written. It tends to be redundant and seems to try a little too hard to push its conspiracy theories. It feels just too desperate to paint the Youngs and their handlers in a bad, mafia-esque light. I'm not quite buying it. Most damning of all though is that I don't get a very clear picture of just who Bon Scott was. He was obviously a conflicted man, but you don't convey internal conflict by presenting contradictory information from multiple sources. It all just feels too incoherent a portrait. It's too bad, he was a great entertainer with a wry sense of humor and I really did want to know him better.

Jim says

IF you are a Fan of AC/DC and a fan of Bon Scott in particular, you must give this a read. I must caution you however, you must do so with an open mind. Without going into any detail it will smash most of what you know about everyone to be true. If exposing a myth bothers you, don't read it, but if you want to know as much of the truth as you possible can get, Read this not once, but twice. This isn't so much a biography as it is a research project. Mr Fink goes into great detail and expends no small effort not only to give you the facts as best as he can provide, but to let you in on how he collected those facts. While it may upset some, It is clear to me there was no agenda other than to find the unvarnished truth. Read it carefully and with detail in mind. The story is complex and after 40+ years sorting out the details and separating myth from fact Mr Fink throws a great deal of information at you. However, it is exactly because of this that I can't imagine you will find a more complete detailed driven book on the subject anywhere. It is one of my favorite books I've read for this very reason. I discovered that everything I thought about Bon Scott and AC/DC was pretty much bunk and while this might unsettle some, it gave me a new appreciation for Bon Scott not just as a musical personality but as a person, complete was some of the most powerful demons a man could ever fight.

Thomas Pluck says

An exhaustive but not exhausting lol at the life and death of one of the greatest rock frontmen to ever belt out a tune. A must read for fans, especially if the lyrics of Back in Black sound a wee bit too familiar...

Johnny Hirschfeld says

At times it reads like a true crime novel with conspiracy theories thrown in (since the author is forced to fill in many blanks based on conflicting as well as missing opinions). I felt like I learned a lot about Bon Scott as a person and I guess the Young brothers as well. I would highly recommend for anyone who loves the early Bon era AC/DC. In the end it's a shame that no one got him into rehab and it's a shame that no one really invested effort to investigate what happened that day. If the author was there - I bet he would have made sure all questions were answered before the inquest was completed.

One thing is for sure - I will never listen to the You Shook Me All Night Long the same way again.

Andy Roberts says

The authorised version of Bons death back on that night in February 1980 was 'alcoholic poisoning' and 'misadventure' but this informative and fantastic book gives differing accounts and facts by people associated with him around that time. It delves into the last 32 months of his career with AC/DC and paints a picture of a man succumbing to alcohol and slowly to drugs due to the pressure of long and arduous tours.

Loved every bit of this book! Very recommended!

Stephen Malo says

Whoa

There's a strong urge to now throw away everything I've ever read about the death of Bon, and his life in general. This new book by Jesse Fink opens new theories to Bob's life and tragic death. I now feel for Bon in a way I've never felt before. He was a great guy, but had demons. He wasn't as beloved by the band as I had always assumed. So much secrecy....

Geoff Sheehan says

I found this book a great read. There are a couple of conclusions drawn, or at least put up as possibilities. One of which I have felt for some time as likely. Put it this way, I love the Bon era albums plus Back in

Black yet felt disappointed in the subsequent albums until the Youngs took over full control of the songs. The other, while I personally would prefer it not be true, I leave the book with the feeling that it could be true. Or, is likely to be true.

This book should find a spot on the book shelves of all AC/DC, Bon Scott or just Aussie Pub Rock fans.

Anita says

A very well made book. It gives a clear insight into the life of Bon Scott and recalls many different stories from people involved in his life. I enjoyed seeing the photos that were included in the book as well. If you are a fan of AC/DC you should definitely check this book out.

Danny says

A thorough look at Bon Scott during AC/DC's first tour of the United States through the end of Bon Scott's life. I enjoyed this book, For whatever reason, I expected a complete biography of Bon Scott's life and music. That is not what this book is. The book is split pretty evenly into halves. The first half details every tour AC/DC had in the US with Bon Scott prior to his death. Included in this are quotes from friends Bon met on the road, bands who shared the bill with AC/DC and girlfriends of Bon. This helps paint a good picture of Bon and his long struggle and rise to fame.

The second half of the book acts almost as a rock urban legend or rock conspiracy theory book, with the author providing extremely detailed information on two different theories of what happened on the day of Bon's death, as well as the authors suggestion that Bon wrote some or all of "Back in Black".

While the book is different I cannot fault the content. The author does a great job setting the scene of what late 70's rock and radio were like. He edits his interviews well. It would have been easy to point a lot of blame at other members of AC/DC for letting a newly famous, known addict keep whatever company he likes weeks before the scheduled recording of an album, but the author allows you to infer those opinions for yourself. He also provides details and reminders that rehabilitation and narcotics/alcoholics anonymous were not as prevalent then as they are now, and Bon's behavior was seen as typical rock star behavior

I would call this book the definitive source on Bon Scott's death and an interesting read if you have your doubts that Brian Johnson wrote "Back in Black" or want to know more about Bon Scott. My only criticism is that the book does not talk much about the albums or music. I would suggest buying this in combination with Martin Popoffs "AC/DC: Album by Album", if you want a picture of what the music was like and its influence.

I also want to thank the author for writing about the July 15, 1978 AC/DC gig in Fresno CA opening for Aerosmith. My parents attended, and have told me about the time Angus Young mooned the crowd and the crowd threw thrash at them. My Mom has never been able to like AC/DC because of this incident. Local radio stations have dismissed the concert as a myth for years so I appreciate having a concrete reference of its occurrence.

Crystal Harkness says

I won this book from a goodreads giveaway and I'm glad I did. I knew there had been many books written about AC/DC and all its members, but I feel that I might not have had the opportunity to read (or find out about) this book if it wasn't for good reads and it's giveaways.

It is an enjoyable book and a great look into the life of Bon Scott. There are many interviews with Bon's lovers and friends in the book that tell a personal story about Bon's life. I also enjoyed seeing the photos included in the book. This book is definitely worth a read.

John Dunbar says

This is easily the best book I have ever read about Bon Scott. The meticulous research virtually shines out on every page. Fink humanised Bon in a way no other author has come close to. Most writers seem content to reinforce the stereotypical image of Bon, but here we see a more rounded human portrait, rather than the usual rocker caricature that normally gets churned out on a regular basis. For fans this is essential reading, but there's plenty here for those with a casual interest in the band. Highly recommended read
