



Goth: The Dark Subculture

Gavin Baddeley

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Beginning by examining its roots in early Gothic and Romantic literature, *Goth: The Dark Subculture* presents a decade-by-decade analysis of the pivotal Goth milestones as they occurred. Starting with the form's emergence as a 1970s counterculture phenomenon, defined by classic clubs like the Batcave, the book moves through Goth's 1980s invasion of the arena-rock scene via bands such as the Cult and the Sisters of Mercy. It then concludes with the subculture's enormous impact on film, music, and television during the 1990s, as epitomized by the creative output of musicians and filmmakers from Marilyn Manson to Tim Burton. Author Gavin Baddeley even gives a glimpse of Goth's ongoing metamorphosis into "Cybergoth." He also documents the widely attended Goth festivals, including Treffen, M'era Luna, Carnival of Souls, and the Whitby Gothic Weekend, examines the exciting evolution of Goth fashions and footwear, and explores the scene's decadent philosophy of style over substance. All in all, this illuminating book offers a guided tour of one of the world's most influential and provocative youth subcultures.

Goth: The Dark Subculture Details

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Alan D.D. says

Un libro bastante explicativo en muchos aspectos, aunque pudo extenderse en otros. Gavin hace un recorrido no lineal en general, pero sí sigue ese formato en varias secciones, empezando siempre con las raíces, mencionando aspectos generales del tema que está tocando para luego extenderse en ellos más adelante. Realmente, el enfoque del libro es hacia la estética y la música góticas, quizás los más importantes aspectos de esta subcultura con raíces de siglos pasados, pero llega un momento en que tantos nombres, fechas, y lugares se confunden, perdiendo al lector.

Varias veces sentí que me perdía, no lograba asimilar algunas informaciones y los términos se me hacían desconocidos en más de una ocasión, aunque supongo fue porque leí el libro de forma discontinua. Puedo decir que realmente permite acercarse a las raíces de una tribu urbana tan misteriosa como lo es la gótica, porque Gavin escribe bastante fluído, con palabras sencillas y explicando las que no lo son, haciendo todo bastante fácil de digerir.

El único punto en contra de este libro es un párrafo donde habla de la Wicca diciendo que en una boda religiosa se hacen ofrendas de sangre, cosa que es totalmente falsa (cualquier persona que busque información al respecto se dará cuenta de que la Wicca no acepta, permite ni mira bien estos actos, sino que los repudia totalmente).

De resto, es un libro que no tiene desperdicio, de esos que si se leen con atención pueden ser de mucho provecho y dar una base para investigar más al respecto del tema. 100% recomendado.

A pretty self explanatory book in many ways, but could have extended in others. Gavin does a non-linear path in general, but still that format into several sections, always starting with the roots, mentioning general aspects of the topic he's playing then spread them later.

Actually, the focus of the book is to aesthetics and Gothic music, perhaps the most important aspects of this subculture with roots in past centuries, but there comes a time when so many names, dates, and locations are confused, making the reader lose the line.

Several times I felt I was missing, I couldn't assimilate some information and terms were unknown to me on more than one occasion, although I suppose it was because I read the book discontinuously.

I can tell he really lets you get close to the roots of an urban tribe as mysterious as is the Gothic, because Gavin writes quite fluid, with simple words and explaining those who aren't, doing it quite easy to digest. The only drawback of this book is a paragraph that talks about Wicca saying that in a religious ceremony blood offerings are made, which is totally false (anyone seeking information about it will realize that Wicca does not accept, allows and doesn't look with good eye those acts, but totally repudiates them).

For the rest, a book that has no waste, such that if read with care can be of great benefit and provide a basis for further research about the issue is. 100% recommended.

Jennifer says

I rented this book in a library 13 years ago when I was a teenager and found it very complete and full of informations. Now that I re-read it, it still sounds accurate and complete on the history of goth. Would love Gavin Baddeley to release an updated version of this essential book.

Adriane says

This book was a great overview of Goth culture, it's origins in movies, music and literature. I really enjoyed

seeing the evolution of Goth as a culture, the various subcultures within that popped up and the ideas people have about subcultures in general.

My only complaint about this book is the absolute lack of one part of the subculture, that being "Goths of Color" basically anyone who isn't completely pale. There is some mention of the Asian influence on Goth, specifically the Japanese Goth explosion. I'm not sure if this lack of inclusion is due to the fact that the author is British and Britain doesn't have any non-white or Asian Goths, but I know here in the US we have goths of pretty much every color and creed available.

But considering this book's breadth this complaint is fairly small in comparison to the scene in general, I do hope though in other books I'll see more of a diverse presence outside of just subgenre differences.
