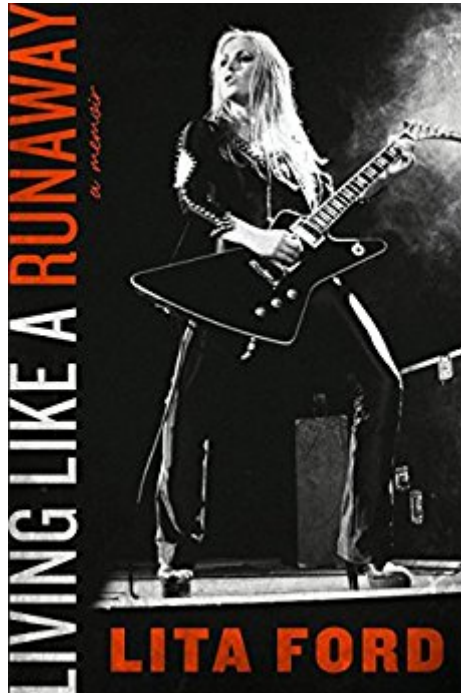




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Living Like A Runaway: A Memoir



Synopsis

“Heavy metal’s leading female rocker (Rolling Stone) bares all, opening up about the Runaways, the glory days of the punk and hard-rock scenes, and the highs and lows of her trailblazing career. Wielding her signature black guitar, Lita Ford shredded stereotypes of female musicians throughout the 1970s and ‘80s. Then followed more than a decade of silence and darkness—until rock and roll repaid the debt it owed this pioneer, helped Lita reclaim her soul, and restored the Queen of Metal to her throne. In 1975, Lita Ford left home at age sixteen to join the world’s first major all-female rock group, the Runaways—a pioneering band (New York Times) that became the subject of a Hollywood movie starring Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning. Lita went on to become “heavy rock’s first female guitar hero” (Washington Post), a platinum-selling solo star who shared the bill with the Ramones, Van Halen, Motley Crue, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Poison, and others and who gave Ozzy Osbourne his first Top 10 hit. She was a bare-ass, leather-clad babe whose hair was bigger and whose guitar licks were hotter than any of the guys. Hailed by Elle as “one of the greatest female electric guitar players to ever pick up the instrument,” Lita spurred the meteoric rise of Joan Jett, Cherie Currie, and the rest of the Runaways. Her phenomenal talent on the fret board also carried her to tremendous individual success after the group’s 1979 disbandment, when she established herself as a “legendary metal icon” (Guitar World) and a fixture of the 1980s music scene who held her own after hours with Nikki Sixx, Jon Bon Jovi, Eddie Van Halen, Tommy Lee, Motorhead’s Lemmy, Black Sabbath’s Tony Iommi (to whom she was engaged), and others. Featuring a foreword by Dee Snider, *Living Like a Runaway* also provides never-before-told details of Lita’s dramatic personal story. For Lita, life as a woman in the male-dominated rock scene was never easy, a constant battle with the music establishment. But then, at a low point in her career, came a tumultuous marriage that left her feeling trapped, isolated from the rock-and-roll scene for more than a decade, and—most tragically—alienated from her two sons. And yet, after a dramatic and emotional personal odyssey, Lita picked up her guitar and stormed back to the stage. As *Guitar Player* hailed in 2014 when they inducted her into their hall of fame of guitar greats: “She is as badass as ever.” Fearless, revealing, and compulsively readable, Lita Ford’s *Living Like a Runaway* is the long-awaited memoir from one of rock’s greatest pioneers—and fiercest survivors.

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Customer Reviews

Even though I have always been a Joan Jett fan, Lita Ford was and is THE female guitar hero. Before starting this book, the only personal thing I knew about Ms. Ford is that she had been born in England. After a fabulously funny foreword by Dee Snyder, I was bit disappointed when I started *LIVING LIKE A RUNAWAY*, because I thought the writing style was too unpolished, on the other hand I thought refreshing that Ms. Ford had not used a ghost writer, although a friend helped her with some trifles, I felt it all sounded very spontaneous, and I enjoyed the tone very much. By chapter two, I was completely immersed in the book, and because of the writing style: I felt I was having intimate conversations with my best friend, who also happens to be a heavy metal legend. Lita Ford's story resembles other rock stars' to a certain extent, however a lot of it is different, of course unfortunately because she's a woman, but also for her relationship with her parents, especially her mother and how Ms. Ford handled drugs and booze. I loved her candour and her honesty, and she accepted her failures with grace. I did not know Lita Ford, the person, before *LIVING LIKE A RUNAWAY*, and I got to know, respect, and love the woman, and her integrity as an artist. There is

some vagueness regarding Ms. Ford's second husband, and I fear it's because of legal issues, but then again, I consider it one's prerogative not to tell all; it is the memoirist's choice, and I respect that as I would respect it from a friend.

Look, I'm a nobody and Lita is very impressive with her determination and success...she worked hard and made a name for herself and I respect and admire that. I've never been a fan of her songs or her playing but that is highly subjective and an opinion. I just did not like the book all that much because it has an air of "why me?" to it and Lita is no angel. I'm not sorry I purchased and read the book though. I did get weary of her talking about her guitar prowess and how it needed to be recognized....and prosecuting guys like George Lynch who is a guitar monster and in a whole other league on guitar. Honestly, Lita, really? It's not a competition, but, if it was, trust us that your guitar skills would be way back of the bus compared to many many other known guitarists.

Great read. I didn't realize that Lita had slept with so many musicians. I am more of a Runaways fan, so I was happy to see that she covered this era in depth. It was oddly not very detailed on the 80's metal stuff as much. It was an intensely personal book, so she does come off as a genuine person. She's survived music business stuff and personal battles really well it seems. She has a bad man picker, which is surprising for someone with such a stable upbringing. Well worth the time it took to read. I read it quickly because it was very engaging.

This was an excellent book any true Lita Ford fan needs to read this as she is so open about her whole life. She does not sugar coat anything. She is HONEST. She is honest about her marriages even though they are no one's business. She is honest about missing her children which again is also no one's business. I so hope she gets her time with her children and one day they will read this book and they will know without a doubt whether their mom could be with them or not SHE WANTED TO BE!! So many get caught up in their careers and don't take the time for their children, not the case here. She WANTS to be there and you can tell it is breaking her heart. My prayers are with her!!

Nothing really unexpected here. Gets a little old after a while reading Lita describe herself over and over as "The Queen of Metal." and the "Trailblazer" for girls in rock. Plus, it's a little odd how Lita talks about how she "helped" all of her friends because they were using drugs, or being used as sex

toys by guys. However, on the flip-side, she talks about all the coke, meth, booze, weed, and pills she devoured throughout her life! That goes for screwing guys, as well: she says how she made sure her girlfriends didn't get used and abused by guys, meanwhile, she's spreading her legs for every rock and roller than comes along! Very hypocritical! It's almost as if she is saying "when everyone else uses coke, meth, pills, etc.. it's a problem they need to face, but when I do it, it's just fun!!" Odd.

I'd always wondered what had happened to Lita Ford. Now I know. I wish her path hadn't been changed for her, but now I know the full story of where she went. It was also great to see how she got her start and rediscovered herself along the way. If you were ever a fan of the Runaways or Lita Ford, you owe it to yourself to check out this book.

I thought this book would be written in a more incite full way as a look back at someone's impulsive youth but instead I find it reads as a young teenager with very little growth. Who still seems to have a lot to prove with a defiant attitude. Don't get me wrong I'm not about coloring in the lines but this just reads more immature than I imagined. But kudos to the author for its refreshing honesty!

She's very pretentious. The entire book was a poor me rant.

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