The Dirt
by Mötley Crüe

Mötley Crüe recorded double platinum albums and yet their offstage antics always overshadowed their musical offerings. In the 80s and 90s, lesser bands cowered when their managers told them they were sharing a bill with Mötley Crüe. Now that The Dirt has hit the street, other rock biographies will be the ones shaking with fear.

Easily offended readers might want cross the street if they see The Dirt coming, but the depths of depravity these four were once capable of will delight those with strong stomachs. From the early days of North Hollywood squalor, to the record deals, jets, and cocaine, to the ridiculous road back down, it's all here. Told in alternating chapters by Crüe-mates Sixx, Neil, Mars, and Lee (with help from others), individual voices emerge amid the hookers and fistfights, allowing a rare glimpse into the hearts that made up the most notorious band since Led Zeppelin. The Dirt is the ultimate backstage diary of a band Sixx claims was "fueled by dysfunction," a band "fueled by walking on the edge of insanity and collapse."

From Vince's insatiable appetite for women and alcohol to Nikki and Tommy's flat-line heroin escapades, The Dirt is undeniably dirty. But, unlike Metallica's self-help documentary, Some Kind of Monster, the revelations in The Dirt are touching, raw, hilarious, and contain valuable insights regarding addiction, ego, and friendship.

The big surprise here might be Tommy Lee. Mr. Lee, the drummer and arguably the most famous of the bunch, comes across, in his F Bomb-dotted chapters, as a strangely appreciative man who loves his parents, his kids, and every woman he has ever kissed. As the Crüe's many voices gel we learn that the base psychological "inadequacies" of four (very) messed-up individuals can indeed conspire, with a bit of luck, to create one of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands in history. —Colin Whyte/

Redcard Writing Group