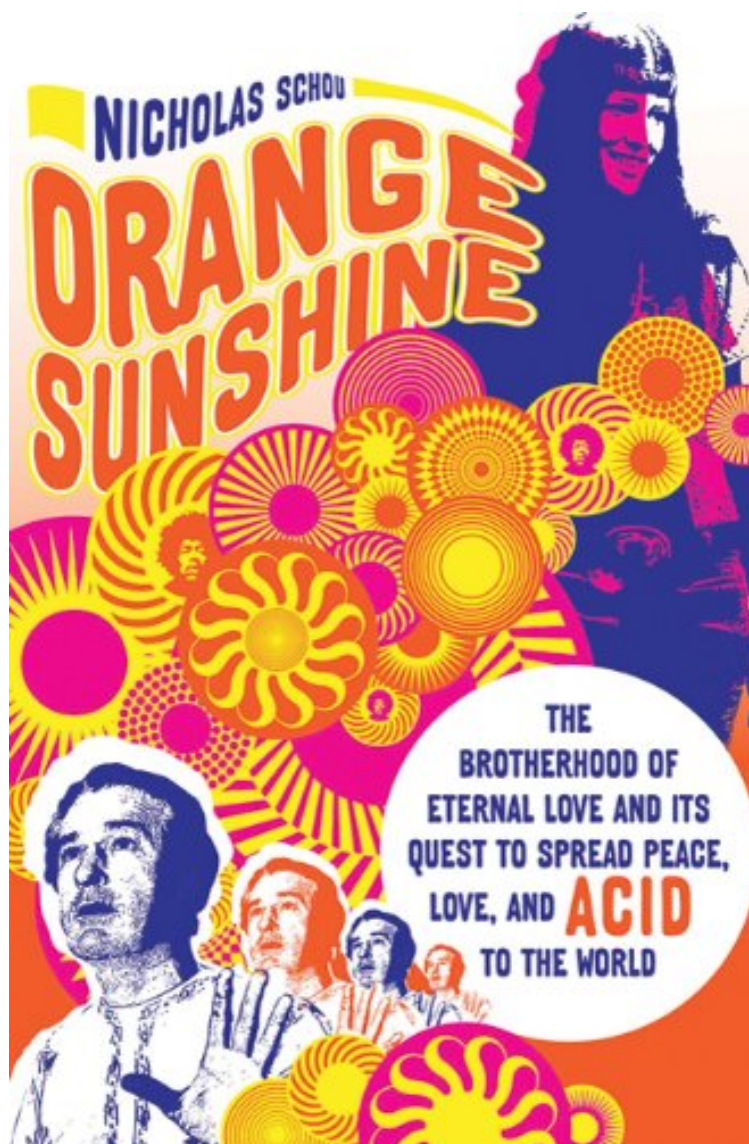


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Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World

Nicholas Schou

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Nicholas Schou : **Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Orange SunshineBy RichardI came of age just as this stuff was

making its way in to my mid-western, small town. Yes, I partook. WOW! I don't recommend drug use, but this stuff was something else. I had friends who took it and became fish, another made love to the lawn in back of our old high school, --- and as for me, the sky became Van Gogh's *Starry Night* as the the street wrapped up around us, and I found myself riding in a car shooting down a tube. This is an interesting history of a type of LSD that (and I say this with all candor and humility) changed the world. There are people walking around today, in high (forgive my use of that word) places, running things that ingested this stuff. Orange Sunshine rippled out through time and has shaped our world. (Sorry Bill, a lot of people did inhale.). --- This book is a well written history that filled in a lot of background of my youth, a good story that most are not aware of, and in today's sad and tragic drug culture, most will never understand. If you want to better understand the late 60's and early 70's, this is your book.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Mind-bender
By David I. Cahill
Imagine getting blasted on pot and putting Jimi Hendrix's "Band of Gypsies" on the stereo system. A few minutes later, Hendrix himself walks in with a six-pack of Miller High Life, saying "I don't like that album. It's imperfect." This is not fantasy but reality. It's the summer of 1970 on Maui, Hawaii, where Hendrix performed a free concert on the slopes of the Haleakala Volcano while being filmed, along with Les Potts (the lucky partaker of Hendrix's beer) and other Brotherhood of Eternal Love members for the music documentary, *Jimi Hendrix - Rainbow Bridge*. This scene doesn't begin to describe the incidents and events packed into this history of the early LSD-drenched days of the sixties in the LA area (with excursions to Hawaii and Afghanistan). Many books have been written about the sixties. This one concentrates specifically on the cast of bizarre characters who morphed from petty rebel-with-a-cause-type criminals running around looking for people to beat up, into peaceniks out to save the world by means of (literally) millions of doses of Orange Sunshine - reputed to be the finest acid ever produced on a mass scale. Some of these events are so unbelievable as to scarcely be imagined and unlikely to ever occur again in any locale, like the 1970 "Christmas Happening" in Laguna Canyon, which attempted to outdo Woodstock by getting all 25,000 participants (150,000 were expected) high on acid after thousands of hits Orange Sunshine were dumped over the crowd by plane. The festival, with hordes of naked people, many freely having sex and many more extremely hungry due to nonexistent planning for food, was brutally broken up and cleared out a day later by the police. Then there was the very far-out smuggling operation employing a sailboat packed with high-grade marijuana that successfully made the journey from Mexico to Hawaii through high seas and storms - by a crew with little-to-no maritime experience and no navigation equipment except the stars. For all the wildness and insane schemes, this was an unprecedented era in modern times unlikely ever to be repeated, when economic prosperity, an increasingly educated population, and the irrepressible American brand of creativity and individualism came together and flared for a few years before too many red lines were crossed and the Establishment came down hard. We have taken quite a detour since (Nixon, Reagan, the Bushes) but things may be picking up again with the groundswell of national support for marijuana legalization. The sixties is not over yet.

Nicholas Schou did a lot of digging and has succeeded in weaving a richly detailed yet economically told account. The major lacuna, to my mind, is with so much focus on the histrionics and spectacles, and the author's suppressing of his own point of view in the interest of journalistic objectivity, we seldom get into the actual heads of the main actors (John Griggs, Eddie Padilla, Johnny Gale, Timothy Leary, etc.). LSD was the prime mover of this history, yet one almost suspects Schou himself has never ingested any (I can't believe he hasn't), what with the utter absence of any sustained descriptions of the LSD experience that would help clarify for the uninitiated reader what animated these crazy people to live fascinating lives on the edge (here we miss our genius drug muse Terence McKenna, e.g. *True Hallucinations: Being an Account of the Author's Extraordinary Adventures in the Devil's Paradise*).

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. If you surfed or grew up in Sothern California during this time, you will find this a very intertaining and fascinating read.
By John Lee
Very interesting and informative read. Lots of fascinating details about the players in this saga and where these events took place. I know of no other source or reference where this information has been compiled in one place. I like the author's point of view, in that he attempts to convey facts from this era as well as real quotes from the individuals being described. He does not slant the narrative either pro-drug use or anti-drug use; which is not easy to do when relating this sort of story.

Few stories in the annals of American counterculture are as intriguing or dramatic as that of the Brotherhood of Eternal Love. Dubbed the "Hippie Mafia," the Brotherhood began in the mid-1960s as a small band of peace-loving, adventure-seeking surfers in Southern California. After discovering LSD, they took to Timothy Leary's mantra of "Turn on, tune in, and drop out" and resolved to make that vision a reality by becoming the biggest group of acid dealers and hashish smugglers in the nation, and literally providing the fuel for the psychedelic revolution in the process. Just days after California became the first state in the union to ban LSD, the Brotherhood formed a legally registered church in its headquarters at Mystic Arts World on Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach, where they sold blankets and other countercultural paraphernalia retrieved through surfing safaris and road trips to exotic locales in Asia and South America. Before long, they also began to sell Afghan hashish, Hawaiian pot (the storied "Maui Wowie"), and eventually Colombian cocaine, much of which the Brotherhood smuggled to California in secret compartments inside surfboards and Volkswagen minibuses driven across the border. They also befriended Leary

himself, enlisting him in the goal of buying a tropical island where they could install the former Harvard philosophy professor and acid prophet as the high priest of an experimental utopia. The Brotherhood's most legendary contribution to the drug scene was homemade: Orange Sunshine, the group's nickname for their trademark orange-colored acid tablet that happened to produce an especially powerful trip. Brotherhood foot soldiers passed out handfuls of the tablets to communes, at Grateful Dead concerts, and at love-ins up and down the coast of California and beyond. The Hell's Angels, Charles Manson and his followers, and the unruly crowd at the infamous Altamont music festival all tripped out on this acid. Jimi Hendrix even appeared in a film starring Brotherhood members and performed a private show for the fugitive band of outlaws on the slope of a Hawaiian volcano. Journalist Nicholas Schou takes us deep inside the Brotherhood, combining exclusive interviews with both the group's surviving members as well as the cops who chased them. A wide-sweeping narrative of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll (and more drugs) that runs from Laguna Beach to Maui to Afghanistan, Orange Sunshine explores how America moved from the era of peace and free love into a darker time of hard drugs and paranoia.

From Publishers Weekly Drug dealers with delusions of grandeur populate this colorful but overwrought history of the Brotherhood of Eternal Love, a 1960s-era narcotics ring-cum-hippie church. Influenced by psychedelic prophet Timothy Leary—who called the group's leader, former high school bully John Griggs, the holiest man in America—the California-based Brotherhood styled its cheap, extra-strength Orange Sunshine brand of LSD as a pathway to God. Journalist Schou (*Kill the Messenger*) takes the spiritual purpose of these psychedelic warriors, along with their solemn acid-dropping sacraments and utopian pipe dreams, rather too seriously. (He likewise inflates their sporadic ventures scoring Mexican marijuana and Afghan hashish into a global smuggling empire.) His narrative quickly devolves into a haphazard picaresque of drug deals, drug busts, overdoses, surfing, rock concerts (Jimi Hendrix does a cameo), orgies, and people living in teepees. Schou sometimes forgets that reading about other people's acid trips—The whole sky took on huge forms of dancing Buddhas and the energy got really bright—is a drag. Still, the mixture of lively freakery and stoned pomposity gives his portrait of countercultural excess an authentic period feel. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist The Brotherhood of Eternal Love was a group of 1960s hippie visionaries with a plan. Imagine an America in which LSD is a common source of inspiration and insight for the whole populace, and the pronouncements of Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, and other academic space cowboys are prized philosophical touchstones. Such, more or less, was the group's goal as producer-distributors of the famous Orange Sunshine LSD that was a part of campus all over America in the late '60s. At its organizational peak, the Brotherhood funded the Weather Underground and the Black Panthers to successfully break Leary out of prison. Schou interviewed remaining Brotherhood members (who, unlike acid-gobbling pop musicians, seem to have largely retained their memories), gleaned impressive amounts of detail for his discussions of the ins and outs of the era's drug trade and the moving of vast quantities of marijuana and hashish along with the LSD. Loaded with little-known historical motes, this is an excellent chronicle of a piece of history unlikely to be repeated. --Mike Tribby "Nicholas Schou manages -- amazingly -- to penetrate four decades of silence....The result is a mind-blowing scrap of found history, like something buried deep in the earth -- and you cannot avert your eyes....With Orange Sunshine, Schou has crafted a definitive history of the dark side of the 1960s." ?Los Angeles Times "Orange Sunshine, ' is as close to an 'authorized' story as there's likely to be. Much of it reads more like fiction than history....the Brotherhood's story reads like some mystical adventure tale from a long-gone era. But for a peek at those heady times, 'Orange Sunshine' is one worthy flashback." ?San Francisco Chronicle "Journalist Nicholas Schou did yeoman's work digging into the story of the band of hippies that became a huge LSD cartel in the 1970s. He interviewed many former members, some of them not that happy to be found, earning their trust over some four years." ?San Diego Union-Tribune "Schou interviewed remaining Brotherhood members (who, unlike acid-gobbling pop musicians, seem to have largely retained their memories), gleaned impressive amounts of detail for his discussions of the ins and outs of the era's drug trade and the moving of vast quantities of marijuana and hashish along with the LSD. Loaded with little-known historical motes, this is an excellent chronicle of a piece of history unlikely to be repeated." ?Booklist "A fascinating read for any audience and essential history for anyone interested in the roots of psychedelia." ?Kirkus s "His book is a roller-coaster ride through many of the Brotherhood's biggest smuggling adventures, and also provides hilarious details into daily life in Dodge City. Most important, Schou finally dispels the myth Tim Leary was the leader of the Brotherhood of Eternal Love." ?High Times (Four "cannabis" review) "Colorful ... the mixture of lively freakery and stoned pomposity gives [Schou's] portrait of countercultural excess an authentic period feel." ?Publishers Weekly "OC Weekly reporter Nicholas Schou spent four years uncovering the brotherhood's surreal, largely unknown story, pulling together written accounts of its history and run-ins with the law and persuading brotherhood members to be interviewed decades after its demise....Read Schou's well-researched and compelling book to decide for yourself about the brotherhood's true legacy." ?Orange Coast magazine "His reporting is diligent, and his story comes mostly from the mouths of participants speaking for the first time on the record after decades of hiding deep underground. That story deserves to be told." ?Reason "Orange Sunshine reads so much like classic Thomas Pynchon--with its mind-bending and hilarious tale of a secret society of mystic surfers who bomb Southern California

with LSD--that the reader has to wonder: Is 'Nick Schou' a pseudonym?" ?Mike Davis, author of *City of Quartz*, *Planet of Slums*, and *In Praise of Barbarians* "Nick Schou has uncovered a bizarre, wild ride of a story that seems straight out of *Easy Rider* or *Zabriskie Point*--except it really happened. *Orange Sunshine* serves as a valuable time capsule from the American counterculture. It's also one hell of a fun read." ?Rob Kirkpatrick, author of *1969: The Year Everything Changed*