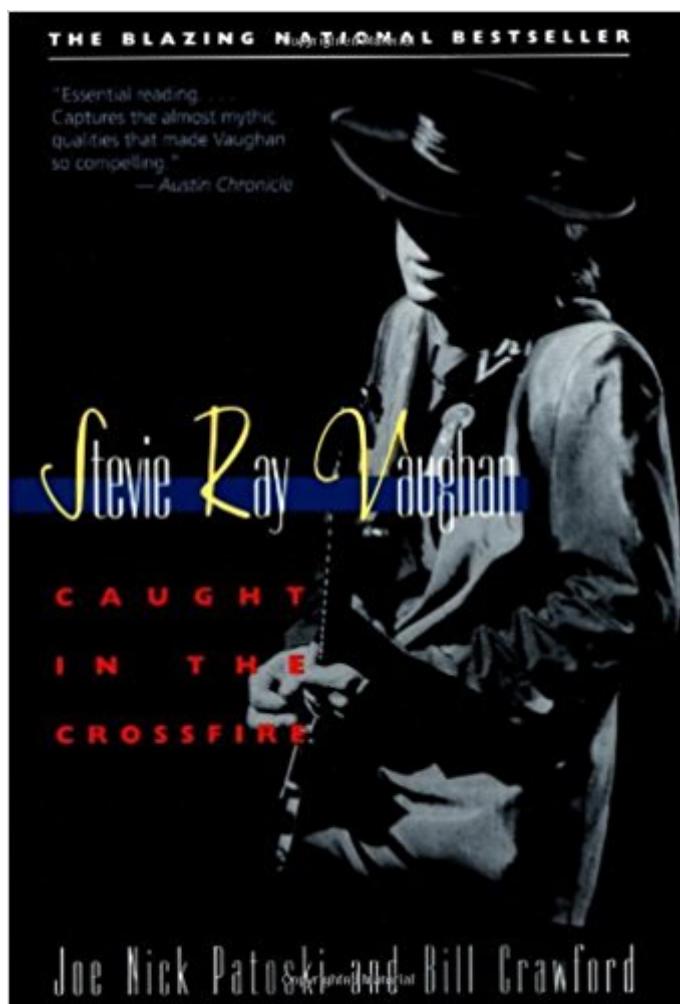


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# Stevie Ray Vaughan: Caught In The Crossfire



## Synopsis

His blistering guitar playing breathed life back into the blues. Performing night after night - from his early teens to his tragic death at age thirty-five, in tiny pass-the-hat clubs and before thousands in huge arenas - Stevie Ray Vaughan fused blazing technique with deep soul in a manner unrivaled since the days of Jimi Hendrix. The genuineness and passion of his music moved millions. It nearly saved his life. *Stevie Ray Vaughan: Caught in the Crossfire* is the first biography of this meteoric guitar hero. Emerging from the hotbed of Texas blues, Stevie Ray Vaughan developed his unique style early on, in competition with his older brother, Jimmie Vaughan, founder of the Fabulous Thunderbirds - a competition that shaped much of Stevie's life. Fueled by drugs and alcohol through a thousand one-night stands, he lived at a fever pitch that nearly destroyed him. Musically exhausted and close to collapse, in his final years Stevie Ray mustered the courage to overcome his addictions, finding strength and inspiration in a new emotional openness. His death in a freak helicopter crash in 1990 silenced one of the great musical talents of our time. *Stevie Ray Vaughan: Caught in the Crossfire* reveals Stevie Ray Vaughan's life in all its remarkable, sometimes unsavory detail. It also brings to life the rich world of Texas music out of which he grew, and captures the staggering dimensions of his musical legacy. It will stand as the definitive biographical portrait of Stevie Ray.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Austin-based journalists Patoski and Crawford pen a rousing account of Texas blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan, who died at age 35 in a 1990 helicopter crash. The Dallas-born Vaughan began

playing electric guitar in imitation of older brother Jimmie, who founded the Fabulous Thunderbirds. Both brothers were fixtures of the 1960s and '70s Austin scene, which spawned such rock acts as ZZ Top and allowed Stevie Ray to form his own band, Double Trouble. Vaughan's biggest break was playing on David Bowie's 1983 *Let's Dance* album; when he brazenly rejected Bowie's offer to tour, he garnered music-industry notice. Later, as his career skyrocketed, Vaughan abused cocaine and whiskey. He underwent treatment in 1986, a process which sealed his friendship with guitarist and recovered heroin addict Eric Clapton. Afterward, Vaughan became a preachy proponent of AA's 12-step program; he is reverently portrayed here as an inspiration to troubled fans. Backed up by plenty of blues history, this enthusiastic tribute ably succeeds as a narrative, adopting the down-home colloquialisms of its subject. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The authors provide a penetrating first biography of blues/rock guitar virtuoso Vaughn (1954-90). Through the use of extensive interviews, they succeed particularly well in describing Vaughan's childhood relationships with his abusive father and his older brother, who served as a role model. The authors chart Vaughan's initial interest in music, his emergence on the Texas music scene, his 1983 breakthrough, and his continued rise to superstardom until his untimely death in a helicopter crash. Writing in a breezy, engaging style, they offer an intimate look at the insecurities and abilities of Vaughan to explain his sometimes tortured, drug-dominated life and his fiery, powerful music. Highly recommended for general music collections.- David Szatmary, Univ. of Washington, SeattleCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After reading several other biography's of SRV including the monster 2 volume day after day, night after night. This book approaches the subject matter less starry eyed. If you were in the Dallas. Austin musicians circle of the mid 70 to mid 80's this is exactly the kind of behind the scenes only you could put together. Hats off the Joe for producing such a honest look at a very talented kid, who had exactly the same faults many of us, either have or have seen in others. Being a broke musician and bumming around for paying gigs (sometimes in places less than pleasant). To be with your friends and play your music for the love of it. That's paying your dues. This is the first book that I can honestly say, I'll read again over the summer. No where else have I heard Tommy's nickname, or some of the nick names given to Stevie by his band mates. Certainly there's information here you'll find no where else.. I couldn't put it down and at about a inch think, I finished it in just a few days. If

you're a SRV fan, and a fan of the blues/rock crossover, I think you'll like this rags to riches to near death to full life.... and back story.

The authors definitely spent some time researching for this book. The result is a candid, close look at a guitar legend that died so young. This book goes beyond the rock star image and shows the human side of SRV. He was human and imperfect. He fought a lot of battles with addiction and in the end he conquered the drugs and alcohol while still actively maintaining his musical career. It's a story of an insecure boy's determination and dedication to the craft of playing guitar that led him to stardom. Along the way he lived the lifestyle that other famous musicians experienced, his story is that of a survivor and arguably one of the most gifted guitarists of our time. And he never forgot the roots of the blues and the musicians that started it all. I always liked Stevie Ray Vaughan's music, and after reading this book I have a deeper appreciation for his music.

Before reading the book, I knew little of the man, yes I was familiar with his music but knew little of his background etc. So an education and interesting, but totally tragic story.

This is a better than average biography. It's well written and the story flows nicely. It depicts the life of Stevie the child (lonely, insecure, shy; and extremely talented though highly intoxicated), straight through to Stevie the man (loving, outgoing, helpful; extremely talented still, though very sober). All too often people pass away at a time in life when all of the demons inside of them have been put to rest. God must see that as a successful ending and a good time to be brought home. SRV's blues guitar style and spirited persona will live on with us forever. This book was an excellent read.

Being raised in the same hometown OakCliff Tx. Made the read even more special. Then when I got to the page 102 and the mention of the band The Mystics made it even more special as my brother Glenn Struble played drums in the Mystics when they had there one hit wonder "Didn't we have a Good Time " #1 on the local Dallas charts in 1966. Alan Struble

Does Stevie Ray Vaughan's story justice. To know both sides of his story is to know how we, too, can aspire to our own small or great human triumphs as well. In addition, style of writing is very warm and down-to-earth. Deals with his human relationships (old guitar buddies, Lenny, his well-loved but at times frustrating big brother Jimmy, and his parents) and his relationship with his music and the world beyond.

I found this book to be interesting and a good introduction by a novice to blues music, to Stevie Ray Vaughn and to the blues culture of his time. It is worth the read. I don't believe it aids a reader in determining how Stevie came up with his method of playing. If the reader picks this book up to learn how Stevie made his music, I believe they will be disappointed. There are many ways to write a biographical text. In my opinion, the authors of this book chose one of the more complicated approaches. The book is best described as a review of the blues scene in the 70s, 80s, and early 90s using the description of the acquaintances, character and career of Stevie Ray Vaughn as an example of someone who was at once a victim and a beneficiary of the music business and who by the end of his career became a foundational presence within that scene and business. It is a character study of a player of exceptional talent who squanders that talent on women, booze, and drugs only to come face-to-face with his destiny. The book reads almost like a novel. There are probably many reasons why an author would choose this path. First of all, there may be a lack of firsthand information available about the subject. This appears to be the case when telling the early story of SRV's rise to fame. The later chapters do provide more second hand Stevie material including quotes by the entertainer making it a bit more insightful. Secondly, there may have been no access to the subject of the book. Direct quotes by the subject through interviews and actual contact between the writer and the subject have always impressed me as providing a more comprehensive and in-depth picture of the subject. It also provides a certain whitewashing if the subject has editorial control. I did not feel any punches were pulled here and the story was told as best as the authors could tell it. The book copy write date was 1993 making this argument altogether possible. A third possibility is the writing of a book on a specialized field in this case the blues music culture that would sell a relatively small number of books by using another more comprehensive, interesting or engaging subject in this case Stevie Ray Vaughn as something of a bait and switch. The timing of the writing of this book seems to indicate this to be a possibility.

I really enjoyed this book it focuses on his life and stays out of the business part which I think a lot of books delve to deep in I highly recommend it.

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