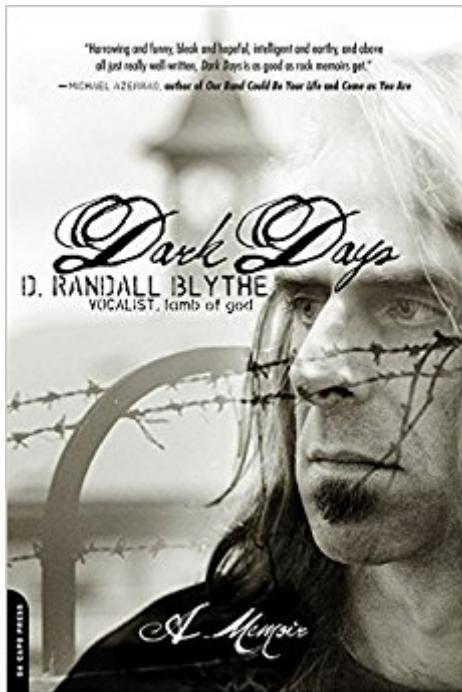


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# Dark Days: A Memoir



## Synopsis

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 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 and where today hundreds of prisoners are housed in claustrophobic, sweltering, nightmare-inducing conditions. 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. 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 as only he can.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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. •Portland Book Review, 1/6/16;D. Randall Blythe's memoir is one of a kind;Blythe's attempts to deal with a life that could have resulted in years of incarceration leave the reader admiring his spirit and patience. •Austin Chronicle, 12/11/15;[Blythe's] illuminating, measured biography, from his arrest and 31 grueling days among the walking damned of the notorious Pankrac prison to a judge's release and final gavel, unwraps hard-won philosophy. There's no ghostwriter;why would a lyricist want one? Instead, Blythe's low, sardonic Virginia rumble flows through every word. No self-pity, no mea culpa, no anger, just gratitude for his own survival, and a deep contextualization of how he found

himself in a Kafka-esque hell. •Philadelphia Magazine, 1/15/16;Dark Days is extremely candid. It goes to some really raw places of the heart. •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. •

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: drandallblytheDarkDaysBook.tumblr.com

Just finished reading this book. Surprisingly, I had not even heard of his incarceration until watching a TV show long after the fact, and I think that just points to the lack of coverage in the media. Unless I had picked up a guitar magazine, or been looking up the band at the time, I had no idea this was happening. My first impression was, "Why is he holding back?" He talks a lot about his battle with sobriety, and like all metal tell-all books I was expecting some crazy stories about some crazy stuff he did while drinking. But then I remembered the title of the book - Dark Days. There is really very little humor in the book, and he discusses his battle seriously, how if he hadn't quit drinking, it would have killed him. In the same manner, he is actually quite open about his experiences in prison. This was hard time in a hard place, and you really believe him that he would kick the crap out of someone if he had to - not because he is a bad ass, but because of fear. It is told in sort of a stream of consciousness way, basically sharing what he is thinking and feeling as he goes through the rough conditions of being in a rough prison. I have to wonder if ever got in touch with his former cell mates - probably not. No one would want to back there. One thing that stood out to me is he seems very uncomfortable with his success and fame. Its a wierd situation, they are not super famous, I'm sure for the most part he can walk down the street unbothered. But within the metal sub-genre, they are

growing more and more popular. Disappointingly I'm not sure I would want to meet him as a fan, because of his contempt for fans, although I can't say I blame the guy. This is just the impression I get from reading the book. I would just be one of many others saying "Dude, glad you are ok." It's ironic because as a band they seem very dependent on their fans, they get no radio airplay or coverage in the media. He didn't have to go back, and he deserves a lot of respect for going back to finish his trial. What you get from reading the book over just watching the As The Palaces Burn video is a lot more detail about his time in prison. He is obviously an intelligent guy, and very creative. If you like the band, or just brutal tales of almost getting stuck in a Chec prison, then this is the book for you.

This story is something that you only can dream of and you would think it was fiction if you didn't know better. The circumstances surrounding the story are tragic, sad, happy. Honestly, there is no overall good or bad outcome in the end. There can't be. There just is an end and you have to take that for what it's worth and reflect on it. Personally, I find the story to be organically very existential in nature. Even if you "know the story" behind this book you don't "know the story" until you've read it from Randy's perspective. It's a mind blowing read.

I knew going in what this book was going to be about. What I did not know or expect was how unbelievably well written this book would be. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised as Randy Blythe is my favorite singer/writer. I don't say this as a Lamb Of God fanboy but as a musician/lyricist who can recognize superb writing skills. Blythe has a command of the English language unlike most of the common American people of today. Blythe's writing is not only refreshing but also thought provoking as he takes you inside the Czech prison through words that can lead the reader into visualizing the inside of the prison with ease. He doesn't spend a lot of time on unnecessary filler or useless wordy passages. Every word seems carefully chosen and every chapter well constructed. I found myself reading and re-reading many parts to make sure I fully understood what it was he was trying to convey. Perhaps the most intriguing part of this story is Blythe's demonstration of what makes a man a real man...his sense of honor. Honor is a code kept by so few in this day. As a man who also believes in honor I found myself in awe of how strongly Blythe believed in and stood by his principles returning to the Czech Republic under threat of potentially lifelong incarceration to stand trial in an attempt to bring the truth to the public and to a dead son's parents. While reading this story I laughed, I cried, and I got angry. Blythe does an excellent job of drawing the reader into experiencing his thoughts and feelings. Though his

predicament seems surreal...his emotions are very real. I was drawn deep into this story and had a very difficult time putting it down. I loved this book. I am waiting for a couple of months to pass and I will read it again.

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