



For Immediate Release

Headlong Into Harm's *The Completely Unverified True Story of a Reality Television Superstar* Tackles Life, Love and Memory in the Era of Trash TV

Do you ever get that “I’m not sure this is how this really happened” feeling when watching reality television? Mick Rhodes gets that. But mostly when thinking about his own life, which, not coincidentally, has been defined by his stint on a house-sharing series. That series ended with him catching his fiancée with another man and the fisticuffs that followed, throwing the show into turmoil.

The fans still rave about it.

So why, eight years after “the Mick and Parker incident” has become the stuff of unscripted television legend, has he agreed to a reunion with his former cast members, including his ex and her lover? He has bills to pay.

The Completely Unverified True Story of a Reality Television Superstar follows Mick as he returns to television on a coast-to-coast scavenger hunt. Because it’s all in the name of ratings, it includes contrived challenges in the vein of standard reality television fare, sending the cast to snake sanctuaries, indie rock clubs and the headquarters of ginormous tech companies.

While he navigates challenges and struggles with the residual ill will of the love triangle, Mick also comes to terms with issues much too large for the small screen. Notably, there’s a gap between how he remembers things and how the footage portrays them, and he’s not entirely sure if it’s television producers or his subconscious editing these moments to play out better.

Completely Unverified is Matt Schild’s debut novel, but it draws heavily on the voice and perspective he developed covering underground music and culture (and occasionally reality television, much to his dismay) for *The A.V. Club*, *Village Voice* titles, *TV Guide* and as founder of the much missed underground music staple *Aversion.com*. Drawing comparisons to Nick Hornby, Jonathan Coe and Sam Lipsyte, Schild’s voice equally reveres and loathes pop culture.

Turn off the T.V., grab a beer and join Mick in his hilarious struggles to find meaning in a world of editing magic.