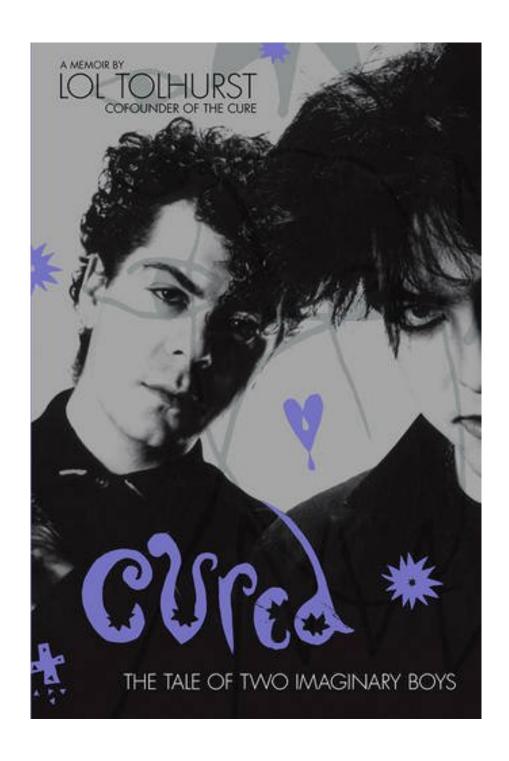


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#### Review

Pitchfork, 9/27/16

What begins as a coming-of-age storyand a fascinating snapshot of late 70s small-town Britain, a world rapidly fading from viewends up as a remarkably moving redemption narrative, one fueled by Tolhurst s considerable wit and welcome candor.

Yahoo Music, 9/28/16

Compulsively readablea fascinating chronicle not only of one man's disintegration and renewal, not only of two boys unique friendship, but also of an incredibly important era in music.

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"On our first day of school, Robert and I stood at the designated stop at Hevers Avenue with our mothers, and that's when we met for the very first time. We were five years old."

So began a lifelong friendship that fourteen years later would result in the formation of The Cure, a quintessential post-punk band whose albums—such as Three Imaginary Boys, Pornography, and Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me—remain among the best-loved and most influential of all time.

As two of the first punks in the provincial English town of Crawley, Lol Tolhurst and Robert Smith didn't have it easy. Outsiders from the start, theirs was a friendship based initially on proximity and a shared love of music, from the punk that was raging in nearby London to the groundbreaking experimentation of David Bowie's "Berlin Trilogy." First known as The Easy Cure, they began playing in pubs and soon developed their own unique style and approach to songwriting, resulting in timeless songs that sparked a deep sense of identification and empathy in listeners, songs like "Boys Don't Cry," "Just Like Heaven," and "Why Can't I Be You?," spearheading a new subculture dubbed "Goth" by the press. The music of The Cure was not only accessible but also deeply subversive, challenging conventional notions of pop music and gender roles while inspiring a generation of devoted fans and a revolution in style.

Cured is not only the first insider account of the early days of the band, it is a revealing look at the artistic evolution of the enigmatic Robert Smith, the iconic lead singer, songwriter, and innovative guitarist at the heart of The Cure. A deeply rebellious, sensitive, tough, and often surprisingly "normal" young man, Smith was from the start destined for stardom, a fearless non-conformist and provocateur who soon found his own musical language through which to express his considerable and unique talent.

But there was also a dark side to The Cure's intense and bewildering success. Tolhurst, on drums and keyboards, was nursing a growing alcoholism that would destroy his place in The Cure and nearly end his life. Cured tells the harrowing and unforgettable story of his crash-and-burn, recovery, and rebirth.

Intensely lyrical and evocative, gripping and unforgettable, Cured is the definitive story of a singular band whose legacy endures many decades hence, told from the point of view of a participant and eyewitness who was there when it happened—and even before it all began.

Sales Rank: #7189 in Books
Published on: 2016-10-11
Released on: 2016-10-11
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.10" h x 1.30" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 312 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

"I didn't need him to tell me that; I already knew what hell was like."

By AcousticWarrior

I enjoyed Lol's memoir for the most part. His writing style is good, and I managed to finish the book in just two days. In it, you'll find lots of interesting, occasionally funny, tidbits about The Cure's history, like the Billy Idol toilet incident, or he and Robert's constant altercations with skinheads. Lol does a good job setting up a dynamic between him and Robert- one of best friendship, followed by a bitter sacking and lawsuit, and ultimately reconciliation after Lol recovered from his crippling alcoholism.

The reason I have to deduct a star is that Lol's recounting of 1985-1989 seems insufficiently thorough. This can be blamed in part on Lol's out-of-control alcoholism and diminishing role in the band, but there are three omissions I find particularly odd. First, while Lol discusses songs like Killing An Arab, Let's Go To Bed, The Walk, and Love Cats at length, he has nothing to say about any of the prolific songs which emerged during the 1985-1989 period like Inbetween Days, Close To Me, Just Like Heaven, or Lovesong, let alone the colorful videos Tim Pope made for Close To Me and Why Can't I Be You? He mentions Robert's room catching fire during the Disintegration sessions, but stops just short of saying this was the inspiration for Pictures Of You. Nor does Lol state which of his, albeit few, ideas made it to the Disintegration album (Homesick is rumored to stem from one of his demos). Second, Lol doesn't even mention Roger O'Donnell ("a midterm addition to the band") until the book's last chapter on the 2011 Reflections shows. In reality, Roger joined in 1987 because of Lol's incompetence, and even filled in for Lol at shows where he was too drunk to perform. Third, I've read many articles describing Lol as the butt of vicious abuse by other band members in the late 80s- Robert even penned Shiver and Shake and Babble about him. Lol has nothing to say about this either.

That being said, do get this book if you're a Cure fan, because you'll probably learn something. I emerged

with a newfound respect for both Robert and Lol. Robert, the enigmatic figure who's "part of this world and also not part of it," and someone who fought hard for his success, as well as Lol's protection. Lol, someone who while not very technically proficient, served as the band's "X Factor," and likely kept Robert from disbanding The Cure altogether circa 1983/84.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A Must Read for any Cure Fan

By Samantha Wilton

Cured is a unique and eye-opening account of the band's earliest years, life on tour, and Lol's own disintegration into alcoholism. Surprisingly well written and captivating, and with beautiful cover art designed by former band member Pearl Thompson, the book reads as a conversation with an old friend. I found myself laughing, smiling, and even crying as I read Lol's version of events. My heart breaks for little Lol growing up with a distant father. I feel his teenage angst as he describes the desire to escape his dismal surroundings and carve out a space for himself in the fascinating world of rock and roll. And I ache when I read how it felt for him to have been pushed out of the band when alcoholism got the best of him. The real triumph of this story comes in the form of his inspirational journey back from destruction. For years we fans have heard the rumors, seen the mockery that has been made of Lol, and wondered how it all truly went down. Tolhurst proves, much to our delight, that things are never so one-sided. A must read for any die-hard fan, this remarkably personal look into his life will turn you into a Lol Tolhurst fan if you're not already.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

One of the best music memoirs/autobiographies I've read--and not just because I love ...

By A reader

One of the best music memoirs/autobiographies I've read--and not just because I love the Cure.

Funnily enough, I had been thinking about the lack of any really good recent books about the Cure, or by a member of the Cure--and not a day later, I read that this book was about to be released. I ordered it and waited eagerly for its release.

I didn't know what to expect; I haven't read or heard all that many interviews with Lol, and I wasn't sure what his style, voice, or tone would be like. Music autobios/memoirs are a crap shoot. Some are well done and leave you with a good sense of the individual and the evolution of his or her music and career; some are informative, but all too obviously written by ghost writers or edited with a heavy hand; and some are just plain disappointing across the board due to bad writing and/or the lack of honest self reflection and introspection on the part of the musician.

So I was very pleased to find out how much I truly enjoyed the book (I read it in a couple days). Lol is honest and authentic, which makes this book a satisfying read. He does an excellent job of recounting stories from the Cure's early days from his own perspective, providing insight into the personalities and relationships that make The Cure The Cure. He's respectful of his former bandmates, while primarily turning the critical eye towards himself. And unlike some musicians, he doesn't start telling a story only to end it abruptly with "well, I won't get into what happened next, it's too personal." Any story he tells, he tells from beginning to end, getting the point across without being unnecessarily salacious or shocking. This indicates a respect for the reader as well.

I'm really glad I read this book (and happened to hear about it at just the right time). I applaud Lol Tolhurst for the work he did in providing us with a genuinely insightful and satisfying read.

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