

Benni Bødker and Søren G. Mosdal presents:

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF

HEAVY METAL



Judas Priest

An Illustrated History of

HEAVY METAL

100 pages, colour

Non fiction graphic novel

Illustrated by Søren Mosdal, written by Benni Bødker

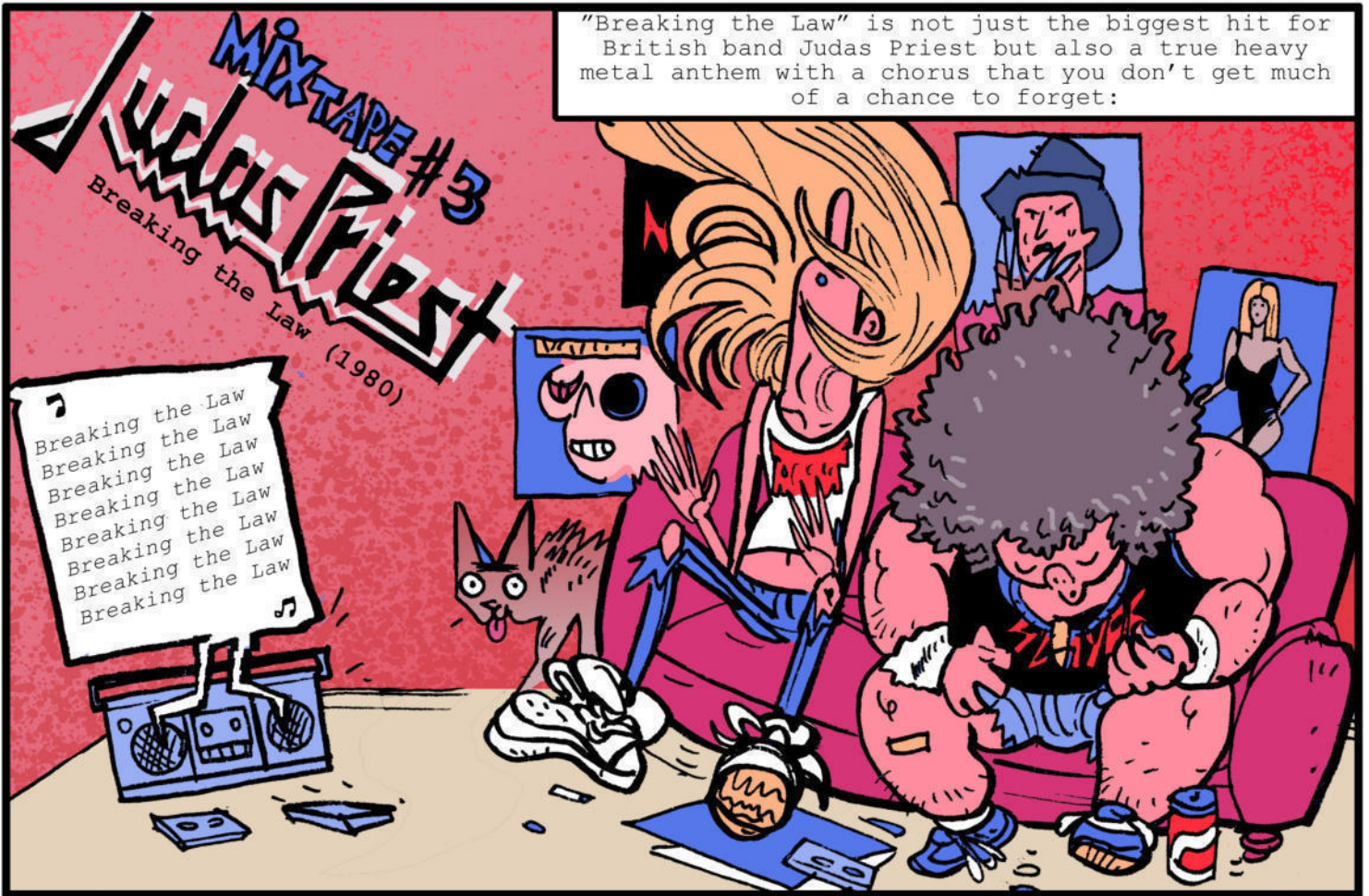
An Illustrated History of Heavy Metal is the first graphic novel to tell the story of one of the most popular and provocative genres of music with millions of fans across the world. Once heavy metal was the music of Satan and accused of driving its fans into suicide or commit murder and burn churches, today the genre has become a part of mainstram culture with French death metal band Gojira even opening the 2024 Olympics. In the vein of Ed Piskor's acclaimed and bestselling *Hip Hop Family Tree* this graphic novel tells the story of the genre from its origin and untill today through a combination of comics and illustrated non fiction. The emphasis is on the compelling and revealing anecdote but it is based on thorough research and knowledge of the genre.

The story is told as a mix tape consisting of 20 important songs and bands ranging from Black Sabbath in 1970 untill the acts of today with stops at every important band from Metallica and Slayer to Norwegian black metal. Each song forms a chapter in the book and works as a starting point so that the 20 chapters combined takes you through all aspects of the genre and culture.

An Illustrated History of Heavy Metal is for the novice curious about what heavy metal is all about as well as for the die hard fan who wants to read an engaging and entertaining history of the genre.

From Black Sabbath to Kiss, Judas Priest, Motorhead, Iron Maiden, Metallica, Slayer, Mercyful Fate, Celtic Frost, Napalm Death, Death, Entombed, Sepultura, Mayhem, Burzum, Rage against the machine, Slipknot, Sunn, Zeal and Ardour and more...

"Breaking the Law" is not just the biggest hit for British band Judas Priest but also a true heavy metal anthem with a chorus that you don't get much of a chance to forget:



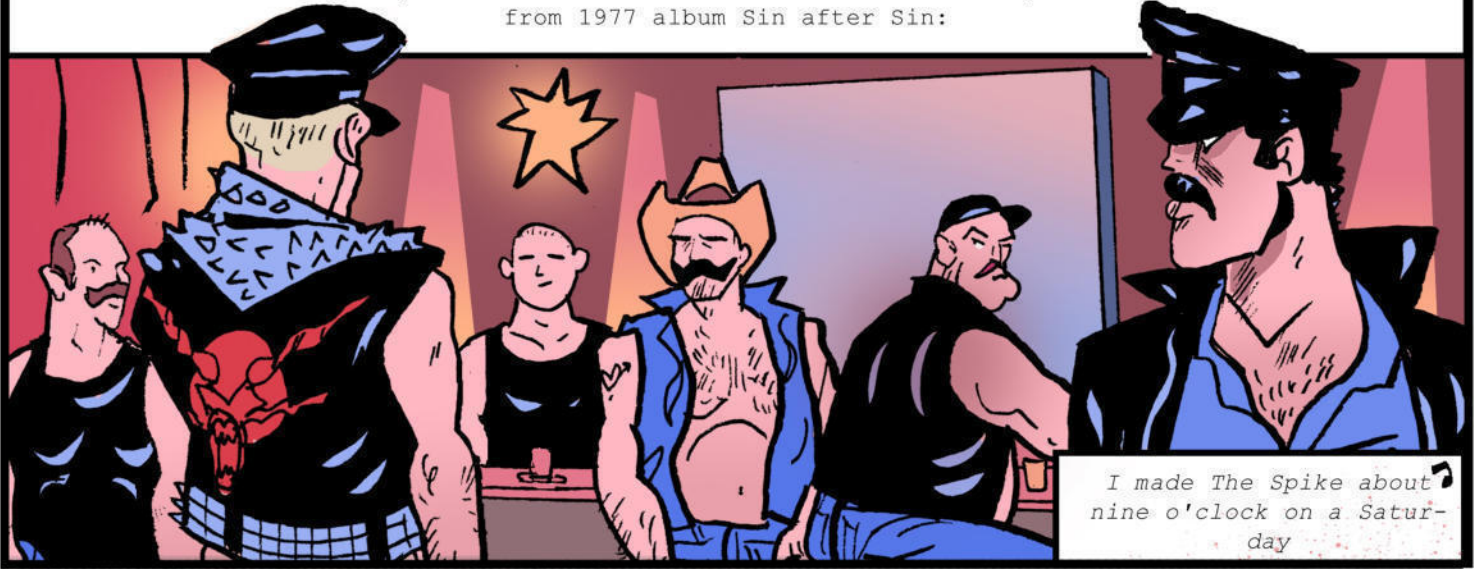
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law
Breaking the Law

But even without this iconic song from the the 1980 album *British Steel* - which became the band's mainstream breakthrough and influenced generations of metal bands from Metallica to Sepultura - there is little doubt that Judas Priest is the most metal of all metal bands.



Formed around Birmingham in 1969 in the same area that spawned Black Sabbath the future members of Judas Priest grew up amongst blast furnaces, metal foundries and the industrial works of British Steel - yes, the very same steel manufacturer which years later lent its name to the album featuring "Breaking the Law".

For years everyone wondered where Rob Halford found the inspiration for those massive studs and leather that ended up being the defining and authorized look of heavy metal. It wasn't until a live MTV broadcast in 1998 that Rob Halford came out of the closet. But for listeners paying attention to the band's lyrics it shouldn't have come as such a surprise. Listen to "Raw Deal" from 1977 album Sin after Sin:



I made The Spike about nine o'clock on a Saturday



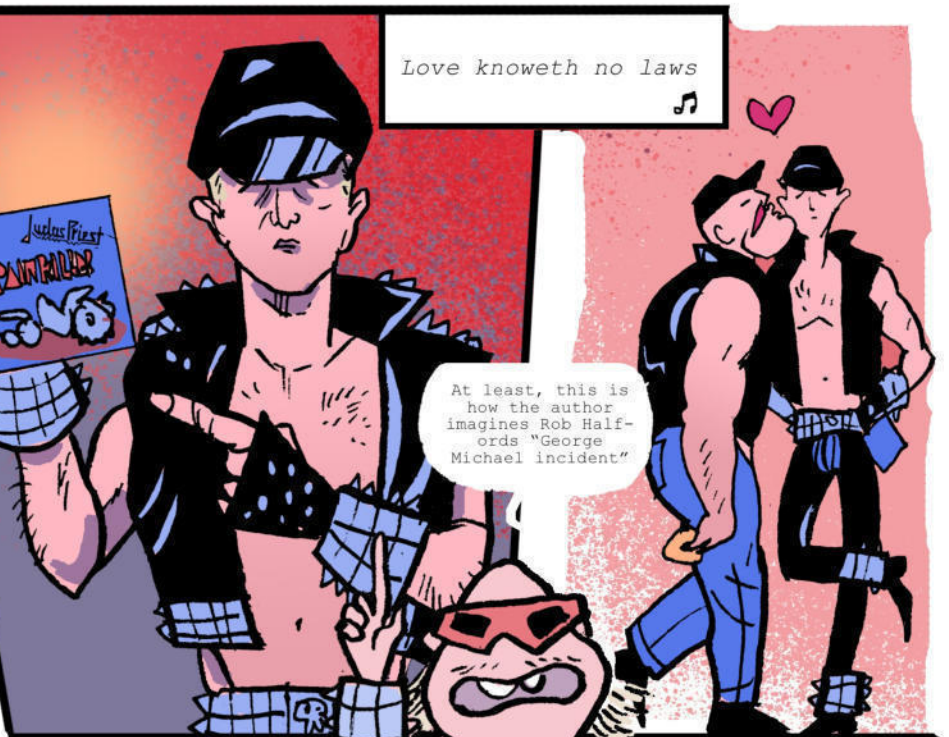
All eyes hit me as I walked into the bar



Them steely leather guys were foolin' with the denim dudes



Love knoweth no laws



Love knoweth no laws

At least, this is how the author imagines Rob Halford's "George Michael incident"

However, some people probably listened a little bit too much to the lyrics of Judas Priest even to the point of hearing things that were not there: In 1985 Satanic Panic is creating anxiety all over USA and two young American fans attempt suicide after drinking, smoking dope and listening to Judas Priest. One of them succeeds in killing himself while the other is fatally hurt.



The parents sue the band in a much publicized court case which Judas Priest ultimately wins in 1990.

They killed themselves because of a subliminal message saying "Do it!" hidden on the 1978 song "Better by you, better than me."

That's not a very sensible way to build a fanbase. If we were to insert subliminal messages it would be the command: "Buy more of our records."



Long past the age of retiring Rob Halford is still touring today and releasing new records with Judas Priest as well as the occasional album of metalized Christmas Carols.

Mix Tape Track # 15
"Freezing Moon" (1994)

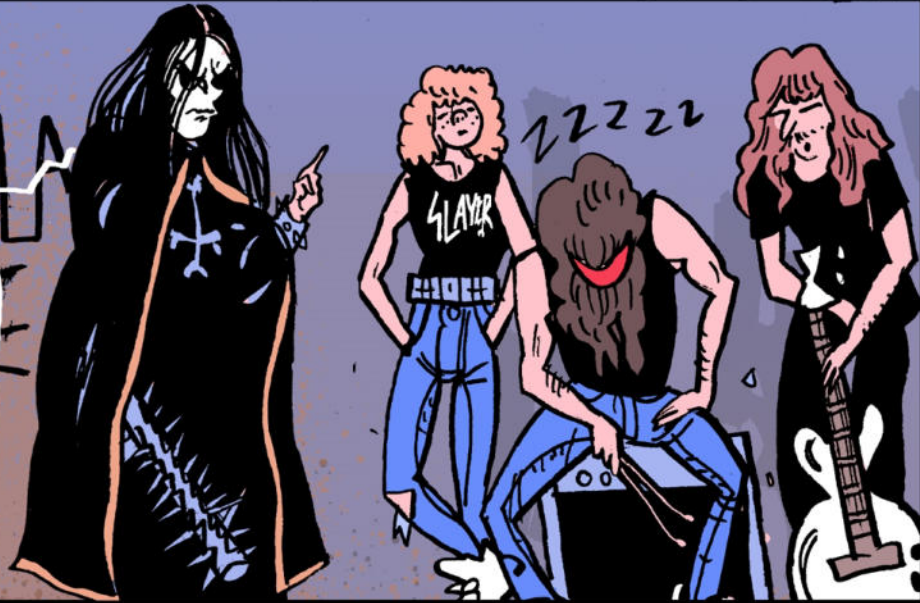


Once upon a time in the deep forests of Norway, there was a band called Mayhem. They lived in a cabin in the woods and struggled to create great art.

No record companies want to release Mayhem and no promoters want to book the band. Instead they become a cult of their own.

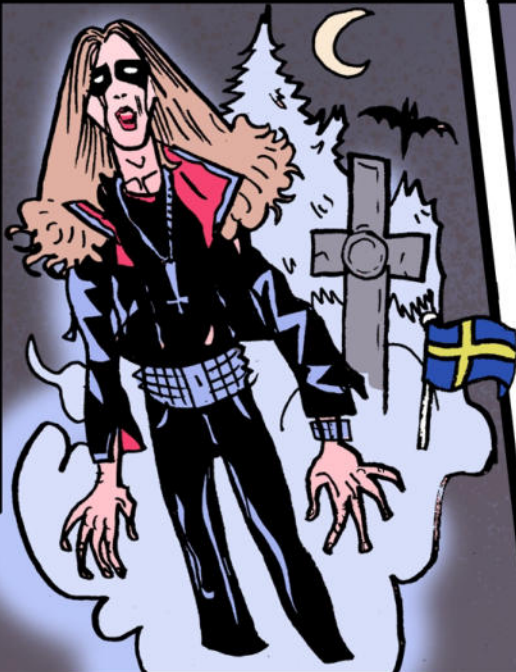
1984

Today's metal fans are children in jogging suits and skateboards. They try to look as normal as possible. This has nothing to do with black metal. Black metal is evil and satanic. It means black clothes, spikes and crosses. These stupid people must fear black metal!



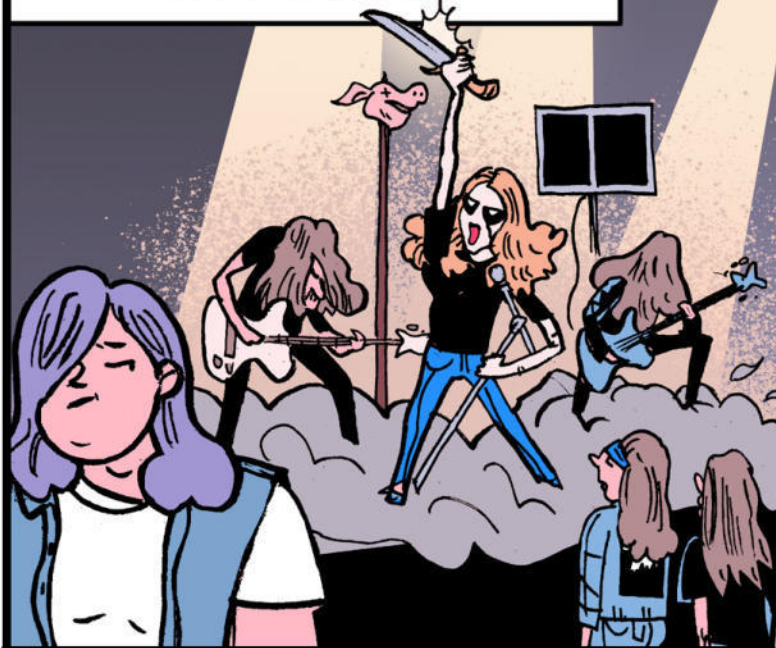
And no one in this cult is more fanatic than the band's vocalist who goes under the stage name of Dead.

For Dead black metal is the art of being morbid and extreme. He applies for the vacant position in Mayhem by mailing a crucified mouse to the band, invents the concept of corpse paint...

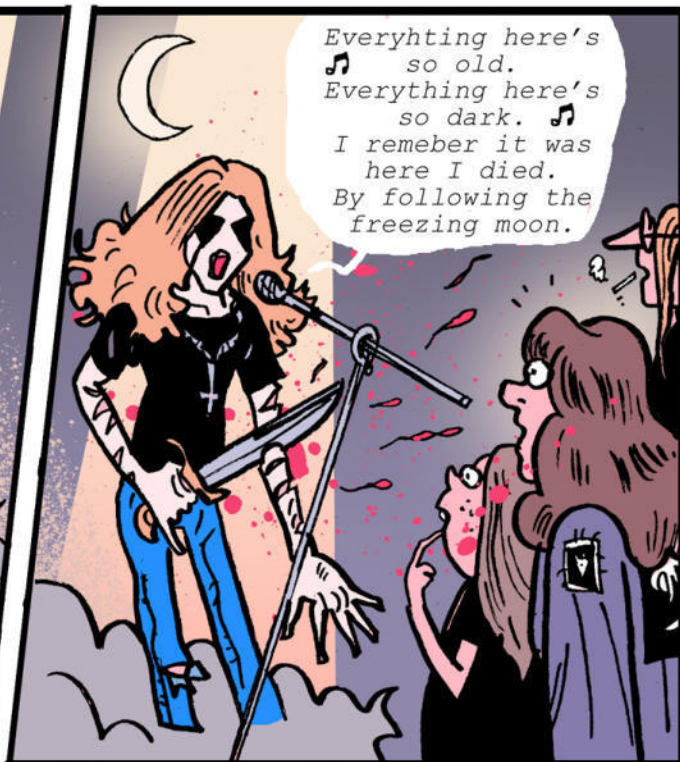


...and likes to inhale the stench of rotten crows in order to get in the right mood.

However, Dead not only has a keen sense of gothic theatrics but is also a plagued soul.



Everything here's so old.
Everything here's so dark. ♪
I remeber it was here I died.
By following the freezing moon.



Tragedy strikes in the spring of 1991 when Dead ends his own life with a shotgun. The one to discover the body is the band's equally fanatic guitarist.

BOOM



As the first on the scene of the tragedy Euronymous is quick to ... not call the police or an ambulance but take photos of his dead band mate...



... and distribute them among fans. He also makes sure to pick up some pieces of the fractured skull for his handi-craft.

Home made presents are the best.



Some say that Euronymous also ate part of Dead's brain but that is probably just him bragging.

Few bands have proven to be as influential as Mayhem who can be said to single handedly spawn the moderne understanding of black metal. This is largely due to guitarist Euronymous who. From his record store in a dungeon in Oslo aptly named Helvete (Hell) he preached the gospel of dirty and satanic black metal as an alternative to the more and more commercial and popular mainstream heavy metal music.



Do you have the new Metallica?



Do you have the new Sepultura?



Do you have a self recorded lo-fi sounding South American demo tape from an evil satanist band that no one have ever heard about and whose members are now all in jail?



Helvete attracts a crowd of aspiring musicians whom Euronymous inspires to create black metal - as well as to desecrate graves and set fire to churches. Emperor, Burzum, Enslaved, Darkthrone and Immortal take up the torch from Mayhem - and become world wide phenomenons.



Few bands have indeed led such a torturous existence as Mayhem. By the time they finally release their debut album *De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas* they have once again been struck by tragedy. In 1993 the band's new bass player murders Euronymous...



...and at the time of the record's release - no less than ten years after the band started out - only one member is left. The rest of the band is either dead or in prison.



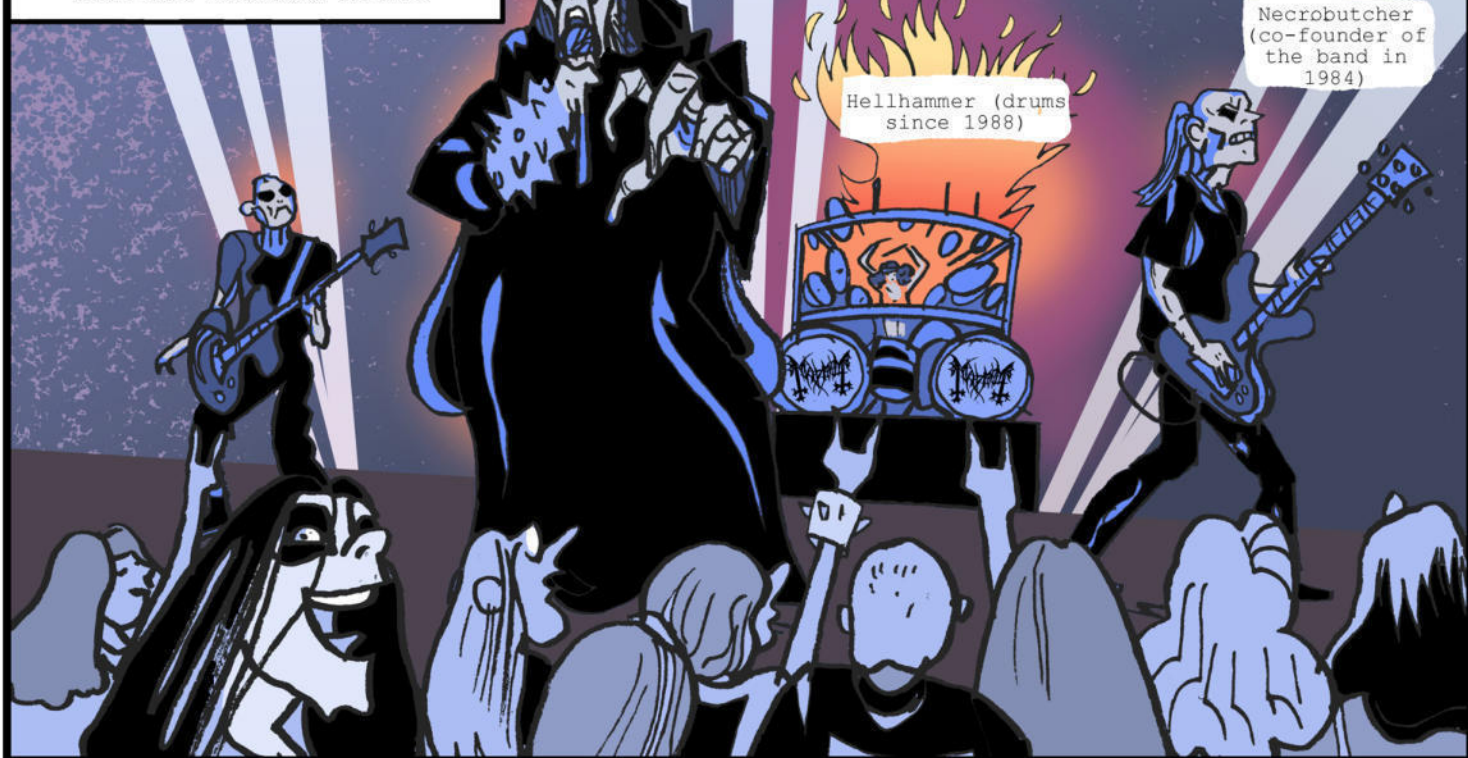
Well, what did you expect? The vocalist went by the name of Dead, the guitarist called himself Euronymous (a demon corpse eater) and the bassist was named Count Grishnackh (an ork). This guy also had a band, by the way, which ended up being even more infamous: Burzum!

Attila (vocals since 1993)

Much to everyone's surprise, - these days Mayhem tour the world celebrating their 40 of existence with a line up very close to the original.

Necrobutcher (co-founder of the band in 1984)

Hellhammer (drums since 1988)





Benni Bødker is a Danish author whose thrillers, graphic novels and children's books have appeared in 12 languages. His books are published in USA by Fantagraphics and in France by Glenat (*Meschugge*), Huber Editions (*A Christmas Bestiary*) and Les Aventuriers de l'Etrange (*Homunculus*). Apart from this he is a well known authority on heavy metal, having appeared in several documentaries - and even released a record with death metal band Undergang.



Søren Mosdal was born 1972 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Based in Copenhagen, Søren has worked for the last 20 years as a comic artist and illustrator for a wide range of publishers at home and abroad, as well as for many Danish newspapers and magazines. He has published books all over Europe, notably in France with books from Casterman, Steinkis and Sarbacane, among others. Søren Mosdal has published:

Candy – Walk on the wild side (2023) Steinkis. With Julian Voloj

Gogues au sang (2022) The Hoochie Coochie. With Jacob Ørsted

Basquiat (2019/2020) Selfmade Hero/Soleil. With Julian Voloj

Madeleine – une femme libre (2014) Sarbacane. With Rudy Ortiz

Eric le Rouge (2014) Casterman

Rockworld (2014) The Hoochie Coochie

Hank Williams - Lost Highway (2011) Edition Moderne

Feuerwerk (2001) Éditions Amok. With Jacob Ørsted