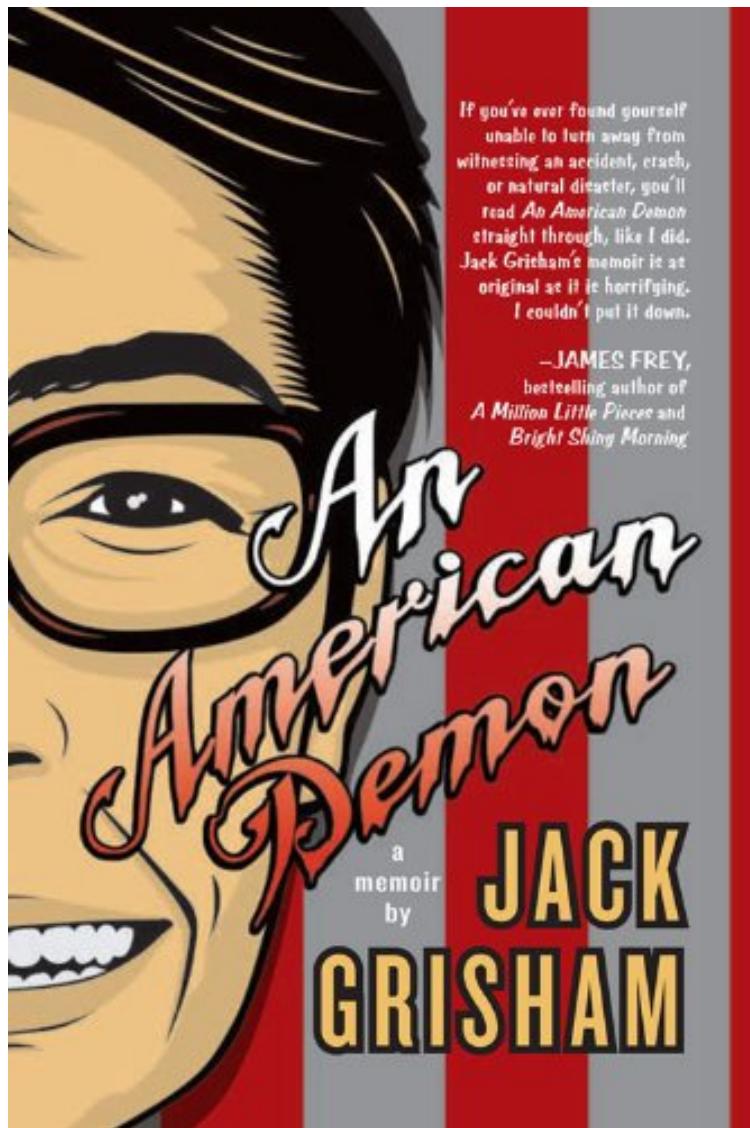


(Free pdf) An American Demon: A Memoir

## An American Demon: A Memoir

Jack Grisham

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**Jack Grisham : An American Demon: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Demon: A Memoir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Tough read, glad I stuck with itBy D. K. MaloneI'm embarrassed to admit that I had a hard time with this book. TSOL was one of my favorite bands when I got into the scene in 1982, and for the past 10 years or so one of my favorite things has been reading punk rock oral histories and biographies, auto or otherwise. When I found out Jack Grisham had written a book I figured it would be a no-brainer. It's not unusual for one to take me several weeks to finish, because I tend to pick at them here and there rather than read it all in one go.

This one was a unique case, though. American Demon took me almost two years to finish. Between the author/narrator's in-your-face arrogance, the literally horrifying subject matter, and the fact that I couldn't tell if I was expected to take everything he said to be true or if at least some of it was supposed to be obviously fictional, I found much of the book to be off-putting. I don't know how many times I went back and looked at the front cover to confirm once again that, yep, it says "A memoir" right there, plain as day. But then I'd re-read the page 1 disclaimer saying "If you want facts, go read my police records" or something to that effect. I would go months without touching it. I'd put it down intending to come back soon, but instead I'd end up gradually piling other books and stuff on top of it and only stumble across it ages later. "Oh yeah... I need to finish this." Jack Grisham has always had a reputation for f\*\*\*ing with people, but some of the stuff in this book made me clutch my pearls. To be clear, ~NOTHING~ makes me clutch my pearls. It's not far from being a non-fiction version of *A Clockwork Orange*. In fact it may even be worse, since we have no way of knowing the fate of some of the victims in the story, since Jack himself doesn't know. I witnessed and took part in plenty of hell raising in my days in the scene, but... damn. I couldn't reconcile it with the Jack I knew (as an old fan who's read and seen a lot of interviews going way back to early issues of *Flipside*, I mean... I don't know the man personally.) It wasn't until I happened across a video on *Youtube* from 2011 where Jack discusses the book that I came to understand, with great relief, where he was actually coming from and what he was going for. (And he clarified that as far as he's concerned all of the events are true, though he did move some around chronologically, and he changed some names.) After that, I was able to appreciate it a lot more and I plowed through the rest of it with no trouble. Ironically, if I had just stuck with it until I reached the final few chapters, that would have solved the issue too. Talk about a character arc. It's a great book and a hell of a ride, I just had no idea what I was getting into. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Stunning Like an Electric Shock* By Jennifer An American Demon was stunning like an electric shock. It was not the narrative memoir I expected. Although it did give me a look inside the southern California '80s Punk scene, it was more of a twisted maze that led me into the center of my own dark heart. At times I could barely read the next sentence, yet the whole time I was reading it I felt irritated by anything that got between me and the next page. Sometimes I slammed the book and felt sick, sometimes I bit my fingernails and felt like a naughty voyeur. And yet.... Jack Grisham skillfully led me along, because when he turned suddenly and shone the mirror on me, he pierced me to the core. If by page 294, you have not seen your own demon face, sleep. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Awesome* By Danny G. A book you will not be able to put down. I won't go into too much detail because it's a memoir like no other. I couldn't recommend it highly enough

Depravity, redemption, terror, and spiritual deliverance abound in this physically and psychologically complex memoir from the front man of the pioneer punk band True Sounds of Liberty (TSOL). Spanning the extremes between hard-core punk memoir and handbook for recovery and survival, this narrative documents a youth rebellion that changed the world and offered life lessons rooted in 1980s punk culture. At times unsettling and violent, this book is doused in aggression, rebellion, alcoholism, and drug abuse, culminating in tough lessons of sobriety and absolution. This captivating, dark, and ultimately redemptive life story will fascinate fans of punk and resonate with those who have suffered from addiction issues.

"Jack Grisham finally, irrevocably, puts to death the slander that the early Los Angeles punk scene was 'plastic.' The first true literature to come out of our pathetic little punk lives, *American Demon* is haunting and awakens monsters. But it should come with a warning label: it's a dangerous book. Read Patti Smith's *Just Kids*. Then read this. But only if you have the courage to follow poetry as far as it can go." —Paul Roessler, producer, composer, musician "If you've ever found yourself unable to turn away from witnessing an accident, crash or natural disaster, you'll read *American Demon* straight through, like I did. Jack Grisham's memoir is as original as it is horrifying. I couldn't put it down." —James Frey, bestselling author, *A Million Little Pieces* and *Bright Shiny Morning* "[N]ot for the timid. . . . a meld of Oscar Wilde's *Dorian Gray* with *Fight Club* and *A Clockwork Orange*. [Grisham] offers a savage poetry with an undertow of wit. In his lens, not-so-quiet Los Angeles suburbs become awash with dysfunction, revolt, and violence. Yet in the end he offers a sense of recovery as well." —Houston Press (May 5, 2011)