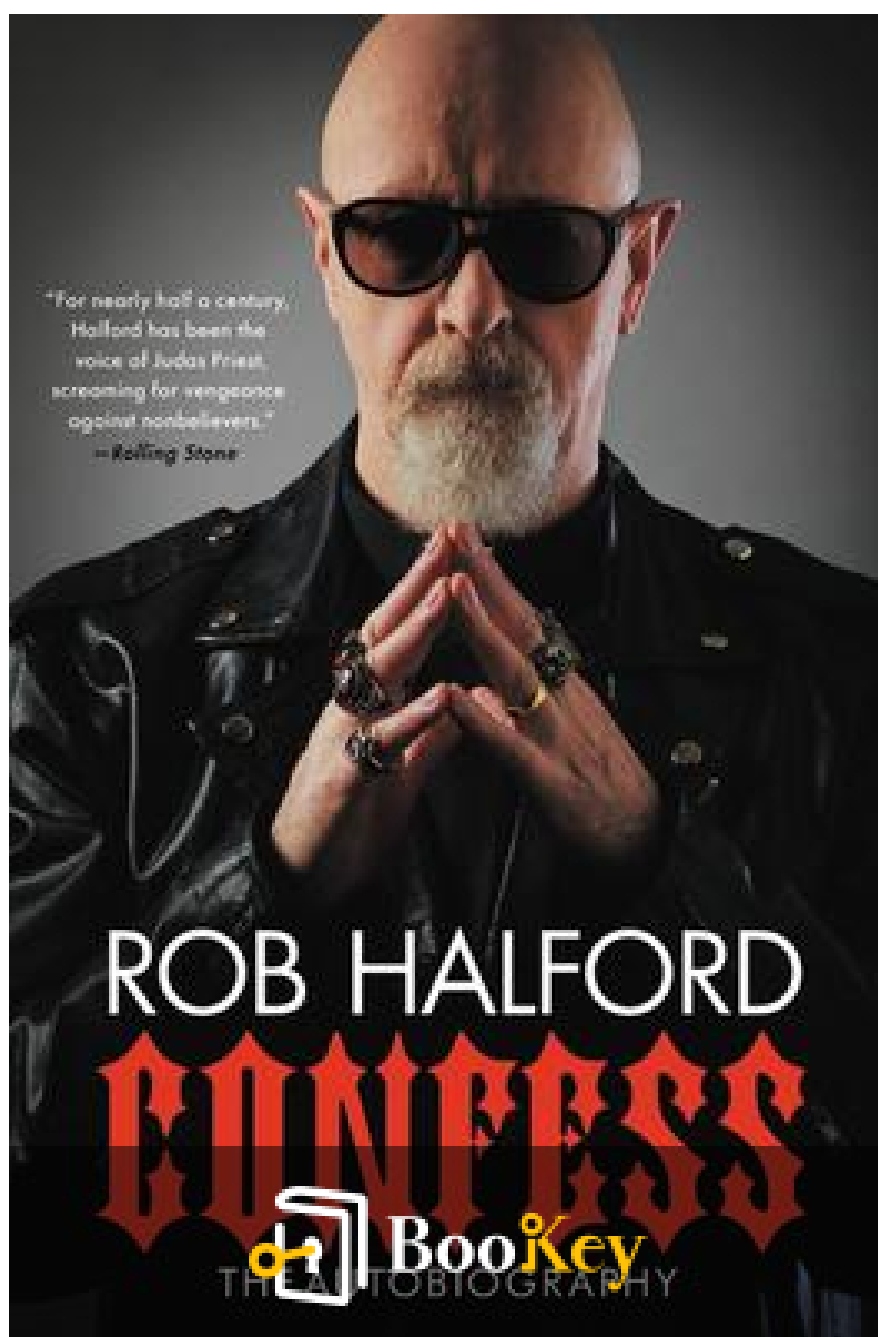


# Confess By Rob Halford PDF (Limited Copy)

Rob Halford



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# **Confess By Rob Halford Summary**

A Journey of Metal, Faith, and Identity.

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## About the book

In "Confess," legendary Judas Priest frontman Rob Halford shares an unflinching and deeply personal memoir that chronicles his journey from a small-town boy in Birmingham to one of rock's most influential and unapologetic voices. With raw honesty, Halford delves into his battles with identity, sexuality, and the exhilarating highs and devastating lows of life in the metal arena. Through candid reflections on fame, addiction, and self-acceptance, he not only redefines what it means to be a rock star but also provides an inspiring testament to the power of living one's truth. Halford's compelling narrative invites readers to join him in a celebration of resilience, artistry, and the relentless pursuit of authenticity—making it a must-read for fans and newcomers alike.

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## About the author

Rob Halford, often hailed as the "Metal God," is a British singer and songwriter best known as the lead vocalist of the iconic heavy metal band Judas Priest. Renowned for his powerful voice and wide vocal range, Halford has been a pivotal figure in the heavy metal genre since the band's formation in 1970, contributing to seminal albums such as "British Steel" and "Painkiller" that helped define the sound of heavy metal. Beyond his musical accomplishments, Halford has garnered respect for his candidness about his personal struggles, including his battle with addiction and his journey of self-acceptance as a gay man in a predominantly male industry. His autobiography, "Confess," offers a raw and honest account of his life, exploring both the triumphs and challenges he faced throughout his remarkable career.

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## Chapter 1 Summary: 1. Speed, bonnie boat...

In the early post-war years, the Beechdale Estate emerged as a symbol of hope and community in Walsall, England, following the devastation of World War II. Created under the leadership of Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Housing Minister Aneurin Bevan, the estate was part of a widespread effort to provide affordable housing for working-class families. The Halford family, though not originally from Beechdale, would come to call it home when they moved to 38 Kelvin Road in 1953.

Rob Halford, the future frontman of Judas Priest, was born in 1951 to Joan and Barry Halford, and his childhood experiences were etched in the memories of the sturdy, redbrick council houses of Beechdale. Although these homes were built with idealism and community in mind, the realities of post-war life often led families to use their gardens for growing vegetables instead of decorative flowers amid ongoing rationing.

Growing up in a modest but tightly-knit household, Rob delighted in the warm community spirit of the estate. His father, a steelworker with a passion for aviation, introduced him to model airplanes and outings to Walsall Aerodrome, which nurtured Rob's imagination. The family's life reflected post-war British standards, characterized by daily routines filled with hard work, loyalty, and the idea that cleanliness was next to godliness.





School days were a mix of anxiety and excitement. Rob vividly recalls his terrifying first day at Beechdale Infant School, only to find solace in a kind and beautiful teacher who instilled hope and joy in the learning process. His early school experiences, infused with the trials of childhood—like the misadventures in nativity plays—are marked by humor and relatable struggles.

Weekends were often spent with his paternal grandparents, who shared stories of their experiences during the war. Rob's lineage revealed rich histories juxtaposed with the struggles of his parents, whose occasional arguments filled the home with tension yet never eclipsed their love and protection for their children.

The Halford household navigated the ups and downs of family life, which included a rare wrestling event that turned into unexpected drama, showcasing a different side of his mother's spirited personality. While conflicts occasionally arose, Rob emphasizes that his childhood was filled with love and stability, underlining that while the memories of fights impacted him, they never defined his upbringing.

As Rob grew, the allure of music began to surface, leading to a defining moment during a music lesson at Beechdale Junior School. When he passionately sang “The Skye Boat Song” and received applause from his classmates, it served as an epiphany that illuminated his path toward a future



in music.

Ultimately, Rob faced the turning point of his adolescence when he needed to decide whether to pursue a grammar school education or remain with friends. By the end of this introductory chapter, as he approaches the cusp of puberty, Rob is beginning to come to terms with his identity, hinting at the complexity that would shape his journey as an artist.

1. The Beechdale Estate emerged as a beacon of hope for working-class families in post-war Britain, embodying community spirit and idealism.
2. Rob's early life was characterized by his close-knit family and the influences of his father's passion for aviation and the working-class lifestyle.
3. Frustrations and fears of childhood school experiences were balanced by the comforting presence of supportive teachers and family members.
4. Moments of family tension were present in the Halford household but were overshadowed by a loving environment and shared experiences.
5. Rob's burgeoning interest in music coincided with significant growth in his self-identity as he navigated the complexities of adolescence.



## Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Giving your mates a hand

In his memoir, Rob Halford reflects on his formative years, revealing early signs of his sexual identity and the complexities of growing up in Walsall during the 1960s. By the age of ten, he recognized a strong attraction to boys over girls, although he grappled with the confusion surrounding this realization. A significant childhood crush on a boy named Steven exemplified this confusion as Halford sought to be near him, mirroring the innocent infatuations typical of preadolescents.

1. As Halford transitioned to secondary school, he thrived socially and academically, engaging with subjects like English literature and music, which would later inform his career as a lyricist and performer. His routine included the challenges of daily commutes and the shared experiences of school life, from camaraderie with friends to navigating childhood adventures abroad in Belgium, where a trip became an eye-opener to broader experiences beyond Walsall.

2. The complexities of adolescence soon entwined with burgeoning sexual awareness; Halford humorously recounts being introduced to masturbation by an older peer. These experiences were shared among friends and characterized as innocent explorations rather than explicit acts of homosexuality. However, his awareness sharpened as he realized he was different, eventually leading to a wakeful acceptance of his identity by his



early teens.

3. Despite the confusion surrounding his feelings and sexuality, societal pressures loomed, often manifesting through bullying and teasing about his appearance. This led to deeper internal conflicts as Halford navigated societal conventions and expectations, especially as he began dating girls, engaging in a dance life that stood in juxtaposition to his true self.

4. Around the age of thirteen, Halford faced a pivotal moment when his father discovered a gay-themed book he had hidden. This encounter marked a watershed moment of coming out, albeit in silence, as his father's reaction left a shadow over their relationship.

5. Halford's experiences of sexual exploration took darker turns as he encountered situations of predatorial behavior. He describes uncomfortable moments in the metalwork class and a traumatic encounter with a family friend, grappling with the feelings of shame and confusion that arose from these experiences.

6. Amid these trials, Halford embraced his passion for drama, propelling him toward a path in theater. His early involvement in local productions blossomed into a hopeful vision of a future in acting, leading to an opportunity at the prestigious Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.



Through the lens of Halford's adolescence, the narrative candidly navigates the confusion of identity, the awakening of sexuality, the trials of peer relationships, and encounters with both camaraderie and predation. The journey intertwines moments of humor, despair, and ultimately, the pursuit of a passion that would shape Halford's life and career.

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## Chapter 3: 3. Six barley wines and a Mogadon

In Chapter 3 of "Confess" by Rob Halford, the author recounts his formative experiences that shaped his passion for music and performance. Beginning with his first job at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre at sixteen, Halford describes the excitement of stepping into the world of stage lighting and the camaraderie of the theater staff. As a stage assistant, he quickly learned the ropes, operating lights for a variety of shows while reveling in the atmosphere and meeting famous performers.

The theater culture introduced Halford to a work-hard-play-hard lifestyle, where drinking became a significant part of his social life. He recalls how his escapades with barley wine and Mogadon served as a means to escape reality, often leading to reckless behavior. His descriptions of nightlife in Walsall, particularly at local bars like the Dirty Duck, highlight his burgeoning love for both drinking and music.

As Halford's teenage years progressed, his interest shifted from acting to music, heavily influenced by the Beatles and the blossoming rock scene.

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## Chapter 4 Summary: 4. Joining the Priesthood

In Chapter 4 of "Confess" by Rob Halford, the narrative chronicles Halford's journey as he joins the iconic heavy metal band Judas Priest amid various personal and professional challenges.

**1. Early Encounters with Judas Priest:** Halford, initially introduced to Judas Priest through his friend Sue, soon learns about the band's tumultuous past—including the death of a guitarist and the exit of their original singer, Al Atkins. Despite the setbacks, he recognizes their unique sound and professionalism compared to his previous band. Eventually, he expresses his interest in joining and is introduced to Ken Downing and Ian Hill.

**2. The Audition and Immediate Bonding:** When Ken and Ian visit Halford, they bond over their shared musical influences, especially Jimi Hendrix. Halford's impromptu jam session leads Ken to extend an invitation for more rehearsals, thus marking Halford's entry as the new lead singer of Judas Priest. There is a sense of laid-back camaraderie during this initial encounter, indicating a promising start.

**3. Rehearsal and Songwriting:** Early rehearsals take place at Holy Joe's, where they aim to create original music rather than rely on covers, setting a clear artistic direction for the band. Halford's lyric-writing skills begin to flourish, drawing on his literary background. Their songwriting often



unfolds in a communal setting, filled with late-night jamming sessions and a haphazard living arrangement.

**4. Personal Struggles:** While he navigates his emerging identity as a gay man, Halford also grapples with interactions with girls, including a significant experience with a girl named Margie. This pivotal moment emphasizes his inner conflict and the disconnect between his sexual identity and societal expectations.

**5. Corky's Role as Manager:** The addition of Corky, an eccentric yet driven manager, becomes crucial for Priest. Despite his unconventional methods, he secures gigs by leveraging his charm and tenacity. His ability to hustle for opportunities helps propel the band, emphasizing the importance of persistence in the music industry.

**6. Early Gigs and the Reality of Touring** The band embarks on grueling tours across the U.K., often playing to unresponsive or indifferent audiences. Yet, these experiences forge stronger bonds among the band members and contribute to their collective growth as musicians. Halford also begins to refine his own vocal style, moving beyond his early influences.

**7. Glam Rock Inspirations:** Immersed in the glam rock movement, Halford draws inspiration from figures like Freddie Mercury and David Bowie, whose flamboyance and theatricality resonate with him. His affinity



for glam influences his stage presence, despite his struggle to find a coherent personal style.

**8. Building an Identity:** Amidst the burgeoning identity of the band, Corky assigns playful nicknames to members, inadvertently leading to embarrassment for Halford with the moniker "The Queen." Yet, this instance highlights the band's ability to embrace Halford's true self without judgment, an open-mindedness that he deeply appreciates.

**9. Ambitious Performances and Breakthroughs:** The chapter culminates with pivotal performances, including their first international gigs and the acquisition of a record deal, illustrating the band's escalation from anonymity to international attention. The excitement of their first foreign tour signifies a crucial milestone in Judas Priest's growing career.

In summary, this chapter encapsulates Rob Halford's transition into Judas Priest, the complexities of his personal identity, the significance of creative collaboration, and the determination required to navigate the early years of rock music within a changing cultural landscape.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace your true self without fear of judgment.

**Critical Interpretation:** As you navigate through the ups and downs of life, remember Halford's journey with Judas Priest. He faced not only the pressure of joining a band that had dissolved any secure sense of identity but also the personal struggle of accepting and expressing his sexuality in a society that didn't always offer support. Take inspiration from his experiences—embrace your true self even if the world around you doesn't fully understand. Like Halford, surround yourself with people who celebrate you for who you are, with all your quirks and complexities. In doing so, you'll find not only strength but also a profound sense of belonging that can propel you through any challenge.



## Chapter 5 Summary: 5. Not even a bloody fiver!

In the narrative of Chapter 5 from Rob Halford's memoir, the story unfolds as the band Judas Priest embarks on pivotal moments in their early career. The chapter encapsulates their struggles, evolving dynamics, and poignant experiences, showcasing their journey from obscurity towards recognition.

**1. Record Deal and Initial Excitement:** The chapter opens with the band sealing a deal with Gull Records, a small independent label that stirred excitement with the promise of a £2,000 advance. Despite its relative stinginess in the realm of music industry standards, the sum felt monumental to the band, symbolizing their first opportunity to produce a record.

**2. Band Dynamics and Lineup Changes:** As the band began to shape its sound, their manager's suggestions to include additional members sparked debates about their musical identity. Ultimately, they opted for a second guitarist, inviting Glenn Tipton from the Flying Hat Band, who seamlessly elevated their musical dynamic and brought a new energy to their sound. The camaraderie among the band members deepened as they spent time together touring and refining their craft.

**3. Recording Challenges and Artistic Growth:** The process of recording their debut album, "Rocka Rolla," was laden with challenges. Working in the upscale Basing Street studio during late-night shifts due to budget



constraints led to fatigue and pressure. Halford's inner conflict about performing in the studio brought to light the insecurities many artists face. However, collaboration with Tipton and Ken, the other guitarist, established a solid songwriting partnership, leading to impactful tracks laden with powerful themes.

**4. Disappointing Reception and Touring** The album's release was met with a disappointing response, ultimately failing to chart and receiving lackluster airplay. The band went on a tour to promote the album but faced obstacles, including misfortunes during their travels and comedic yet embarrassing situations that provided levity amid their trials.

**5. Social and Personal Evolution:** As Halford navigated his professional life, he also experienced significant personal growth. Moving into a shared house and forming a romantic relationship with Jason introduced him to a new lifestyle and offered a glimpse into life as an openly gay man, albeit with the societal pressures of that era.

**6. The Impact of Live Performances:** Their appearance at the Reading Festival marked a turning point, exposing them to a wider audience and solidifying their stage presence. This performance and their continued touring helped boost their confidence despite previous disappointments.

**7. Struggles with Finances:** The chapter highlights the band's financial



strains as they sought a weekly wage, only to be met with disheartening news from their label. This financial reality underscored the hardships many bands endure even with a record deal, contributing to their sense of urgency for progress and change.

**8. Shakeups in Artistry:** As they prepared for a second album, tensions emerged leading to the departure of their drummer, John Hinch, indicating the growing pains of their evolving artistry. Entering the studio for "Sad Wings of Destiny," the new producers encouraged their musical vision, leading to a more confident sound and stronger lyrical focus away from the clichés of rock and heavy metal music.

**9. Cultural Impressions and Personal Reflections:** A viewing of "The Naked Civil Servant" left a lasting impact on Halford's recognition of his sexuality, paralleling his own experiences. Following the marriage of bandmate Ian Hill, the band's rising fame featured appearances on notable shows like "The Old Grey Whistle Test," which contributed to their growing presence alongside established acts in the music scene.

In summary, Chapter 5 of Halford's memoir reflects the tumultuous yet transformative experiences of Judas Priest during their rise to prominence. With a blend of personal and professional evolution, the narrative captures the essence of striving for authenticity and recognition in an often unforgiving industry, setting the stage for their eventual ascent as heavy





metal icons.

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## Chapter 6: 6. Superman in a fur coat

In the narrative of Chapter 6, "Superman in a Fur Coat," Rob Halford reflects on a pivotal moment in Judas Priest's journey toward success during the late 1970s.

1. A Turning Point: Recognizing stagnation with their previous label, Gill, the band sought a break that came through an introduction to new management at Arnakata, leading to a deal with CBS Records. While their previous management had provided support, they lacked the resources and vision needed to elevate the band to the next level. Transitioning from Gill to CBS not only brought financial security with a significant £60,000 advance for their next album but also infused fresh energy into the band as they began working on "Sin After Sin."

2. Creative Dynamics: Under the guidance of renowned producer Roger Glover, who had previously played with Deep Purple, the band's creative process initially faced challenges, including finding the right drummer. The eventual inclusion of Simon Phillips, a young yet immensely talented

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## Chapter 7 Summary: 7. The Shirley Bassey leather years

After an exhilarating tour across America, Rob Halford returned home to a sobering reality, grappling with the stark contrast between the intense excitement of performing for tens of thousands and the mundane tasks waiting at home. This transitional period left him feeling flat and unfulfilled, despite the success and recognition he achieved on the road with Judas Priest. Yet, the urgency of making a new album pushed him away from introspective blues and into the creative hustle.

### 1. Album Creation

As Judas Priest geared up for their next album, "Stained Class," they enlisted Dennis Mackay as their producer, whose eclectic background provided a fresh perspective. Recording sessions at Chipping Norton Recording Studios unveiled underlying tensions between lead guitarists Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing, conflicting characters striving towards a common sound. Halford collaborated with both, penning the title track and other notable songs, while also personally expressing the struggle of being a gay man within the album's lyrics, most poignantly in "Beyond the Realms of Death."

### 2. Evolving Band Dynamics

The band's success began attracting a more diverse audience, notably

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including women and groupies, which presented challenges for Halford, who remained closeted about his sexuality. The traditional approaches to courting fans didn't apply to him, leading to frustrations about how to navigate romance on the road without compromising his identity. He felt an unwanted isolation, complicating his desire for connection.

### **3. Image Transformation**

The late 1970s marked a pivotal moment for the band's image, spearheaded by K.K. and Halford's vision of adopting a bold leather aesthetic. This transformation, partly rooted in the celebration of machismo and rock culture, resonated with fans, who embraced the new look without recognizing its deeper, personal implications for Halford. The band dressed in black leather, which became emblematic of their heavy metal persona, distanced from any suggestion of sexual subtext.

### **4. American Tour and Personal Struggles**

On their return to America, Halford faced new challenges while maintaining his persona. Amidst rising fame, he occasionally ventured into experiences reflective of his sexuality, such as seeking out gay literature in San Francisco. However, fear of being outed restrained him from fully exploring his identity. A troubling encounter in New York—where he suspected his drink was spiked—left him physically and emotionally shaken, further



complicating his life on the road.

## **5. International Adventures**

The band's first tour in Japan was transformative, exposing Halford to the vibrant culture and sincere admiration of their Japanese fans, who welcomed them with overwhelming excitement. The vibrant reception filled concert venues with throngs of eager fans, marking a substantial growth in their global following.

## **6. Continuous Push for Success**

Despite the whirlwind of experiences and changes, Halford and Judas Priest maintained their focus on producing more music. Instead of taking time to process their rapid ascent in the music world, they found themselves in a relentless cycle of creativity and performance, underscoring their commitment to professional growth.

Halford reflects on this period as both exhilarating and tumultuous, a time that shaped not only his musical journey with Judas Priest but also his personal identity and the complex experiences associated with it. The amalgamation of exhilarating tours, personal challenges, and evolving artistry set the stage for his future as an icon in heavy metal, balancing fame with the struggles of authenticity.



## Chapter 8 Summary: 8. A whip-round for Marie Osmond

In the late 1970s, Judas Priest experienced a remarkable work ethic, undertaking extensive tours across the US and Europe. Such relentless activity was fueled by the encouragement of their record label, CBS, which urged them to maintain visibility in the competitive music industry. Their rigorous schedule nurtured their resolve, honing them into a cohesive band ready to create impactful music. Upon returning from a tour in Japan, they immediately set out to record their second album of 1978 with producer James Guthrie. This non-stop routine of touring and recording rendered them a well-tuned "metal machine," ready to tackle any creative challenge.

### 1. Songwriting and Inspiration

Judas Priest approached songwriting with a fresh slate each time they entered the studio, finding inspiration rather than influence from other artists. A prime example was their track "Take on the World," which echoed the optimistic themes found in Queen's "We Are the Champions." This song was not only a powerful expression of their identity as a band but also a rallying cry for their fanbase. The connection it established with listeners was both meaningful and energizing, a symbol of unity in the face of adversity.

### 2. Notable Album Production

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As they worked on the album that would later be titled *\*Killing Machine\** (renamed *\*Hell Bent for Leather\** in the U.S. due to marketing concerns), the band continued to solidify their identity with powerful compositions. A notable anecdote involved lead singer Rob Halford suffering a head injury while excitedly announcing a Muhammad Ali fight, highlighting the dangers that came with their creative fervor.

### 3. Chart Success and Media Appearance

The lead single "Take on the World" surprised the band by climbing into the UK Top 40, which led to an invitation to perform on the iconic British TV show *\*Top of the Pops\**. With family support and a desire to showcase their music, Halford vividly remembered donning a leather outfit and brandishing a new bull whip, despite initial opposition from Marie Osmond—a moment that underscored the tensions between heavy metal culture and mainstream pop.

### 4. Commitment to Metal

While hardcore fans viewed their performance on *\*Top of the Pops\** as a potential sellout, Halford maintained that such opportunities should be embraced to promote metal as a genre. The band's ambitious nature positioned them for an expansive 1979 tour, further emphasizing their



resolve to reach larger audiences.

## **5. Live Performances and Theatricality**

Throughout their live shows, the band incorporated theatrical elements to match their vigorous musical style. Halford began to develop signature moves, including the dramatic appearance onstage riding a motorcycle, which added to the electrifying atmosphere of their performances. These stunts fostered a sense of anticipation among fans, turning their concerts into unique experiences.

## **6. Collaborative Spirit and Industry Challenges**

During their tours, including a notable stint opening for AC/DC, the camaraderie among rock bands like Priest and their peers blossomed. Despite initial logistical challenges, such as tight schedules and performance clashes, the relational dynamics served them well. Halford's friendship with AC/DC's Bon Scott highlighted shared experiences and the risks of the rock lifestyle.

## **7. Recording Challenges and Artistic Integrity**

As they produced their live album \*Unleashed in the East\*, Halford navigated personal challenges, including health issues related to insomnia.



The realization that his performance would have to be improved led to an impromptu re-recording of his vocals, a risky decision taken to uphold the band's artistic integrity—a testament to their commitment to delivering quality music to fans.

## **8. Reflecting on Fame and Identity**

The end of 1979 marked a peak year for Judas Priest, filled with noteworthy accomplishments, including their burgeoning fame. However, Halford grappled internally with his identity, especially during high-profile moments like meeting Andy Warhol while sporting a shirt reflective of his sexual identity—a juxtaposition that highlighted the personal conflicts he experienced amid professional success.

By the close of this transformative year, as they prepared to embark on another global tour, the band had not only solidified their presence in the heavy metal scene but also paved the way for their next ambitious project—a journey that would propel them even further into the stratosphere of rock music.



## Chapter 9: 9. Mine eyes have seen the glory hole

In Chapter 9 of Rob Halford's "Confess," the vocalist reflects on a transformative period for Judas Priest during the late 1970s and early 1980s, marked by the recording of the iconic album *\*British Steel\**. The narrative weaves through emotions of nostalgia, creativity, and personal struggle, encapsulating the band's dynamics and Halford's inner conflicts.

**1. Rediscovering Inspiration:** The chapter opens with the band returning to Tittenhurst Park, Ringo Starr's estate, after a Christmas break. Halford and his bandmate, Glenn, are ecstatic—being fans of The Beatles, they explore the mansion and find remnants of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. The experience is exhilarating for them, serving as a backdrop for their creative resurgence. They establish a routine of excitement and discovery, infusing their work with nostalgia.

**2. Recording Process:** The album *\*British Steel\** materializes under the guidance of producer Tom Allom, who instills a collaborative spirit within the band. Halford notes the shift from layering tracks individually to

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## Chapter 10 Summary: 10. By the time I get to Phoenix...

As Judas Priest embarked on creating a follow-up album to their successful "British Steel," the band made a notable decision to relocate their recording efforts to Ibiza in October 1980. This move, however, soon proved to be a misstep, particularly for lead vocalist Rob Halford, who felt that the island's numerous distractions hindered their creative focus. The relaxed yet bustling environment of Ibiza, though still characterized by its mellow roots, presented temptations that diverted the band's attention from their music-making process.

**1. Distractions Over Productivity:** In Ibiza, the band often prioritized partying over their writing schedule. Late nights filled with revelry left Halford struggling with insomnia, as he found it difficult to recuperate when his bandmates turned the villa into a lively social hub. The constant temptations of nightlife outshone the need for artistic diligence, leading Halford to believe that the album, "Point of Entry," was a product of autopilot rather than a concerted effort to build upon their previous success. Despite a few standout tracks like "Heading Out to the Highway," the quality of the overall album lagged behind that of its predecessor, leaving Halford dissatisfied.

**2. A Shift in Creative Energy:** The tumultuous recording experience was underscored by personal turmoil for Halford, especially following the tragic



assassination of John Lennon. A moment of introspection atop the studio roof allowed Halford to ponder the message he believed he received—a call for greater artistic commitment, which he felt was lacking in "Point of Entry." The resulting disappointment, confirmed by lukewarm reviews upon its launch in February 1981, served as a wake-up call for the band to step up their game.

**3. Embarking on Tour:** Following the album's release, Judas Priest set out on the World Wide Blitz tour, starting in Europe with fellow metal band Saxon, forging bonds that would last long term. Their adventures led them across the United States, where they quickly adapted to arena-sized venues. Their management brought in security personnel who became integral to their operations, as the band navigated the pressures of increased fame.

**4. Phoenix Connection:** A pivotal moment occurred in Phoenix, Arizona, where Halford was struck by the city's unique beauty, sparking a profound longing to return. It was during an in-store signing that he met David Johnson, who inquired about the meaning behind one of Halford's songs. This encounter led to a budding friendship and flirtation, marked by a playful exchange involving a jockstrap that signified an emerging romantic interest.

**5. New Beginnings:** As communication between Halford and Johnson developed through warm letters, Halford was seized by the idea of



relocating to Phoenix. Embracing spontaneity, he decided to make the move, motivated by both the allure of the city and potential romance. Johnson helped him find a townhouse, leading Halford to a newfound perspective on his life and career.

**6. Dual Lives:** Halford navigated this new chapter with a sense of excitement and possibility. While his connection with Johnson was flirtatious yet cautious, Halford felt content to take things slowly. The vibrant spirit of Phoenix, along with his sideline interactions with Johnson, reframed Halford's outlook, paving the way for personal growth as he prepared to return to music-making with Judas Priest.

With a dual life brewing between the musical landscape of heavy metal and emerging personal connections, Halford looked forward to a future filled with both artistic ambition and the warmth of a relationship that could blossom further in time. The experiences leading up to these developments served as critical reflections on the necessity for focus, passion, and connection, both onstage and off.





## Chapter 11 Summary: 11. I love a man in uniform

In January 1982, Judas Priest returned to Ibiza Sound Studios with the intention of improving on their previous album, "Point of Entry."

Recognizing the missed opportunities from that project, the band, driven by a newfound focus, set out to create an album that could resonate strongly with audiences in the United States. Their commitment to hard work and creativity led to the successful production of "Screaming for Vengeance." The album's title track quickly came together, capturing a sense of urgency and disdain for societal corruption, which reflected the band's ethos at the time.

The recording process took them to Florida for mixing, where they revisited a track titled "You've Got Another Thing Coming." Initially considered for the album's second side, the band's enthusiasm for the song grew, leading to its eventual prominence. This pivotal moment coincided with their burgeoning friendship with local musicians, which enriched their experience and fueled further artistic collaboration.

As the promotional phase commenced, the band was confronted with a challenging decision regarding touring, necessitated by their label's focus on the American market. Despite their apprehensions about neglecting their British fan base, they embarked on the "World Vengeance tour," which focused exclusively on the U.S. Although excited about their upcoming



shows, lead singer Rob Halford grappled with personal tensions regarding his relationship with his friend David in Phoenix. Their friendship oscillated between affection and frustrating platonic boundaries, leaving Halford increasingly confused and emotionally isolated.

As Priest launched their tour, "Screaming for Vengeance" rose in popularity, capturing the imaginations of fans across America, especially with the release of the catchy single, "You've Got Another Thing Coming." The combination of energetic performances and heavy television airplay propelled the band to new commercial heights, marking a transformative phase in their career.

While behind the scenes, the tour's logistics presented challenges, such as a chaotic bus breakdown exceeding high temperatures, which culminated in an unexpected helicopter ride to their gig in San Antonio. Despite such tribulations, the performance before cheering thousands solidified their newfound fame.

Alongside the band's skyrocketing popularity, Halford's internal conflict about his sexual identity deepened. As he wrestled with societal perceptions and the fear of rejecting fan support upon revealing his orientation, he ventured into both secretive encounters and daring symbolic signals for companionship among concertgoers. The tour rolled on with exhilarating shows but emotional frustration simmered beneath the surface.



A pivotal moment arrived when Halford had the chance to bring his father and brother to the iconic Madison Square Garden for a performance, which further compounded the excitement of their evolving career. However, the night before the show, the band's manager abruptly stepped down due to personal issues, adding yet another layer of stress amidst their rising fame. With Bill Curbishley stepping in as their new manager, the anticipation grew as they progressed towards the highly publicized US Festival, cementing their place within the heavy metal landscape.

The US Festival concluded an exhilarating tour, with Halford and the band recognizing their hard-fought successes and the undeniable bond that formed with their expansive fan base. Yet, even amid these professional victories, Halford returned to Phoenix feeling a profound sense of personal emptiness as he grappled with the reality of his unrequited feelings for David.

This journey through triumph and personal struggle encapsulated a significant chapter in the life of Rob Halford and Judas Priest, setting the stage for what would come next in their extraordinary career.

1. Return to Focus: After evaluating their previous album, the band re-engaged with new resolve in creating "Screaming for Vengeance," aiming for greater impact in the U.S.
2. Growth in Popularity: The album, particularly "You've Got Another



Thing Coming," became a significant hit, aided by strong promotion and heavy metal's rising visibility on platforms like MTV.

3. Personal Struggles: Halford's complex relationship with David complicated his personal life, reflecting an ongoing battle with identity and emotional fulfillment against the backdrop of fame.

4. Managerial Changes: The sudden departure of their manager presented unexpected challenges, but the introduction of Bill Curbishley signaled a robust future for the band.

5. Professional Triumphs: The resounding success at the US Festival highlighted their hard work and cemented their place within the heavy metal community, contrasting sharply with Halford's personal disappointments as he returned home.

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# Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Return to Focus

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine standing at the crossroads of your own life, reflecting on the past choices that may not have led you where you wanted to go. This is the moment to engage with your own journey, armed with the lessons learned from the missteps of yesterday. Just like Judas Priest, who recognized the missed opportunities of 'Point of Entry,' you can take a step back and reassess your goals with renewed clarity and determination. Each day is a chance to refocus, to channel your efforts into creating something meaningful that resonates deeply with your aspirations. As Halford and his band embraced their creative resolve, so too can you reclaim your narrative, harnessing your challenges and experiences to build a path toward success and fulfillment in your own life.

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## Chapter 12: 12. Ladies and gentlemen, take your seats!

Chapter 12 of Rob Halford's "Confess" takes readers on a lively yet introspective journey through the lead singer's experiences following a successful tour. The chapter opens with Halford relocating to a more luxurious ranch-style house in Paradise Valley, Arizona, after initially settling for a more modest living situation. Despite the beautiful surroundings, Halford grapples with unfulfilled desires, particularly concerning his close friend and companion, David, with whom he shares daily activities but lacks any physical intimacy—a situation that leaves him feeling frustrated and unfulfilled in his sexuality.

Throughout this period, Halford immerses himself in the Phoenix rock scene, frequenting vibrant venues like the Mason Jar and Rockers. He builds close friendships with local bands such as Surgical Steel, enjoying nights filled with music, drinking, and wild antics, even as he tries to mask his romantic feelings for David.

As his tumultuous relationship with David unfolds, Halford faces feelings of

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## Chapter 13 Summary: 13. This is the one. This is love!

As 1984 came to a close, Rob Halford found himself frustrated by his inability to drive, reliant on others for transportation in both his Phoenix and Walsall homes. After years of avoidance, he resolved to learn to drive, motivated by the belief that purchasing a car would spur him into action. Accompanied by fellow band member Ian Hill, he purchased a stunning red Aston Martin DBS and a purple Jensen Interceptor. Yet, despite the excitement of new ownership, the cars remained untouched as Halford struggled to get behind the wheel.

Eventually, Halford attempted to drive the Aston Martin but had a mishap, crashing it into an apple tree. This failure didn't deter him; he continued to pursue his driving ambitions and, with the help of Jeff Martin from Surgical Steel, finally acquired his driver's license in the US. By early 1985, Halford celebrated this milestone with the purchase of a small red Corvette, exuding the confidence of a rock star.

During this period, Halford navigated complicated relationships, particularly with David, who he realized was seeing a woman, further complicating their codependent friendship. They resumed working on new material for their next album in Marbella, Spain. After a brief visit to England for a wedding, Halford returned to Spain only to learn from Glenn that he appeared jaundiced. A doctor's diagnosis of hepatitis led to an abrupt change in





Halford's lifestyle, including a strict health regimen devoid of alcohol and red meat, which surprisingly left him feeling detoxified and refreshed.

This unexpected sobriety provided clarity during the writing sessions, ultimately leading to the creation of "Turbo Lover," a song infused with suggestive themes, paralleling Halford's distinctive lyrical style. The band's decision to incorporate synthesizers into their music, despite potential backlash from traditional metal fans, underscored their belief in artistic freedom and the essence of their heavy metal identity.

As they continued to work on what was to be a double album, they eventually opted for a single, titled \*Turbo\*, after being constrained by their record label. Halford remained sober while eagerly developing his driving skills and participating in charitable projects like Hear 'n Aid, which aimed to raise awareness and funds for famine relief in Ethiopia.

However, Halford faced another challenge with the emergence of the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC), which sought to censor music deemed inappropriate. Their controversial list, known as the "Filthy Fifteen," included Judas Priest's "Eat Me Alive." The PMRC's push for explicit labeling ironically fueled interest in the music they aimed to suppress.

As summer rolled in, the band prepared to record in the Bahamas, only to be hit by the news that they could only produce a single album. Amidst the



tropical paradise, Halford resumed drinking after months of sobriety and discovered the art of “shotgunning” beer.

The excitement of the \*Turbo\* recording quickly shifted focus when they were invited to perform at Live Aid, an international fundraising concert. Recognizing the significance of the event, Halford and the band agreed to participate, joining other legendary acts for a cause greater than their own musical aspirations. The experience was surreal, filled with memorable encounters including one with Joan Baez and an exhilarating performance for an enthusiastic crowd.

After their performance, Halford found himself mingling at an after-party and struck up a magnetic connection with a handsome man named Brad. Instantly attracted, they shared a passionate encounter in a restroom, epitomizing the uninhibited enthusiasm of newfound love. Their meeting sparked a powerful epiphany for Halford, revealing what had been missing in his life.

As they casually made plans to meet again, Halford felt an overwhelming sense of joy, recognizing that his life was about to change dramatically. This moment, full of passion and profound connection, represented a significant turning point for Halford—a realization that he had found true love, marking a new chapter that would redefine his existence.



## Chapter 14 Summary: 14. In the court of the King of Philadelphia

In chapter 14 of "Confess" by Rob Halford, the narrative unfolds revealing a transformative emotional journey. Rob finds himself enamored with Brad after their first meeting, feeling invigorated and liberated from his past feelings for David, a former romantic interest. This newfound infatuation epitomizes his emotional state as he anticipates seeing Brad again while grappling with the mundane reality of his life back in Phoenix.

In a reckless attempt to escape the anxiety of waiting, Rob indulges in excessive drinking, leading to a nightmarish encounter when he gets arrested for driving under the influence. This incident serves as a stark reminder of his increasingly erratic lifestyle, showcasing a pattern of destructive behavior that he often brushes aside. His arrest lands him in a holding cell with other intoxicated individuals, where he experiences a mix of shame, humor, and camaraderie despite the grim circumstances.

After being released, Rob quickly returns to his life, where the anticipation of Brad's visit reignites his excitement. The two share passionate and playful moments, showcasing the lightness of their connection. However, it becomes increasingly apparent that their relationship is marred by mutual substance abuse, with both indulging heavily in alcohol and cocaine. This spiral into addiction intertwines with their emotional dependency, creating a



cycle that deepens their bond but simultaneously drags them deeper into turmoil.

As Rob becomes more consumed by his emotional attachment to Brad, he faces an unsettling reality—Brad’s inability to maintain focus and stability, leading them into reckless behavior and destructive patterns. Their escapades transition from innocent fun to a tumultuous lifestyle filled with drugs and fights, reflecting Rob's internal struggle and growing sense of desperation to cling to the connection he shares with Brad.

Rob’s violent outbursts, an unprecedented aspect of his character, underscore his deteriorating mental state, culminating in a violent confrontation with Brad that leaves both battered. This event serves as a pivotal moment, marking the depths of Rob's despair and disconnection from reality.

In the aftermath, Rob’s life spirals further out of control. A painful encounter with over-drinking and prescription pills leads to a near-fatal overdose, an awakening that prompts him to confront the gravity of his situation. The efforts of a friend help him realize his need for urgent change. The chapter closes with Rob acknowledging the necessity of entering rehab, encapsulating the introspection triggered by his destructive lifestyle choices and the emotional turmoil stemming from his deeply rooted struggles.



1. Rob Halford's emotional journey showcases the intense transformation from infatuation to despair, highlighting how relationships can both uplift and drag one into dark places.
2. Reckless behavior stemming from substance abuse illustrates a pattern leading to destructive consequences, particularly in Rob's high-profile lifestyle.
3. The struggle between addiction and desire creates a tumultuous environment for Rob and Brad, leading to volatility and emotional volatility, thus revealing the darker side of passion-driven relationships.
4. The chapter concludes with an acknowledgment of the need for help, showcasing the importance of seeking support during personal crises and the journey toward self-acceptance and recovery.



## Chapter 15: 15. The smell of cordite

In this chapter of "Confess," Rob Halford chronicles a pivotal and transformative period in his life, detailing his admission of alcoholism and the onset of his recovery journey. After a crisis point marked by a suicide attempt, Halford finds himself in a rehabilitation unit at the John C. Lincoln Medical Center. He reflects on the gravity of his situation, acknowledging his struggles with addiction while feeling a sense of relief that he finally sought help.

**1. Admission and Reality Check:** Entering rehab, Halford concedes his status as both an alcoholic and a drug addict. However, rather than despair, he experiences a profound calmness—recognizing that he has hit rock bottom and that recovery is not just a choice but a necessity.

**2. The Process of Recovery:** During his thirty days in rehab, Halford engages in daily therapy sessions, including group AA meetings where he comes to terms with his identity as an alcoholic. The supportive environment allows him to share this revelation, and while some therapy techniques, like

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## **Chapter 16 Summary: 16. We should be so lucky! (Lucky, lucky, lucky...)**

The chapter unfolds with Rob Halford reflecting on the profound impact of his partner Brad's suicide. The trauma of such a loss, particularly in a violent manner, brings forth thoughts of returning to alcohol for comfort, yet Halford acknowledges the life-saving power of sobriety that allows him to process his grief with clarity. He reveals that after experiencing his own suicide attempt, he had developed a keen understanding of mental health struggles, which only deepens the anguish he feels for Brad.

As he reminisces about 1987, Halford finds solace in a year largely free from Judas Priest commitments, providing him with time for personal healing. During this period, he engages in a lighter side of life, enjoying a more health-conscious lifestyle, including humorous exchanges about his physical appearance while recovering from his previous addiction. He enjoys the support of his family, even as they share their condolences over Brad's death.

A pivotal moment occurs when Halford visits a nightclub in New York and has a remarkable encounter with a psychic who seemingly connects with Brad's spirit, reaffirming Halford's belief in an afterlife. This experience enhances his perspective on death and spirituality, allowing him to feel a connection with Brad that brings him comfort.





As the year progresses, Halford describes recording sessions for the live album "Priest... Live!" and later, the creation of "Ram It Down." He mentions the internal struggles within the band regarding the use of drum machines, alongside the excitement of collaborating with different producers. Despite some tension, Halford relishes the artistic freedom that sobriety affords him, allowing for a focus on creativity that leads to satisfaction in their work.

Halford candidly shares his experience of joining a Pride march, feeling a mix of exhilaration and danger as he navigates his identity while still mostly in the closet. This support for the LGBTQ+ community is juxtaposed against ongoing personal struggles and societal challenges, such as the backlash against the Thatcher government's policies on homosexuality.

The chapter also delves into the rollercoaster of the Mercenaries of Metal tour, highlighting an incident where drummer Dave Holland nearly succumbs to the pressures of band life. Halford begins to reconnect romantically with a young fan named Josh, whom he meets during the Minnesota show, marking a transition into a more stable relationship after the chaos of his past with Brad.

However, personal happiness is shadowed by impending legal troubles stemming from a tragic incident involving the band's music and youth



suicides. This development threatens to derail their career at a time when they are poised for a new beginning with their upcoming album, "Painkiller."

In conclusion, the chapter depicts Halford's journey through trauma, recovery, creative rebirth, and the complex dance of personal and professional life within the realm of rock and roll. The mosaic of grief, love, and artistic identity is portrayed with earnest emotion, paving the way for a compelling narrative of resilience in the face of adversity.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: 17. I–I–I asked her for a peppermint!

In a poignant yet absurd turn of events, Chapter 17 of "Confess" by Rob Halford recounts a harrowing legal battle faced by the iconic band Judas Priest following a tragedy in 1985. Two young men, James Vance and Raymond Belknap, had formed a suicide pact, resulting in the death of Belknap and severe injuries to Vance. In a bizarre twist, Vance's family claimed that the band's music incited their sons' tragic decision and subsequently pursued a lawsuit against Judas Priest for \$6.6 million, alleging subliminal messages in their album "Stained Class."

As the trial commenced in Reno in July 1990, Halford and his bandmates felt a mix of disbelief and frustration. They were bombarded with absurd accusations regarding hidden lyrics in songs that allegedly encouraged suicide. Audio engineers claimed they had detected phrases urging harm when songs were played backward, leading to a surreal courtroom experience where ludicrous arguments were pitted against the band's genuine intent and artistry.

1. Legal and Emotional Stakes: The case was not just about potential financial consequences; it represented a fundamental battle for freedom of expression in music, and the band had to navigate the court's convoluted atmosphere while dealing with the immense emotional weight of the tragedy



that had occurred.

2. A Mixed Courtroom Experience: Halford and his bandmates faced a courtroom that felt more like a theater—a far cry from their experiences in British courts. Despite the chaos, Halford displayed a level of sympathy for the grieving families, recognizing their pain, while grappling with the ludicrousness of the case brought against them.

3. Media Strategy and Public Defense: The band utilized various media appearances to voice their side of the story. Halford engaged with shock jock Howard Stern, gaining support, while avoiding the ambush of a televised debate where they would face the plaintiffs' parents, indicative of the drastic differences in legal proceedings between the UK and the US.

4. The Trial Dynamics: The trial took place without a jury, under the supervision of a conservative judge who had already set a challenging precedent by allowing the case to go forward, despite claims of "backmasking" not being protected under the First Amendment. As the band's defense outlined the boys' troubled backgrounds, it made the circumstance even more tragic.

5. Epiphany in the Courtroom: Halford's testimony highlighted the absurdities of the accusations, which included the amusing revelation that any audio could potentially yield nonsensical phrases when played in



reverse. This included humorous examples he provided to illustrate the ridiculousness of the sobering accusations.

6. The Verdict and Personal Reflection: Ultimately, the judge ruled largely in favor of the band, citing lack of intentional malice. However, Halford felt resentment that the ruling did not fully exonerate them, leaving a lingering doubt in the aftermath of the trial.

As the band prepared for their next album, "Painkiller," Halford found himself reflecting on the pressures of fame and his own struggles with identity, emotions saturated by the events that transpired both in court and in his personal life. Their following tour saw newfound energy as they sought to reclaim their artistic direction against the backdrop of ongoing personal and professional challenges.

Halford, faced with the fallout from the trial and the strain of touring, experienced an emotional downturn as he wrestled with relationships and his own identity. Feeling isolated, he confronted hard truths about his past relationships with straight men, often seeking acceptance in unattainable places. This chapter serves as a rich examination of Halford's journey through tragedy, legal troubles, and personal reflection as he navigates the intersecting realms of fame and individual struggles within the heavy metal scene.



## Chapter 18: 18. Loose lips sink ships

Rob Halford's journey in this chapter unfolds with a mix of personal reflections and a glimpse into the complexities of his professional life during a transitional period.

1. Establishing Connections: Halford shares his friendship with John Baxter, a supportive figure who encourages him to explore a solo music project amidst his feelings of disenchantment with Judas Priest. This pivotal decision reflects Halford's desire for independence and creativity. Inspired by Baxter's belief in his potential, Halford contemplates a solo career, emphasizing his need for a fresh start while still valuing his time with Priest.

2. Announcement and Miscommunication: Halford's decision to inform band management about his solo plans leads to a significant miscommunication. His initial fax, intended to express a need for a break, is interpreted as a resignation from the band, prompting an aggressive response from Bill Curbishley. This moment signifies the stark contrasts between Halford's intentions and the implications of his words, revealing the fragility of his

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## Chapter 19 Summary: 19. Knocking on Sharon Tate's door

In this chapter of Rob Halford's "Confess," the musician reflects on his tumultuous relationships, career challenges, and eventual realization of his identity as a gay man. The narrative unfolds as follows:

- 1. Struggles with Relationships:** Rob feels regret over a failed connection with Thomas, a sweet but sheltered man. His friendship with Steve serves as an outlet, where he shares his past loves that often ended in heartache due to their heterosexuality. Encouraged by Steve, he reaches out to Thomas again, leading to a deeper emotional connection established through long conversations from a public payphone in Alabama.
- 2. Musical Endeavors:** With the fallout of his initial solo career, Rob turns to creating a second Fight album. This time, he collaborates with a new guitarist, leading to a diverse sound. Despite the album's poor sales, he finds solace in writing music, using studio time to unwind while eagerly anticipating phone calls with Thomas.
- 3. Building a Life Together:** As his bond with Thomas strengthens, Rob invites him to live with him after a successful visit to Phoenix. For the first time, he discovers a genuine relationship with someone who shares his sexuality, contrasting sharply with his past relationships with straight men.





**4. Confronting Career Changes:** Rob faces the reality that Judas Priest has moved on after hiring a new singer, Tim “Ripper” Owens, leaving him feeling abandoned and sad. His exploration of different sounds leads him to a project called 2wo, where he experiments with industrial music, ultimately realizing it doesn’t fulfill him.

**5. Courage to Come Out:** During an MTV interview meant to promote his new project, Rob unexpectedly comes out publicly as a gay man, which liberates him from years of hiding. The reaction is overwhelmingly positive, providing him with a newfound sense of peace and connection with his fans.

**6. Navigating New Horizons:** Following his coming out, Rob's music career shifts again. The project 2wo struggles commercially, and he decides to transition back into heavy metal, seeking to reestablish his identity. He forms a new band called Halford, drawing on his roots while also feeling an urgency to reconnect with Judas Priest.

**7. Rekindling Old Bonds:** The narrative culminates with Rob's heartfelt desire to return to Judas Priest after years of separation. He pours his feelings into a letter to the band, expressing his longing to reunite and emphasizing that being together makes more sense than being apart. This letter becomes a pivotal moment, hinting at a potential reconciliation.



Throughout the chapter, Halford weaves themes of personal growth, profound love, and the intricate dance between identity and artistic expression. His journey highlights unconditional love, the significance of authenticity, and the challenges of forging a path in both life and music.

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## Chapter 20 Summary: 20. The Queen and I

In the twentieth chapter of "Confess" by Rob Halford, the narrative unfolds with the long-anticipated reunion of Judas Priest, highlighting significant milestones for both the band and Halford himself.

1. The reunion process begins when Bill, the band's manager, contacts Halford after he shares a heartfelt letter. His arrival in England shortly follows, propelling the band towards addressing their past and the potential for their future together. Meeting Glenn, a significant figure from Halford's life and career, rekindles feelings of camaraderie, allowing the band to set aside years of silence and conflict.
2. A subsequent meeting at a Holiday Inn marks an important turning point, where both the atmosphere and Bill's practical proposals foster a sense of optimism among the band members. The prospect of joining the Ozzfest tour reaffirms their path forward and sets the stage for their reintegration into the music scene.
3. The rehearsal process is reintroduced with energy, as they reconnect by playing "Living After Midnight." This emotional reconnection reinvigorates their shared passion for music. Ozzfest, with its impressive lineup, becomes a landmark event that allows Priest to reclaim their place in the metal world, drawing admiring comments from contemporaries.



4. Halford's adaptation to using a teleprompter highlights the toll that past struggles with substance abuse has taken on him. Despite challenges, the tour is marked by thrilling performances and a surge in audience attendance, with nightly crowds reaching 30,000—a stark reminder of the band's impact and resonance.

5. A pivotal moment occurs when Sharon Osbourne calls Halford, requesting his help for Ozzy during a performance. Without much preparation, Halford steps into the role, showcasing his resilience and longstanding association with Ozzy's band. Despite a few hiccups during the performance, such as missteps with the song "Paranoid," the show concludes successfully, further intertwining Halford's fate with rock legends.

6. Following the tour, the band embarks on a new album, "Angel of Retribution." Working collaboratively in a makeshift Californian studio, they express renewed creativity, fueled by their shared history and experiences during their hiatus. Halford's ambition manifests in the album title, conveying themes of vengeance and triumph.

7. Personal milestones mark Halford's journey, notably, he meets Queen Elizabeth II during a prestigious reception celebrating British music. The encounter underscores Halford's lifelong admiration for the monarchy and enriches his narrative with a sense of cultural significance.



8. As the chapter progresses, the “Retribution” tour revitalizes both the band and Halford's passion, culminating in successful performances across continents. The notion of retirement begins to surface, particularly as the band members grapple with their aging and physical challenges on stage.

9. This introspection leads to discussions that suggest a potential final tour named "Epitaph," which would encapsulate their extensive legacy and provide closure. Yet, in an unexpected twist, band member K.K. Downing's resignation raises questions about the band's future and tests their cohesion.

Overall, this chapter chronicles a remarkable journey of reconciliation, creativity, and resilience as Halford and Judas Priest navigate their shared history and contemplate their legacy in the heavy metal community while confronting personal and professional challenges. The blending of triumph and tragedy offers a compelling look at their ongoing evolution and the enduring power of music to bridge divides and inspire connection.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Reunion and Forgiveness

**Critical Interpretation:** The reunion of Judas Priest signifies a powerful lesson in the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. As you navigate relationships in your own life, let this chapter inspire you to reach out to those with whom you've lost touch or have unresolved conflicts. Embracing the courage to forgive, to set aside past grievances, and to reconnect with old friends can revitalize your spirit and lead to unexplored potentials. This journey, much like Halford's, can transform your connections, energize your passions, and open new doors to personal growth and happiness, proving that every relationship has the capacity for renewal.

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## Chapter 21: 21. The April Fool that wasn't

Ken's sudden resignation from the band was like a thunderbolt, catching everyone off guard. Although there had been murmurs of dissatisfaction during the tour, no one realized the gravity of his discontent. With a looming Epitaph tour and bookings already made, the band faced a dire situation, necessitating an urgent search for a replacement guitarist. Ken requested to keep his departure under wraps until just before the tour, but this added to the urgency of finding a suitable replacement.

The search led to Pete Friesen, a skilled Canadian guitarist, who eventually pointed the band toward Richie Faulkner. Richie, initially skeptical, thought the outreach was an April Fool's joke; however, upon realizing it was genuine, his excitement grew. After meeting the band in a quaint country setting, he demonstrated his considerable talent during a jam session, proving to be an excellent fit for Judas Priest. The transition was seamless, as Richie picked up the band's extensive catalog with remarkable speed.

Amidst the frenzy of tour preparations, Rob grappled with the decline of

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## Chapter 22 Summary: 22. The fire and power of heavy metal

Chapter 22 of "Confess" by Rob Halford encapsulates the intertwining of personal challenges and musical triumphs that define the heavy metal icon's life.

1. The chapter begins with devastating news for Halford and his bandmate Glenn Tipton: Glenn has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a condition he may have been contending with for five years. Halford reflects on how this revelation recontextualizes Glenn's struggles during the band's tours, making his accomplishments seem nearly miraculous. Despite the shock of the news, Glenn approaches his illness with a heavy metal resolve, expressing his desire to continue contributing to Judas Priest as long as he is able, showcasing the indomitable spirit that heavy metal musicians often embody.

2. After completing their album "Redeemer of Souls," Halford shares a delightful experience meeting Lady Gaga, highlighting a crossover of musical worlds. Gaga's excitement upon meeting Halford underscores the respect and admiration that transcends genres. The album itself enjoys strong commercial success, proving skeptics wrong and solidifying Priest's place in the music scene.



3. The subsequent "Redeemer of Souls" tour not only celebrated the band's legacy but also introduced a playful dynamic by bringing the humorous spoof band Steel Panther along as support. Despite initial apprehension from the bandmates, Steel Panther's infectious energy ultimately won over the crowds. The tour also marked the thirtieth anniversary of "Defenders of the Faith," allowing fans to relive classics from the Priest catalog, reinforcing the band's enduring appeal.

4. Halford reminisces about poignant moments on the road, including a bittersweet encounter with Lemmy from Motörhead ahead of his untimely death. This moment of kinship serves as a reminder of the powerful bonds shared within the rock community, characterized by mutual respect and admiration despite personal struggles.

5. Following personal tragedy, as Halford's mother succumbs to complications from Parkinson's, he reflects on the profound impact she had on his life, encapsulating her encouraging mantra, "Are you happy, Rob?" Her passing serves as a pivotal moment in Halford's life, evoking a sense of closure and remembrance.

6. The narrative shifts to the creation of "Firepower," where Halford expresses a deep commitment to capturing the essence of Judas Priest's sound. Teaming up with producer Tom Allom and newcomer Andy Sneap energizes the recording process, filled with dedication and a drive for



perfection. The resulting album achieves both critical and commercial success, solidifying its place in the band's storied history.

7. Unfortunately, as the "Firepower" tour unfolds, Glenn's battle with Parkinson's becomes more evident, compelling him to step back from touring. In an emotional moment of solidarity, Halford supports Glenn's decision to prioritize his health. This transition sees Andy slip into Glenn's role, demonstrating the band's resilience and ability to adapt.

8. The tour garners extensive acclaim, bolstered by powerful performances and a renewed energy among band members, even as Glenn joins them onstage when possible. Halford's emotional connection to Glenn offers poignant moments during gigs, reminding fans of the importance of camaraderie and courage in facing adversity.

9. Halford's interactions with fans are both humorous and reflective. An incident involving a fan holding a phone too close while recording prompts an impulsive reaction from Halford, exploring the impact of technology on live performances. This moment becomes an online talking point, demonstrating Halford's playful yet candid personality.

10. As the chapter concludes, Halford reflects on the surreal experiences of meeting fellow artists, including Johnny Depp. Their unexpected connection over shared past experiences illustrates the intertwining lives and histories



within the rock music scene.

This chapter isn't just a chronicle of Halford's life; it embodies the resiliency of the human spirit, the enduring magic of music, and the profound connections forged through shared experiences, all against the vibrant backdrop of heavy metal's persistent fire and power.

Section	Summary
1	Halford learns of his bandmate Glenn Tipton's Parkinson's diagnosis, reflecting on the strength and resolve Glenn shows in continuing with Judas Priest.
2	Halford shares a meeting with Lady Gaga, emphasizing the mutual respect across musical genres and the success of their album "Redeemer of Souls."
3	The "Redeemer of Souls" tour includes support from the parody band Steel Panther, which adds fun to the tour while celebrating "Defenders of the Faith" anniversary.
4	Halford recalls a touching moment with Lemmy from Motörhead, highlighting the solidarity in the rock community amidst challenges.
5	Halford reflects on the loss of his mother, who inspired him with the question "Are you happy, Rob?" and how her passing brought closure.
6	The creation of "Firepower" involves collaboration with producer Tom Allom and newcomer Andy Sneap, resulting in critical and commercial success.
7	As Glenn's condition worsens, he steps back from touring, leading to Halford's support for Glenn's decision while Andy takes over his role.
8	The "Firepower" tour receives acclaim with powerful performances, emotional moments from Halford regarding Glenn's contribution when possible.



Section	Summary
9	Halford's humorous interaction with a fan recording a performance highlights his candid personality and the impact of technology on concerts.
10	Concluding reflections on meeting artists like Johnny Depp showcase the intertwined stories within the music scene, illustrating shared experiences.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace resilience in the face of adversity

**Critical Interpretation:** As you navigate through your own life's challenges, consider the example set by Glenn Tipton's unwavering spirit despite his Parkinson's diagnosis. Instead of succumbing to despair, embody his determination to continue playing and creating music, reminding yourself that true strength lies in resilience. Much like heavy metal musicians who confront their personal demons head-on, you can draw inspiration from their courage, allowing it to fuel your own journey. Whenever obstacles arise, remember that your capacity to persevere and adapt can transform struggles into triumphs, turning every setback into a stepping stone towards your ultimate aspirations.

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