

# **The Long Hard Road Out of Hell Study Guide**

**The Long Hard Road Out of Hell by Marilyn Manson**

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## Plot Summary

"Marilyn Manson, The Long, Hard Road Out of Hell," is the story of the shock-rock musician, songwriter, and poet known as Marilyn Manson. His birth name is Brian Warner. Warner was a budding writer who enjoyed writing horror stories. One of his stories, which remains unpublished was entitled, "The Payback," which was a story about a man who had contempt for everyone but most especially himself but was able to learn how to charm people into liking him. Once he won their confidence, he focused on destroying them. The name of the protagonist was Marilyn Manson. Obviously, the story was a thinly veiled autobiography of the writer. The struggle, though often disguised with bravado, of Manson trying to attain self-acceptance and self-worth is a theme throughout his story.

Warner was bright and an excellent writer but could never sell any of his work. He tried reading poetry at a club but that did not go over well. Rap music was coming into his own and groups like 2 Live Crew were being criticized for their obscenity and the bad role models they were for their young fans. Always thinking out of the box, Warner decided to conduct what in his mind was a scientific project. He decided to see how far a white, non-rap music group could go with obscene and illicit behavior.

Warner began rounding up musicians, most of whom were under the influence of some controlled substance, and eventually formed his band, calling it Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids. Later, they dropped the Spooky Kids portion. Warner used the name Marilyn as it was the name of his mother's pet rat and it was a reference to Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson. The first few gigs did not bring much adulation or fans. Trevor Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, however, did notice them and eventually they became the opening act for that group which is when the group took off.

Manson went on to become a controversial performer including simulated sex and acts of brutality in his appearances. Manson struggled all his life with self-worth and an inability to establish genuinely intimate relationships. After Marilyn Manson became a successful band, Manson finally came to terms with his loss of humanity attributed in part to his dysfunctional family which led him to cocaine addiction and abusive behavior toward women. The story winds up with Manson quitting cocaine cold turkey. After becoming clean and sober, Manson began to gain a more humane attitude to others and began to reexperience emotions such as guilt, love, hate, and self-worth that he had lost many years before.



# Chapter 1: The Man that You Fear

## Chapter 1: The Man that You Fear Summary and Analysis

Thirteen-year-old Brian [Manson] and his twelve-year-old cousin, Chad, would sneak down in their grandfather's eerie basement hideaway when the old man was away. They found pornography and photos showing acts of bestiality which both scared and fascinated them. One day they were almost caught snooping around in their grandfather's belongings. They were rooting around when they heard him ascend the stairs. They were able to hide and for ten tense minutes feared they would be caught but luckily their grandmother called their grandfather upstairs.

The cousins would venture out to the park on some days and try to kill birds with rocks or a BB gun. Sometimes, out of boredom, the boys would shoot the BB gun at each other. Their main source of fascination, however, was their grandfather's hideaway. After witnessing the old man pleasuring himself one day, they had enough. Brian told his parents about it and was told that there were rumors that the old man liked to dress in ladies' clothing. That did not surprise Brian as the boys had found ladies undergarments and wigs.



# Chapter 2: For Those About to Rock, We Suspend You

## Chapter 2: For Those About to Rock, We Suspend You Summary and Analysis

Brian attended Heritage Christian School as a youngster. In school, he had been warned that the end of the world was near and those children who had denied Christ would suffer severely. Ms. Price, the sixth grade teacher, cited the case of John Hinckley, the man who attempted to assassinate President Reagan. She portrayed Reagan as the Antichrist because he had six letters in his first, middle and last name. It wasn't an interpretation of the Bible but it was a fact according to the teacher. During this time, Brian began having nightmares that endured throughout his life.

Brian loved to roller skate which he would do every chance he got. He often skated with his friend Lisa whose mother worked for televangelist Reverend Ernest Angley. Brian sometimes attended church with Lisa where Angley served as minister. The Reverend was one of the scariest people he ever met. Each week, he would cure the deaf, blind or crippled for the TV cameras. He echoed the school seminars confirming that the apocalypse was coming soon.

Brian grew to hate his school and resent the fear it evoked in him. It was during this time that he began to develop into the man he would one day become. At age 12, he began to purposely break the school's strict regulations so that he would be kicked out. He would bring candy, considered a contraband at school, to sell to other children. He also stole money from his classmates. When Brian began selling a magazine called "Stupid" which was on the order of "Mad Magazine," he was called to the principal's office where he had to grab his ankles and endure a paddling.

During his school days, Brian became a huge fan of rock music and idolized such groups as Kiss, Led Zeplin, and Queen. The school was against such music, especially Queen's "We Are the Champions" because they considered it an anthem for homosexuality. The fantasy of rock music led Brian to his involvement in Dungeons & Dragons. Brian's personal preferences set him apart from the other kids and he had few friends. Brian became obsessed with making and having money. He would buy music tapes and sell them for jacked-up prices at school. He would steal cassettes from other kid's lockers and sell them as well. Brian was caught again and had to face the principal for his violations. However, he was disappointed when all he received was a scolding and a call home to his parents. He realized he would never get kicked out of school and knew it was he who had to walk away.



# Chapter 3: Teen Dabblers

## Chapter 3: Teen Dabblers Summary and Analysis

Brian had transferred to public school where everything from sex to drugs was waiting for him. After three years in his new school, he knew that Brian Warner he had been was dying. Brian had a few scrapes with illness and injury when he began high school. He had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic which landed him in the hospital. At the skating rink, a girl he didn't know asked him to dance with her. After their dance, he was flattened by her jealous boyfriend. The injury almost ended his singing career before it began. The punch he sustained in his jaw caused him to have permanent TMJ syndrome. Trying to TP a girl's house one night, Brian fell out of a tree and dislocated his shoulder.

Brian was obsessed with losing his virginity. He was humiliated by his status and was set up with a girl named Tina was the town tramp and was happy to change his status. After his romp with her, Brian gained a measure of confidence and started pursuing other girls who were more appealing than Tina. Unfortunately, Brian contracted crabs from one of the girls.

Brian began drinking regularly during his high school years. One evening, he and his friend John Cromwell fell into a drunken sleep in Brian's car in front of John's house. They were awoken by John's brother who frightened Brian when he pulled a gun on them and grabbed the bottle of Mad Dog from them. John led Brian to the hayloft in the barn and showed him where John's brother held his black masses. There was a large pentagram painted in red on the floor.

John then led Brian through a large sewer pipe outside the barn area where his brother had sold his soul to the devil. Once they made it through the filthy and rat-infested sewer, they came to his brother's hideaway where there were more pentagrams, upside down crosses and references to heavy metal bands. They entered an abandoned house that was filthy and rat-infested. John was trying to find the right incantation in a book to open the gates of hell when both were spooked by a noise and ran off. Back at their house, John and his brother introduced Brian to marijuana. Brian was intrigued with the potential powers of black magic but was not so impressed with marijuana since the next morning he could hardly stop throwing up.

Brian grew up in a dysfunctional. He and his father did not get along. Brian feared his father who always threatened to throw him out and never failed to tell him how worthless he was. His father had a horrible temper and was prone to violent outbursts. Brian had a good relationship with his mother and grew up as a mama's boy. Unfortunately, Brian inherited his father's short temper and focused his anger on his mother. When Brian left home at 22, his mother became depressed. His mother became attached to a sickly white rat who became her favorite pet. She named the rat Marilyn. Brian had conflicted feelings over his parent's relationship. His father accused his



mother of cheating on him. When Brian suspected that she was indeed being unfaithful, he threw a cologne bottle at her face, causing a long gash under her mouth.

Brian was very upset when he learned he was going to have to move with his family to Fort Lauderdale. His father was taking a new job there. Brian was miserable at the prospect of a new school after he had finally made some friends and was finding a niche for himself.



# **Chapter 4: The Road to Hell Is Paved with Good Rejection Letters**

## **Chapter 4: The Road to Hell Is Paved with Good Rejection Letters Summary and Analysis**

The entire chapter consists of his letters to editors trying to sell his writing and the rejection letters he received in response. Brian wrote macabre poetry and stories which he submitted to various editors and publishers. He had no luck in getting anything published but did subscribe to the "Night Terrors" magazine one of the magazines he had pitched his works to. He did seem to be gifted in writing, although the subject matter he was prone to write about would not appeal to a large audience.





# Chapter 5: I Wasn't Born with Enough Middle Fingers

## Chapter 5: I Wasn't Born with Enough Middle Fingers Summary and Analysis

Brian spent the first year in his new home in Florida lonely and without friends. He wrote a lot during that time but was unable to sell any of his work. He attended Broward College where he took journalism and theater and worked as a night manager at a local record store. He was fired a short time after being hired for shirking his duties. He had been stealing from the store but had not been caught for that. Brian lied to the publishers of a new magazine called "25th Parallel" by claiming to have a background in journalism. They hired him as their senior editor. Brian wrote entertainment and horror fiction articles for the magazine.

Brian fell in love with a beautiful girl named Rachelle. After seeing him for a short while, she dropped him and became engaged to someone else. Later she called him to say that she was pregnant either by him or by her fiance. He was relieved to learn the baby was not his. But the incident with Rachelle left Brian broken-hearted. His fear of being hurt again, made him distrustful. He withdrew and became emotionally isolated.

Brian interviewed famous musicians for the magazine including Debby Harry, Malcolm McLaren and Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails. Ironically, the next time Brian saw Trent, he was the opening act for Nine Inch Nails.



# Chapter 6: The Spooky Kids

## Chapter 6: The Spooky Kids Summary and Analysis

Brian wrote a story about a man who had contempt for everyone including himself but learned how to trick people into liking him. Once he won their friendship, he would try to destroy them. The name of the protagonist was Marilyn Manson. Brian began his music career as a kind of social experiment. It was 1989, and Miami's 2 Live Crew was facing a lot of criticism because of the obscenity in their music. Brian wanted to see if an all-white, non-rap band could get away with offensive performances on a level with 2 Live Crew.

Brian had been reading poetry at a local club but his work was never well-received. At the Kitchen Club, a night spot in a sleazy area of South Beach Miami, he met Stephan one night. Stephan was drunk and stoned but Brian was able to make a connection with him. They became friends and ultimately Stephan became Brian's bassist. Brian met other musicians who would eventually become members of his band in this area all of whom were under the influence of some illegal substance. As a high schooler, Brian bought Charles Manson's "Lie" album. He strongly identified with Manson's song called, "Mechanical Man."

Brian formed his band and after converting some of his poetry to song and writing several others. The group then felt it was ready to face South Florida. Brian had to face severe stage fright that had been with him since he was a young boy and had to appear in a school play. Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids had their first gig at Churchill's Hideaway in Miami. Twenty people showed up to watch. Brian wore a Marilyn Monroe T-shirt and a Manson-style swastika on his forehead. A drop of blood from a spot where Brian had a mole removed leaked through his shirt and came out Marilyn's eye.

Their appearances quickly turned from just music to "performance art" and depravity. One girl, Nancy, was so anxious to belong somewhere that she would agree to do any humiliating act on stage that she was asked to. Brian would walk her around the stage on a leash. He would punch and brutalize her on stage. They would simulate sexual acts, pushing the envelope as far as it would go without getting arrested. Once a huge donkey pinata was hung over the crowd. Brian, who was now called Manson, would beg the crowd not to hit the pinata. Reverse psychology worked and the crowd proceeded to break the large donkey open only to be rained on with cow brains, chicken livers, and pig intestines.

Returning from a miserable trip to New York to try to sell his music, Manson and Nancy got involved in a sexual act that unknowingly would lead him into six months of gothic terror.



## Chapter 7: Dirty Rock Star

### Chapter 7: Dirty Rock Star Summary and Analysis

Still in Fort Lauderdale in July 1990, Manson tried acid for the first time. Manson had a really bad trip during which he was plagued by loads of gray toads. He saw a face laying on a table and realized it was his face. Manson tried to run away because he thought the cops are chasing him. He wound up in a car and tried to fight his way out by punching at the windows. He sustained bruised and bloody knuckles in his battle with the car. He had sexual fantasies about having sex with porn star Traci Lords. In his acid madness, it was difficult to tell if he had sex or just thought he had. But either way, real or imagined, it was not with Traci Lords and instead, it was with the dreaded Nancy.



# Chapter 8: To All the People Who Didn't Die

## Chapter 8: To All the People Who Didn't Die Summary and Analysis

For weeks after the trip, he was terrified and depressed. Manson became weak and unsure of himself and allowed Nancy to take control of him. She began making decisions for the band and coaxing him into taking more acid which he really didn't want to do. Manson got a call that Nine Inch Nails who wanted the band to open for them. Manson and Nancy both took acid before the show. It didn't seem to have an effect on Manson but Nancy was sobbing the whole time, asking Manson to beat her. The crowd loved the brutality so he complied.

Eventually, Manson was able to break free of Nancy's spell and threw her out of the band and out of his life. She was distraught and vowed to get even. She canceled Marilyn Manson bookings, threatened people in the band, left obscene packages and messages for Manson, attended concerts and threatened people in the audience. Manson fought back by vowing to kill her if she didn't leave him and his band alone. He meant it. He and Stephan plotted her murder but were spooked when a black vagrant kept following them when they neared Nancy's house. Manson took it as an omen and was too paranoid after that incident to try another attempt on her life.

A girl named Missi took Nancy's place in the show. When word got around that Nancy was out, all kinds of freaks volunteered to be in the show. One night two naked fat ladies made out in a playpen. A pregnant girl in curlers ironed a Nazi flag and then simulated giving herself an abortion. She wrapped the dead "fetus" in the Nazi flag. Although animal rights groups protested Manson's shows, they never killed animals only simulated such acts. Manson didn't limit his "performance art" to the stage. On one occasion, he and his band mates were strung out on LSD at Disney World when they encountered some children eating at picnic benches. Manson sliced his arm and let the blood drop on the ground in front of the children who ran screaming for their parents.

Manson hired his first manager, John Tovar who encouraged Manson to drop the "Spooky Kids" portion of the bands name and go with just "Marilyn Manson." Manson was experiencing some "talent" issues with his band. Freddy was an awful drummer and Brad, the bassist, was a heroin addict who almost died of an overdose one night. The incident with Brad was the first time Manson realized how much the band meant to him. He warned Brad that his addiction was hurting the band and one more screw up and he was out. As junkies are known to do, Brad did not stay clean long and Manson was making overtures to old friend Jeordie White to take Brad's place.



# Chapter 9: The Rules

## Chapter 9: The Rules Summary and Analysis

In this comical chapter, Manson sets out his tongue-in-cheek rules for daily life. Under "drug rules," Manson considers you an addict if, among other factors, you always pay for your drugs; you do drugs before 6 pm and after 6 am; you tell anybody about your childhood while you're on drugs; and, you're a child actor.

Under "homosexuality rules," Manson proclaims you are gay if, among other things, you've ever worn a beret. Other signs include if your name is Richard and you go by Dick, if you've spent more than a week on South Beach, and if you're a male model.

Under "cheating rules," Manson includes rules that have huge loopholes such as you are not cheating if it was part of a public performance. Also, if it's somebody's birthday, if you're doing it to help your career, or if you don't remember their name, it cannot count as cheating.

After each section, Manson lists those rules which he has broken himself. However, he claims he has never broken any "cheating rules."



# Chapter 10: All for Nothing

## Chapter 10: All for Nothing Summary and Analysis

This chapter contains the lengthy interview of Manson by Sarah Fim of *Empyrean Magazine* in 1995. The article begins with Fim describing Manson's debris-filled hotel room, including papers, clothing, photographs scattered everywhere. Before he begins the interview, Manson rolls up a \$20 bill and snorts a line of cocaine.

Manson relates how he first broke out of the Fort Lauderdale music. Trevor Reznor of Nine Inch Nails invited Manson to shoot a video in Sharon Tate's house in Los Angeles. He wanted Manson to play guitar during the shoot. Manson said he didn't play but he could pretend to play. Oddly, Manson had always dreamed of recording a record in the house where his namesake masterminded the mass murders. He seemed to relish telling the female interviewer of several incidents in which he debased and humiliated women.

The band recorded its first album, "Portrait of an American Family," at Criteria Studios in Hollywood, CA. Although the album ultimately enjoyed some success, Manson considered it dull and bland and worked on remixing and rerecording some of the songs. Reznor was staying in the Tate house and allowed Manson to record a Charles Manson song, "My Monkey" in the house. Musicians, such as Axl Rose were getting grief about recording Charles Manson songs. Rose had to agree to donate some of his proceeds from the album to victims of the Tate murders.

After the album was completed, Trent contacted Manson telling him that the record label, Nothing Records that operated under the umbrella of Interscope, wanted Manson to remove "My Monkey" from the album before its release. Manson refused and Interscope threatened not to release the album. They remained at a standstill for a time during which Manson was demoralized thinking he had lost his chance to crawl out of South Beach and into the big time. When another label became interested in Manson's album, Interscope relented and released the record with the Charles Manson song. After its release, Manson was not completely satisfied with its quality. The last night of the tour, Trevor and his band mates pulled some of Manson's trick on he and his band. But Manson had no hard feelings because he had to be able to take what he gave out.

In the second part of the interview, Manson discusses his cocaine use which, at the time, was a relatively new experience for him. He claimed he didn't fear dying from an overdose because he would not get carried away like John Belushi and others had. Manson discussed his first tour and first brush with stardom.

Manson finally got rid of the less-than-talented Freddy the drummer. Playing in a gay bar in South Carolina, Manson cut his chest with a broken glass, which was his first public act of self-mutilation. One thing led to another and Freddy's drum set and Freddy

himself were all set on fire. He seemed to have taken the hint, flew out the next morning, and Manson never saw or heard from him again.



# Chapter 11: We're Off to See the Wizard

## Chapter 11: We're Off to See the Wizard Summary and Analysis

Manson visited Dr. Anton Szandor LaVey, founder and high priest of the Church of Satan. What no one in Manson's life had understood about Satanism was that followers not the worship of Satan. Satan didn't exist. Satanism was the worship of one's self or the only one responsible for his or her own deeds, whether it was good or evil. In the eerie setting of LaVey's dark and opulent home, Manson did not feel frightened but rather excited. When LaVey finally greeted him, he told Manson he admired his name since "Marilyn" and "Manson" represented the co-existence of two extremes which was what Satanism was all about. He did prefer calling Manson "Brian." He claimed to have had a sexual relationship with Marilyn Monroe in her early days. He claimed to have had a sexual relationship with Jayne Mansfield as well which made Manson question the veracity of his tales but he none the less was fascinated by them.

The most important thing Manson took away from his meeting was the LaVey was his advice to embrace the deadness and apathy he felt about himself and the world as it was a necessary transitional step from child to a robust, intelligent man who could make a mark on the world. Just before he left, LaVey made Manson a Reverend of the Church of Satan. Shortly after this meeting, Marilyn Manson was paid \$10,000 not to play on the same bill as Nine Inch Nails by a group of Mormons in Utah. Although it was the first time he was paid not to play, it would not be the last time. Despite his payment not to appear, Trevor Reznor had him perform one song near the end of the concert. Manson did his usual thing of simulating seizing and sexual acts. He smeared his face with red lipstick and kissed the faces of young girl fans to leave the "mark of the Devil on them." Immediately following the show, Manson was told that the cops were on their way to arrest him.

Manson was handcuffed and taken to jail for lewd acts in public. The cops didn't have much to go on but seemed to enjoy interrogating him and ridiculing him. He spent sixteen hours in a cell and then was released with all charges dropped. Manson visited LaVey again and they discussed his treatment by the Mormons in Salt Lake and how Christianity was his enemy. A short while after his visit, Manson got word that LaVey had died. Manson mourned the death of the man who had become somewhat of a father figure to him.





## Chapter 12: Abuse, Parts One and Two

### Chapter 12: Abuse, Parts One and Two Summary and Analysis

The album hadn't sold that well so the label was excited when the band was asked to join Danzing's Spring 1995 tour as an opening act. Perhaps that would drum up interest in the album. The first appearance didn't go well. Manson was hit with a glass bottle and suffered multiple cuts. Missiles continued to be tossed at the band and in a rage, Manson took the broken glass bottle and plunged it into his stomach. In subsequent appearances, the music was abandoned for the freak show Manson and his band put on. During this tour, Manson met Tony Wiggins, the tour bus driver. Wiggins turned out to be a depraved cocaine addict that liked to bring everyone down with him.

Oddly, he and Manson decided to stop humiliating and debasing women and instead set out to help young girls by interviewing and letting them confess their deepest sins to them as a way of freeing them from the past. It wasn't long, however, until the experiment took a depraved bent when they tied up a naked young man who wanted to meet Manson and forced him to confess to his darkest secrets. They had a noose around his neck and if he had moved in a certain way he would have hung himself. They got spooked when the cops came onto the scene behind stage looking for a missing girl. That didn't stop them as they later almost killed a girl who they tied up back stage for "confession." Manson called this tour one of the most depraved periods of his life, which is saying something.

In New Orleans to record after the tour, Manson went through a period depression in which he felt a need to find himself and become more humane. As it turned out, New Orleans was not the best setting for those lofty pursuits. Manson and his band mates hung with "ugly" people—dealers, cripples and scumbags. Manson's album called "Smells Like Children" was completed and again Manson had issues with the final results. The label had issues as well since many of the tracks were about abuse, especially abuse to women. Excerpts of confessions from girls that Manson and Wiggins taped appeared in the album. A stripped down version of the album was finally released.

Drunk and high on drugs, Manson and Twiggy, one of his band members, picked up loose bones in a New Orleans cemetery. Twiggy carried the bones with him during the entire Smells Like Children tour. Wiggins proved he could take abuse as well as give it. One night on stage, he insisted that Manson cut a tattoo on him. Wiggins stayed on stage all night, bleeding and pouring whiskey down the throats of Manson band members every chance he got. In L.A., at the end of the tour, they scared some girls by telling them that the bones belonged to one of the band members as they set them on fire. Manson made contact again with Missi who had broken up with him. She was willing to see him again but admonished him for the type of life he was leading. Deep down, he knew she was right.



# Chapter 13: Meating the Fans Meat and Greet

## Chapter 13: Meating the Fans Meat and Greet Summary and Analysis

A young female fan who was deaf had the misfortune of visiting the band back stage. She was so anxious to be part of the strange group that she took all her clothes off and allowed them to apply raw meat all over her body. They abused her and debased her.



# Chapter 14: The Reflecting God

## Chapter 14: The Reflecting God Summary and Analysis

Manson had recurring nightmares about his childhood, most of them centering around his grandfather's basement. Many of his dreams were about the antichrist, a subject that he had given a lot of thought to over the years. When the dreams of the antichrist escalated in his adult years, Manson came to believe he was that figure. He would dream in great detail, even seeing himself on a crucifix. Manson dreamed of little girls strip-dancing as little boys hit them with various items. Once again, the theme of the abuse of women emerged. Manson based many of the songs of his next album, "Antichrist Superstar" on these dreams.



# Chapter 15: Antichrist Superstar

## Chapter 15: Antichrist Superstar Summary and Analysis

Manson was hospitalized in New Orleans. He was exhausted and ravaged by drugs. The band was in New Orleans working on the "Antichrist Superstar" album at Trent Reznor's studio. No one was very enthused about the album but were quite interested in cocaine. The time in New Orleans quickly deteriorated for Manson. One night he and Missi went to a night club. There a girl in a glittery dress kept eyeing him and followed him into the men's room where they shared some cocaine she had. Manson was certain it was laced with some other drug. Missi was gone by the time he stumbled out of the men's room and he chased after her. When he arrived home, his heart was beating so fast that he knew he would be needing a doctor. Manson survived the scare and after he checked out of the hospital the realization hit him that the both he and his band were falling apart.

Manson returned to Canton to attend Chad's wedding. The family was uncomfortable with his presence as they were angry that he had exposed his grandfather's strange behavior to the press. At the reception, held at Manson's grandmother's house, he stole away to his grandfather's basement. It looked about the same as many years before. He took a few of his grandfather's porno films and made the connection that he had grown up to become like his grandfather. He was depraved with dark secrets locked away.

Returning to New Orleans, Manson came to the full realization that his band, his album and his life were all falling apart. He was a drugged out rock and roll cliché. Coming home from the studio one night, he found Missi feverish and unconscious. He and Trent took her to the hospital where it was learned that she had a severe case of the flu and was three months pregnant. Manson continued to have band problems and even his old friend and supporter, Trent Reznor, was giving up on him and even banned him from entering his studio. The realization that he was driving people away was beginning to dawn on Manson.

Missi had an abortion which frightened Manson because she was by then in her second trimester but she did recuperate from the procedure. Manson quit drugs cold turkey and to his surprise normal feelings of guilt, love, hate, and self-respect began to return. With a clear head, Manson was finally able to work on his album with satisfactory results. In fact, when completed, the album entered the pop chart at number three. Manson had finally began to believe in himself for the first time in years or maybe for the first time in his life.



# Characters

## Brian Warner [Marilyn Manson]

The shock-rock star Marilyn Manson was born Brian Warner in Canton, Ohio. His family was dysfunctional from his perverted grandfather to his abusive father and permissive mother. As a young boy he was abusive to animals and anxious to break rules, no doubt a harbinger of things to come. Although he attended a Christian school as a youngster, he soon abandoned those values forever.

As a young man on the South Beach music scene, Manson decided to see just how far an all-white, non-rap band could go in illicit and depraved on-stage behavior. His band, first called Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids, began to make a name for themselves for the nihilistic and perverted "performance art" they exhibited. They were discovered by Trevor Reznor of Nine Inch Nails who eventually had Manson open for them.

Marilyn Manson started to have its own measure of success which led to their first album, "Portrait of an American Family." It had mild success and was succeeded by two additional albums that were both more controversial and more successful. Manson developed a severe addiction to cocaine, almost overdosing on one occasion. Perhaps through maturity and the scare of almost dying, Manson quit his cocaine addiction cold turkey. After becoming clean and sober, Manson began to reevaluate his life and realized that his inhumane treatment of people, especially women, was destroying himself and the single thing he cared about most, his band. While Marilyn Manson would never become what most would consider normal, he ends his story with the notion that his life was heading in a better direction.

## Missi

Manson had a horrific experience with a girl named Nancy who was part of Manson's act. She would do any demeaning and humiliating act she was asked to do. Nancy became overly attached to Manson so he eventually got rid of her. Manson liked the idea of having a girl featured in his "performance art," so he replaced Nancy with a much more pleasant and attractive girl named Missi. Missi was up for doing most things on stage, although she did not go along with being abused like Nancy did. On one occasion, she appeared nude in a cage full of live chickens. The meaning of this type "art" is not readily apparent, but Missi went along with most bizarre scenarios that Manson dreamed up.

Manson began to have a strong emotional attachment for Missi and they became a couple. Eventually, between his cocaine abuse and nihilistic and depraved behavior both on and off stage, Missi broke off their relationship and left the band. Even though he had his choice of women, he never completely got over Missi. He eventually



contacted her again when he was at a very low point in his life and career. She admonished him about his lifestyle choices but agreed to see him again.

## **Chad**

Chad was Brian's cousin and boyhood playmate. As youngsters, they would sneak around in their Grandfather's basement where they found many strange objects including pornography and depictions of bestiality.

## **Jack Warner**

Jack Warner was Brian's perverted grandfather. Brian and his cousin Chad spent the summers at their grandfather's house where they would spy on the old man who had a secret stash of sexually-charged photos and items in the cellar.

## **Mrs. Cole**

Mrs. Cole was the principal of Brian's elementary school. Mrs. Cole paddled Brian for selling magazines and candy. When he was caught stealing, she scolded him but much to his dismay did not suspend him.

## **Rachelle**

Brian fell in love with a beautiful girl named Rachelle. She soon dumped him and became engaged to another man. Brian was broken-hearted and withdrew emotionally after this affair.

## **Trevor Reznor**

When he was working for the 25th Parallel magazine, Brian interviewed Trevor Reznor of Nine Inch Nails for an article. The next time he saw Reznor, Brian was Marilyn Manson and was Nine Inch Nail's opening act.

## **Nancy**

Nancy was a girl that Manson used as a prop for his stage act. He would simulate sex with her, lead her around on a leash, and abuse her. Manson eventually threw her out of the band and threatened to kill her when she refused to stop stalking him. Manson actually began to plot ways in which he could murder her or have her murdered.



## **Courtney Love**

On Marilyn Manson's first tour with Nine Inch Nails, the concert was joined by Hole and lead singer Courtney Love. This occasion was the first time Manson felt like a real rock star.

## **Dr. Anton Szandor LaVey**

One of Manson's idols was Dr. Anton Szandor LaVey, founder and high priest of the Church of Satan. Manson was thrilled to get a private audience with him one evening.



## Objects/Places

### Canton, Ohio

Canton, Ohio, was Brian's boyhood home. It was where he attended school and spent summers with his cousin Chad.

### Grandfather's Basement

Brian and his cousin, Chad, would snoop around their grandfather's basement when the old man was away. They found pornography and sex toys and many strange objects that deeply impacted Brian.

### Heritage Christian School

Brian attended Heritage Christian School where he was "brainwashed" to believe that the end was near. The seminars at the school consisted of highly-charged rhetoric warning about the suffering for children who denied Christ.

### For Lauderdale

Brian and his family moved to Fort Lauderdale after finishing three years of high school in Canton, Ohio. He was not happy with the move and spent a lonely first year there writing and attending college.

### Broward College

Brian attended Broward College in Florida shortly after moving to the state. He took journalism and theater as those were the only subjects that appealed to him.

### 25th Parallel Magazine

Brian convinced the publishers of a new magazine called "25th Parallel" that he had a background in journalism. He was hired as their senior editor. He interviewed musicians, wrote horror stories, and wrote music reviews for the magazine.

### Churchill's Hideaway

A club called, Churchill's Hideaway, in Miami, was the first club where Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids played.





## **Sharon Tate's House**

One of Marilyn Manson's first gigs out of Fort Lauderdale was shooting a video at Sharon Tate's House. Trevor Reznor of Nine Inch Nails invited Manson to participate in the shoot.

## **Criteria Studios**

Marilyn Manson recorded their first album, *Portrait of An American Family*, at Criteria Studios in Hollywood. The Studios were owned by the Bee Gees.

## **New Orleans**

Manson and his band spent a lot of time in New Orleans. Trevor Reznor had a recording studio there which is where Manson recorded his *Antichrist Superstar* album.



# Themes

## The Impact of A Dysfunctional Family

No one grows up in a perfect family. However, some are far worse and far more impactful upon one's entire lives than others. Brian Warner, who was to become Marilyn Manson, was raised in a dysfunctional family. He and his father had a terrible relationship and the only attention Brian got from his father was negative. He constantly told him he was worthless and frequently threatened to throw him out on the street. Brian's father had an explosive temper often unleashing it against Brian's mother.

Brian admittedly grew up as a mama's boy, his mother always in his corner. She did not do her job as a parent. However, because she failed to admonish him for the times his behavior was unacceptable and discipline him appropriately. Unfortunately, Brian inherited his father's short fuse and, like his father, picked the same target to vent his anger upon, which was his mother. Brian's mother was extremely upset when her son, at 22, moved out. His mother doted on a pet rat after Brian left. He always thought that the rat took his place. It is noteworthy that his mother named the rat Marilyn. True intimacy was difficult for Brian to establish in his adult life. He struggled to feel adequate and perhaps turned into someone else in an effort to leave that worthless, unloved person behind.

The most traumatic events of Brian's childhood by far were his ventures into his grandfather's cellar which Brian later referred to as Hell. As a curious 13-year-old, Brian snooped around in his grandfather's belonging finding sexual toys, sadomasochistic items, pornography and photos depicting bestiality. It was Brian's first exposure to such items which left an indelible impression on the youngster's mind. A connection cannot be denied when years later as Marilyn Manson much of the focus of his "performance art" were these same sexually-charged topics.

## Performance Art

Just like any art, Marilyn Manson's art or "performance art" was subjective depending upon one's taste. What many would call anything but art, Manson either was delusional and truly believe what he did on stage was artistic or passed for entertainment or he was winking at the audience the entire time. He had a strong drive to see just how far he could go, presumably without being arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Examples of Manson's art ranged from two naked fat ladies making out in a playpen, to a naked woman in a cage full of live chickens, simulated sexual acts, a donkey pinata loaded with animals intestines, and a pregnant woman simulating self-abortion and wrapping the dead fetus in a Nazi flag just to name a few. Violence against women, including punching them and demeaning them, was also a frequent theme in his



performances. The main emphasis in the book is on his depravity rather than on his music. One can presume that interest in this dark behavior drove his performances.

Marilyn Manson was a man deeply unhappy with his life. He never felt attractive to women nor worthy of loving. On stage, he was transformed from the lonely Brian Warner to the outrageous and depraved Marilyn Manson who didn't care what people thought of him. Brian was unrecognizable as Marilyn Manson. His face was coated in make-up, his hair dyed black and his outfits bizarre. Strangest of all, he wore mismatched, whitish, and opalescent contacts to cover his eyes and in essence, his soul.

## Searching for Love

Although Marilyn Manson treated most women with derision and disrespect, what he was searching for throughout his life was the acceptance and love of a woman. As a high schooler, Brian was humiliated by his virginity. Although he was attracted to the pretty and nice girls, the unattractive youngster had to settle for the town tramp to lose his virginity with.

Manson's most traumatic relationship was with a beautiful model named Rachelle. Manson fell madly in love with her. She was the ideal woman in his mind. Soon after they began seeing each other, she dumped him for another man to whom she became engaged. Manson was heartbroken and from that point on Manson fought to keep his feelings in check. His fear of being hurt again caused him to become emotionally isolated from people, especially women. After he became famous and was a "rock star" women threw themselves at him. He was reluctant to become truly intimate with a woman he cared for in fear of being hurt again. Brian tried to maintain control in his relationships and used women to satisfy his desires and ego without becoming emotionally involved.

As a child, Manson's male role model was a father who abused his mother. Manson suspected that his mother was having affairs with other men which enraged the young boy. In Manson's stage performances, he often featured abuse of women including humiliating and demeaning treatment of them. It is not a leap to believe that from his earliest beginnings he had a "woman" issue which kept him from opening up to a genuinely intimate relationship which ironically is what he most desired.



# Style

## Perspective

The autobiographical account of Marilyn Manson's life, "The Long Hard Road Out of Hell," could not have been written as aptly and thoroughly by anyone other than Manson himself. It is written in the first-person narrative. Manson shares everything with his readers from details of his performance art and abusive attitude toward women to his strange thoughts and eerie dreams. Manson relates his strange story in an unapologetic manner. The work is a straightforward and honest account of a depraved and perverted life-style that catches up with him at least to some degree.

Manson's strong "beliefs" in Satanism and his depraved and nihilistic behavior on and off stage are explained and defended. Although he purports to be uncaring and confident, the fundamental reality that he has a problem with self-worth and self-image leaks through on occasion throughout the account. Manson does not hold back about his bizarre and perverted behavior. Rather, he provides sordid details with a gusto that almost dares the reader to challenge his lifestyle choices. Again, the only person that could get into that intelligent but non-conformist mind is the man himself.

Manson wrote poetry and horror fiction before he was a musician. Although he had a co-author for this book, it is obvious from this work that he is a gifted writer. He does not go into as great a detail about his music as he does his performance art. He even admits that he cannot play the guitar. That Manson is more a writer and poet than a musician is obvious when reading carefully between the lines.

## Tone

"The Long Hard Road Out of Hell," which is the story of Marilyn Manson is not a read for the very young, the faint of heart or those with deeply held conservative values. His use of profanity is excessive and over the top. Although Brian Warner attended a Christian school in his formative years, he rebelled against those values and become Marilyn Manson who was a Satanist and depraved entertainer. Manson even toyed with the idea that he was the Antichrist which was a good thing in his mind. His father figure was Anton LaVey, Founder and High Priest of Satanism.

Throughout the book, there blatant acts of abuse against women are depicted. He featured women in his "performance art," in humiliating and debasing scenarios. He simulated sex acts with them and physically abused them on stage. The abuse of women did not stop at the stage's edge. In his personal life, his cavalier attitude in using and abusing women is often stomach-turning.

Towards the end of the book, Manson begins to realize that his lifestyle was off-putting to many even those in the business who had been his colleagues for many years. His heavy cocaine addiction almost led to his death but perhaps it was the wake-up call he



needed. After quitting cocaine cold turkey, he began to experience feelings he forgot he ever had and began to realize that his inhumane treatment of people, especially women, was causing his life and his band to fall apart. Although Marilyn Manson will never become the boy next door, there was a flicker of hope at the end of his story that he was heading in a better direction.

## Structure

"The Long Hard Road Out of Hell," is separated into three main sections. The first section is entitled, "When I Was A Worm." There are five chapters in this section which covers the early years of Brian Warner from his childhood, his attempts to become a writer, and his dawning interest in forming a band. The second section is entitled, "Deformography." This section has eight chapters most of which cover the evolution of Marilyn Manson the band from mediocre and unknown to superstar shock-rock status. Part three is entitled, "How I Got My Wings." This section has three chapters and covers the unraveling of Manson's life and the downward spiral of his band and ultimately his struggle to become more humane and clean and sober.

There are dozens of graphics and photos throughout the book, many of which depict some of the depravity of Manson's "performance art." Some of Manson's original writing and poetry is included in the book. He also includes some of his pitch letters he wrote in an effort to sell his writing and the rejection letters he received in response to them. The last section is followed by a lengthy tour diary. There are also some copies of lawsuits filed against the band for their lewd and abusive public performances.



## Quotes

"Hell to be me was my grandfather's cellar. It stank like a public toilet, and was just as filthy. The dank concrete floor was littered with empty beer cans and everything was coated with a film of grease that probably hadn't been wiped wince my father was a boy" (Chapter 1, pg. 3.)

"'I know some new tricks,' said the Cat in the Hat. 'A lot of good tricks. I will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if I do'" (Chapter 3, pg. 31.)

"I knew that Brian Warner was dying. I was being given a chance to be reborn, for better or worse, somewhere new. But what I couldn't figure out was whether high school had corrupted me or enlightened me. Maybe it was both, and corruption and enlightenment were inseparable" (Chapter 3, pg. 32.)

"When you have friends, you form a band. When you're lonely, you write" (Chapter 5, pg. 64.)

"There were two cute girls who worked at the store. The one that liked me, of course, was heavily medicated and obsessed with killing herself" (Chapter 5, pg. 64.)

"Brad was as good as dead, Nancy was as good as dead and my morality was as good as dead. Marilyn Manson was finally on its way to becoming the band I wanted it to be" (Chapter 8, pg. 130.)

"In music, as in life, Marilyn Manson doesn't play favorites. He likes to destroy everything in equal measure" (Chapter 10, pg. 140.)

"What nobody understood then is this: The only way that you achieve what you want and fulfill your dreams and become great is by demanding that sort of attention. You have to make it happen" (Chapter 10, pg. 154.)

"What everybody in my life had misunderstood about Satanism was that it is not about ritual sacrifices, digging up graves and worshiping the devil—the devil doesn't exist. Satanism is about worshiping yourself, because you are responsible for your own good and evil" (Chapter 11, pg. 164.)

"People like to think of hate and misanthropy as protective shells built up against the world. But in my case, they came not from a hardness but from an emptiness, from the fact that my humanity was draining away like the blood from the wounds I had inflicted on myself" (Chapter 12, pg. 187.)



"After years of studying the concept, I began to realize that the Antichrist is a character—a metaphor—who exists in nearly all religions under different names, and maybe there is some truth in it, a need for such a person" (Chapter 14, pg. 213.)

"I finally knew what was worth caring about. For perhaps the first time in twenty-seven years, I now knew myself. This was because I had begun to see the world with new eyes, and to understand that the world was bigger than a studio in New Orleans" (Chapter 15, pg. 244.)



## Topics for Discussion

What did Brian Warner fear most from his childhood? What did Brian and his cousin Chad find out about their grandfather? What signs did Brian show as a youngster that he had abusive tendencies?

What type of relationship did Brian Warner have with his father and with his mother? Why did Brian become enraged with his mother?

What was Manson's view of Satanism? What opinion did Manson have of the Anton LaVey, founder and high priest of the Church of Satan? Why did LaVey like Manson's stage name?

What three Marilyn Manson albums were discussed in this book? What level of success did they have? What were problems the record labels had with some of Manson's songs?

What unusual place did Manson always dream of recording a song? How did he wind up in that place to record some music? What personal connection did he have to the house?

What relationships with women possibly drove Marilyn Manson to publicly debase and abuse women during his "performance art?" What are some examples of his abusive treatment of women?

Why was Manson hospitalized? How did he ultimately deal with his addiction to cocaine? What was Manson able to realize and accomplish after he became clean and sober?