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High Voltage Tattoo



Synopsis

High Voltage Tattoo is a graphic perspective on today's global tattoo culture by Kat Von D, star of The Learning Channel's L.A. Ink and one of the most talented and popular artists working today. Designed in a style that is reminiscent of a handmade Gothic journal with its red padded cover, ornate typography, and parchmentlike pages, it throws the door wide open to tattooing culture in the way only an insider like Kat can. High Voltage Tattoo traces Kat's career as an artist, from early childhood influences to recent work, along with examples of what inspires her, information about the show and her shop, her sketches, and personal tattoos. The book goes deep into tattoo process and culture: readers can see up close the pigments, the tools, and the making of complex, even collaborative, tattoos. With a foreword by Mötley Crüe's Nikki Sixx, the book features images and stories about celebrities, rockers, pro skaters, and everyday citizens, including Slayer's Kerry King, Anthrax's Scott Ian, Margaret Cho, Jackass' Bam Margera, David Letterman, and many others. It profiles and showcases the work of artists Kat has selected from all over the world, her interviews with people who have compelling tattoos and stories, and amazing images of extraordinary tattoo work. Numerous portfolios throughout the book showcase a range of relevant subjects, from the black and gray portrait work for which Kat is famous to a popular tattoo theme, such as the rose or biblical images. There is a knockout ten-page full-body spread of Kat "clad in a yellow bikini and seven-inch, rhinestone-studded red stilettos" that catalogs in detail all her personal tattoos on her front, back, left, and right sides "even her hands and head."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well I guess I should start off this review by stating emphatically that I don't have any tattoos, nor do I ever intend on getting one. Not that I have anything against tattoos, it's just that they aren't for me, although I do appreciate the incredible amount of talent behind a lot of the great tattoo artists of the past and present. Now having got that out of the way, I absolutely love some of the intricate designs and artwork that goes into a lot of the tattoos that I have seen. Especially those I have seen on TLC's L.A. Ink: Season 1 and LA Ink: Season 1, Volume 2 reality series. Of which we all know Kat Von D is the owner of the tattoo shop High Voltage and star of the series. I was surprised to learn that she had a book coming out and learned about it after watching the episode where she talks about it and finally gets a foreword for it by none other than boyfriend and heavy metal god, Nikki Sixx, guitarist for the incredibly talented band, Motley Crue. Ever since then, I have been anxiously awaiting January 20th, 2009 in order to get my copy, which I am proud to say I have and already read through it twice. Kat is very open and honest in this book about her life growing up and all the trials and tribulations that she, and her family, went through as she went from sweet little girl to, how should I put it, not so sweet little girl. At least in the eyes of her parents and certain other people in her life. Not that everyone felt that way, but I am quite certain there were more than a few.

Just like the other reviewer, I didn't know what to expect when I ordered this book. I actually came across her 2nd book, Tattoo Chronicle and then I realized that she has this book out first. I went to and bought this book for \$19. I absolutely love it! I already love tattoo to begin with. I only have a few but I am fascinated by the story and meaning behind each and every tattoo. I was dying to find out what her story was about each one. I got this book Saturday afternoon and started reading it the following day. It was sooooo interesting to me that I was done by Wednesday. I do think that it is because it has a lot of pictures and graphics of the tattoo that made it super easy to read. The first part of the book is basically about Kat Von D's life. How she ran away and met this boy named James and fell in love. Who she came across in order to start tattooing. A little bit about her family and her Latina roots. The middle part of her book is about the tattoos on her body. She didn't really go into detail about each and every single one of her tattoo, I was sort of disappointed in that. I was looking forward to know and understand why she put so many tattoo on her body. Why she had chosen this particular placement and design. I realized that maybe it wasn't as meaningful as I was hoping that each of her tattoo to be. Either way, it was very nice to be able to see the close up of her tattoo instead of just a big black and grey blur. And she also tell you which one hurts the most which I was literally laughing out loud about. Then she tells you a little bit about her love for music, why she likes Ludwig Van Beethoven. Although she didn't get into detail about why she would have 7 tattoos

of Ludwig Van Beethoven, it just proves that music means that much to her.

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