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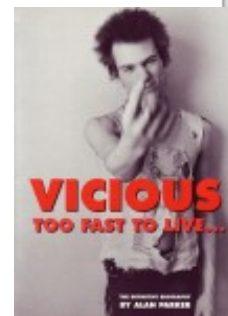


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Vicious: Too Fast to Live by Alan Parker

Still in Memphis, I spent the evening reading *Vicious: Too Fast to Live...*, billed as “The Definitive Biography” by Alan Parker. Parker has written books about Sid Vicious before (though I’ve never seen them) and he’s clearly passionate about the topic. He has a sense of mission in clearing Sid’s name of the accusation that he murdered his girlfriend Nancy Spungen. Parker points to Rockets Redglare, Sid’s drug connection in New York, as the real culprit, the motive being that Redglare robbed Sid and Nancy of a substantial amount of cash from their room at the Chelsea Hotel. Parker doesn’t stop there, however, as he also believes that Redglare provided Sid the fix that killed him. The dose Redglare gave Sid was much purer than was the typical fix available at the time, but Sid was apparently unaware of this. What this book brings out is that the real tragedy occurred much earlier in Sid’s life. Always unstable, Sid was drawn into the role of punk icon without the maturity to manage the demands it placed on him or the attention it drew to him. Parker interviewed Anne Beverly, Sid’s Mother (I guess that’s what makes this the “definitive” biography), and her words give the reader a much more human view of Sid Vicious than other Sid-as-punk-icon books and articles. I can’t say that I came away from the book regarding Sid or his mother as entirely sympathetic characters, at least not as much as Parker seems to want to portray them. So much of the shit that happened to Sid was of his own making. Still, you can’t help but feel pity for someone in so far over his head. I can’t completely recommend this book—it’s



a little slight, especially given the wealth of material that Parker had to draw on, but it is an interesting read.

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One Response to “Vicious: Too Fast to Live by Alan Parker”

1. **Luis Fernandez de la Reguera** Says:

[February 1st, 2006 at 1:07 am](#)

Its easy to defame the dead and defenseless, Parker, why didnt you come forth with this info for the the 20 plus years after Sid died and Rockets Redglare was alive? hmmm?

To sell books. Thats why.

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