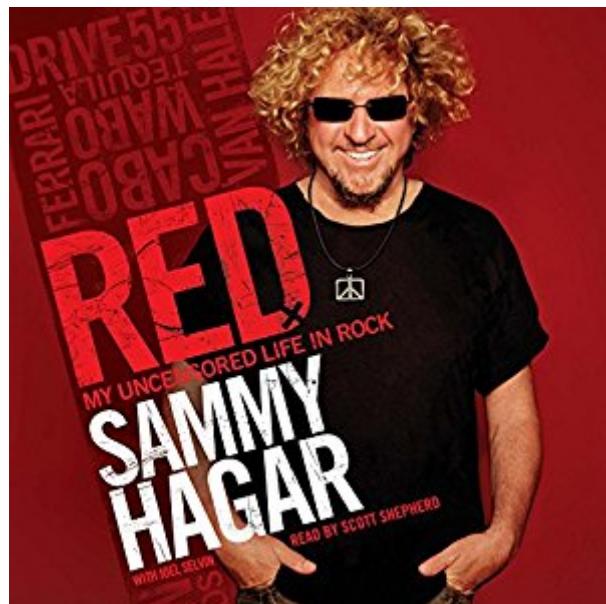


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# Red: My Uncensored Life In Rock



## Synopsis

Loud rock, fast cars, and Cabo. This is the life of Sammy Hagar. For almost 40 years, Sammy Hagar has been a fixture in rock music. From breaking into the industry with the band Montrose to his multiplatinum solo career to his ride as the front man of Van Halen, Sammy's powerful and unforgettable voice has set the tone for some of the greatest rock anthems ever written - songs like "I Can't Drive 55", "Right Now", and "Why Can't This Be Love". In *Red*, Sammy tells the outrageous story of his tear through rock 'n' roll, detailing the backstage antics and nonstop touring that have made his voice instantly recognizable. Beginning with his musical coming-of-age in the blue-collar towns of California, Sammy traces his rough and determined rise to fame, working harder than anyone else out there and writing songs about the things he loved: fast cars, loud parties, and lots of good times. But solo success was just the start, a prelude to his raucous and notorious decade as the front man for Van Halen, one of the biggest-selling rock groups in history. Filled with behind-the-scenes stories from his time with the band, *Red* offers the Van Halen story as Sammy saw it, holding nothing back about the worldwide stadium tours, the tensions with Eddie, the messy parties, the divided friendships, and, of course, his controversial and widely disputed exit from the band. After Van Halen, Sammy changed directions again, throwing himself headfirst into the tequila business and creating Cabo Wabo, one of the most successful tequila brands in the world. And all the while he continued to rock, touring the country with his bands the Waboritas and Chickenfoot, and eventually reuniting with Van Halen for a tour that became both a box-office smash and a personal catastrophe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love Van Halen but they're not a band that I would read a bio about, though I love rock biographies. I read David Lee Roth's autobiography wanting to know about his solo career and was overwhelmed by this horrid stories of the Van Halen brothers. I so wanted to know how true they were I picked up *Red*. Wow. Hagar does not hold back with honesty. This is a great bio. I knew nothing of his pre-Van Halen days and don't really pay much attention to Hagar, but my respect for his body of work increased after this book. One of the most fascinating bits was his non-music endeavors and how they are the things that really pay the bills. He doesn't come across as arrogant or show-off or bragging. This is a story of ups and downs and while a fan might want to know of this or that, as a casual fan I couldn't ask for more. But, I'm shocked that the Van Halen boys don't sue Hagar and Roth after what they said about him. But, now I want them to write a book to refute what Hagar wrote.

Great book. If you are a Van Halen, Sammy Hagar, or just a rock and roll fan this is a great book. Yes, there are the typical rock stories but the history of him earning his stripes while dabbling in random business that he made successful was the best part. You can tell he is a smart guy with some persistence and varied interests which ultimately led to his success in many areas. Not a book about the excesses of the business but more about keeping the eye on the prize while having a great time. It will make you want to visit Cabo Wabo. I burned through about 10 books about rock and roll and this one stands out.

That's not a direct quote (I paraphrased), but that about sums up this book. But wait there's more. Paraphrased parts of the book: "I don't do drugs." And then he talks about all the drugs he did/does. "They handed me a beer, and I don't drink beer." He proceeds to drink beer. (What kind of weird high horse is that anyway? Dude owns a tequila brand.) "I cheated so many times. And I'm not a cheater." Sometimes I was wondering, "Does he realize what he's writing? Is he drunk right now? I understand we're all walking contradictions, but this is in print. It's plain to see and easy to edit." Anyway, except for all that, this was a fun read. It got repetitive, but it was fairly smooth. Maybe like Cabo Wabo. You'll notice Hagar has a huge ego, but it's well deserved. He's made a lot of very smart moves in music and in business. And he also wasn't afraid to talk about his failures. Anyway, I'm not much of a Van Halen fan, but I enjoy reading autobiographies. If you're a Hagar fan you'll

probably love this. If you're a Van Halen fan you'll probably like it. If you're a music fan you'll tolerate it. If you're a Roth fan, why are you bothering?

Most of this is not a bad read. It is mildly interesting when covering Sammy's childhood, unfortunately it consists of the ever-so-familiar down and out, bad luck tale that we have all heard a million times from just about every rock star of the 80's. Sammy is not the most articulate writer, also contradicts himself several times in the book when it comes to things like cheating and drugs; admitting to doing it and then denying it literally on the next page. If you have played in a band you can skip the chapters on Montrose, bin there done that. If you have not played in a band read this part, then you can tell everyone you were in a band. What I found most compelling was his time with VH. I was a VH addict and I'll usually read anything I find on them. I don't think Sammy trashed the brothers too bad in this book. My guess is that to an outsider, just like Michael Anthony and Sammy, the brothers would have seemed like a wild ride at Disney, one that you can only watch. I highly doubt that Sammy was so innocent and not the cause of any turmoil during his time with VH though. I have to agree with some of the other reviewers - Sammy tries to come across like a regular guy but constantly shoves his inflated value in your face. We are probably all a little guilty of that though.

Sammy seems to be such a happy and positive person. I liked Van Halen so much better when he was in it. In about 1985 they came to Rochester, NY where I live and played at a baseball Stadium. I was close to the front and had binoculars. Sammy's voice just blows you away. I always was a big fan of his. He's one of the most talented singers ever. He had a hard life when he was young but had the drive to better himself. The book was really good.

I love The Red Rocker, Sammy! I had no blue he lived such a rough childhood. But then that makes for great music! Plus an even better book! Sammy Hagar lived a rough life. Alcoholic and abusive father. A mom who tried to shelter him. Grandparents he loved. Then came the guitar and music. He struggled with being poor. Actually poor is an understatement. He always knew he had it in him to be a musician. Just getting #1 was no cake walk. With his own band he had to find his signature sound. Then came a chance of a lifetime. Van Halen. Fronting them was good and bad. He had to play babysitter, manage his career, keep his marriage and rock like a God. I was impressed with how he has overcome adversities. He should go down in history as one of the greatest, best voices singers of all time. Great book!

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