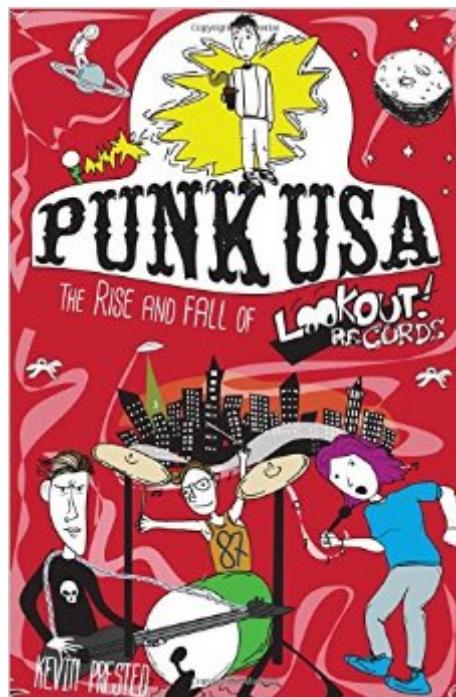


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# Punk USA: The Rise And Fall Of Lookout Records (Punx)



## Synopsis

Through hundreds of exclusive and original interviews, Punk USA documents an empire that was built overnight as Lookout sold millions of records and rode the wave of the second coming of punk rock until it all came crashing down. In 1987, Lawrence Livermore founded independent punk label Lookout Records to release records by his band The Lookouts. Forming a partnership with David Hayes, the label released some of the most influential recordings from California's East Bay punk scene, including a then-teenaged Green Day. Originally operating out of a bedroom, Lookout created "The East Bay Punk sound, with bands such as Crimpshrine, Operation Ivy, The Mr. T Experience, and many more. The label helped to pave the way for future punk upstarts and as Lookout grew, young punk entrepreneurs used the label as a blueprint to try their hand at record pressing. As punk broke nationally in the mid 90s the label went from indie outfit to having more money than it knew how to manage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The story of the rise and fall of Lookout! Records is undeniably interesting. As someone who was generally familiar with the story (and certainly familiar with many of the original Lookout! bands) I was looking forward to an enjoyable, informative and nostalgic look back at this important period of punk music history. Unfortunately, this book fails to deliver on multiple levels, many of which would be so easily fixable by a half-decent editor. In the forward to the book, the author notes that this book

was initially twice as long. He rightfully cut it in half, claiming to eliminate a lot of the nitty gritty detail surrounding each and every Lookout! release. Even with this self-editing, the book oddly suffers from both including too much detail and too little detail. While some of this is forgivable because, after all, this is the story of Lookout! and not about any individual band, the fact that so much time is devoted to the bands makes the author's approach all the more confusing. For example, while Operation Ivy's releases are covered in brief detail and there are various references to Operation Ivy being the top Lookout! band at the time, there is no mention about how Operation Ivy fell apart. Instead, about a quarter of the way through the book, the author says "With Operation Ivy off the scene." Given the excruciating detail given to much more insignificant bands, this omission is very odd. The author also relies heavily (way too heavily) on quotes from various band members and former Lookout! employees. In theory, this could be a good approach, but you can tell that the author is so excited to have these quotes that he doesn't want to edit them in any way, and he is dead set on using, what seems to be, every single one he has.

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