



Dark Days: A Memoir

By D. Randall Blythe

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Lamb of god vocalist D. Randall Blythe finally tells the whole incredible story of his arrest, incarceration, trial, and acquittal for manslaughter in the Czech Republic over the tragic and accidental death of a concertgoer in this riveting, gripping, biting, bold, and brave memoir.

On June 27, 2012, the long-running, hard-touring, and world-renowned metal band lamb of god landed in Prague for their first concert there in two years. Vocalist D. Randall "Randy" Blythe was looking forward to a few hours off—a rare break from the touring grind—in which to explore the elegant, old city. However, a surreal scenario worthy of Kafka began to play out at the airport as Blythe was detained, arrested for manslaughter, and taken to Pankrác Prison—a notorious 123-year-old institution where the Nazis' torture units had set up camp during the German occupation of then-Czechoslovakia, and where today hundreds of prisoners are housed, awaiting trial and serving sentences in claustrophobic, sweltering, nightmare-inducing conditions.

Two years prior, a 19-year-old fan died of injuries suffered at a lamb of god show in Prague, allegedly after being pushed off stage by Blythe, who had no vivid recollection of the incident. Stage-crashing and -diving being not uncommon occurrences, as any veteran of hard rock, metal, and punk shows knows, the concert that could have left him imprisoned for years was but a vague blur in Blythe's memory, just one of the hundreds of shows his band had performed over their decades-long career.

At the time of his arrest Blythe had been sober for nearly two years, having finally gained the upper hand over the alcoholism that nearly killed him. But here he faced a new kind of challenge: jailed in a foreign land and facing a prison sentence of up to ten years. Worst of all, a young man was dead, and Blythe was devastated for him and his family, even as the reality of his own situation began to close in behind Pankrác Prison's glowering walls of crumbling concrete and razor wire.

What transpired during Blythe's incarceration, trial, and eventual acquittal is a rock 'n' roll road story unlike any other, one that runs the gamut from tragedy to despair to hope and finally to redemption. While never losing sight of the sad

gravity of his situation, Blythe relates the tale of his ordeal with one eye fixed firmly on the absurd (and at times bizarrely hilarious) circumstances he encountered along the way. Blythe is a natural storyteller and his voice drips with cutting humor, endearing empathy, and soulful insight. Much more than a tour diary or a prison memoir, *Dark Days* is D. Randall Blythe's own story about what went down—before, during, and after—told only as he can.

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Editorial Review

Review

Billboard, "This Summer's Music Must-Reads," 5/30/15

"Recounts a horrifying incident and its aftermath."

Richmond Magazine, July 2015

"*Dark Days*...brings readers deep—roughly 500 pages deep—into [Blythe's] bout with alcoholism and through the still-surreal story of being arrested, jailed and tried on charges that he caused the death of a teenage fan injured at a 2010 Lamb of God concert."

Downtown Magazine, 7/7/15

"Entirely the opposite of a happy-go-lucky rock star memoir, *Dark Days* is about Randy's journey, looking back on everything he went through in a land where one is not innocent until proven guilty. One does not have to be a metal fan—or even previously aware of Lamb of God—to appreciate *Dark Days*, as it comes from the perspective of an introspective, good-natured person trying to do the right thing"

Village Voice, 7/10/15

"Fluid, literary prose...[An] intensely detailed memoir."

Boston Globe, 7/23/15

"Gripping."

My Big Honkin Blog, 7/22/15

"The book takes on a very authentic feel early on, with reproductions of notes scrawled in a very rough hand...They offer a depth of clarity that is amazing in its level-headedness, yet painful in their desperation. [Blythe's] description of the dank, crumbling, 123 year old prison and the dark cell he called home for over a month from shortly after his arrest to his making bail reads like something straight out of a James Bond movie and a villain's lair. *Dark Days* illustrates Blythe's iron grip on his reality; this guy knows pretty clearly who he is and his place in the world, truly a rarity for a rock star."

Loudwire.com, 8/4/15

"A tremendous read...Randy leaves no stone unturned, no detail astray and no emotion unexplored, creating one of the most dense and honest reads you'll ever get from a musician's memoir."

BackstageAxxess.com, 8/6/15

"Engrossing...Blythe proves to be a gifted writer as he transports the reader back through those awful days with detailed accounts and often humorous anecdotes...*Dark Days* is a gripping read that not only sheds light on the circumstances of his arrest and trial but on the character of the author himself as his integrity and candor serve as an example to all."

MediaMikes.com, 7/23/15

"Riveting, bold and brutally honest *Dark Days: A Memoir* isn't your everyday rock and roll memoir...Blythe recounts his experiences in such a way that you almost feel the emotion coming from the words on the pages...*Dark Days* is not just for fans of Lamb of God or heavy metal. The book is a must for anyone interested in a unique story of injustice and the long arduous journey one man took to clear his name."

Lithium Magazine, 7/31/15

"In *Dark Days*, Blythe takes the reader day by day, through his arrest and incarceration. He speeds things up and slows things down in just the right places, heightening the engagement level for the reader. Lamb of God fans, and metal fans will *surely* enjoy this book. Music fans and casual readers will *ALSO* really enjoy this book. *Dark Days* contains some sardonic wit, razor sharp insights, and a level of honour and integrity that many, if put into the same situation as the author, might not have shown...Blythe captures so much emotion within this book – hopelessness, anger, frustration, self-questioning (even a bit of loathing) and ultimately an intent to do the right thing no matter the cost...An engaging book."

GeekNation.com, 8/31/15

"An absolutely astounding, brave, and gut-wrenching book...If you read one book this year, make it *Dark Days*."

South China Morning Post, 9/5/15

"[A] moving book...Gritty and believable, the book reveals the life of a 'budget rock star' and what it's like to have a drink problem. It succeeds by sharing insights into common human suffering."

Publishers Weekly, 11/16/15

"Powerful and intelligent...A mixture of horror and humor makes this a remarkable memoir."

Examiner.com, 11/17/15

"A riveting, gripping, biting, bold and brave memoir...Much more than a tour diary or a prison memoir, *Dark Days* is Blythe's own story about what went down—before, during, and after—told only as he can."

Philadelphia Magazine, 1/15/16

"*Dark Days* is extremely candid. It goes to some really raw places of the heart."

Philadelphia Magazine, 12/17/15

"This book is not just for metalheads, but for everyone."

Asbury Park Press, 1/22/16

"Gripping."

Associated Press, 10/22/15

"Blythe vividly and descriptively recalls the details of his arrest, incarceration, trial and longtime struggles with alcohol abuse."

Advance praise for *Dark Days*

"Those of us who are familiar with Mr. Blythe's lyrics will be pleased to find that this book is full of all the impassioned, defiant, and bitingly funny writing we've come to expect from him. For those who aren't, I can only say that I'm jealous. You're about to discover a writer whose mind and heart are completely alive on every page. *Dark Days* is an utterly transfixing story of one man's journey through several hells. Some of these are of the kind fate puts us in. The others are the ones that always seem to burn inside us. It absolutely blew me away."—**Kevin Powers**, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Yellow Birds*

"Randy Blythe survived an ordeal nobody should ever have to face. Wrongly accused of manslaughter in a foreign country, he bravely chose to go to trial rather than run. This book is a fascinating account about how

to do the right thing when everything goes wrong."—**Brad Warner**, author of *Hardcore Zen* and *Don't Be a Jerk*

"Harrowing and funny, bleak and hopeful, intelligent and earthy, and above all just really well-written, *Dark Days* is as good as rock memoirs get."—**Michael Azerrad**, author of *Our Band Could Be Your Life* and *Come as You Are: The Story of Nirvana*

About the Author

D. Randall Blythe is a writer, photographer, actor, and musician best known for fronting the metal band lamb of god. He lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife Cindy and their cat, Salad. This is his first book.

RandyBlythe.net

Instagram: drandallblythe

DarkDaysBook.tumblr.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie Sims:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand up than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific *Dark Days: A Memoir* book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Ron Lauer:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book *Dark Days: A Memoir* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Jose Brummitt:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this *Dark Days: A Memoir* publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written in good manner for you, leaking every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still hesitation *Dark Days: A Memoir* as good book not simply by the cover but also through the content. This is one reserve that can break don't ascertain book by its cover, so do you still

needing one more sixth sense to pick this particular!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Harold Singleton:

As a student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart and soul or real their hobby. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Dark Days: A Memoir can make you feel more interested to read.

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