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Unprovoked Attack Biography and Discography

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Origin: East Weron, North Triston

Musical genre: Blackened Death Metal

Activity: May 2005 – April 2016, June 2018 – present

Record labels: Nuclear Attack Records, Epilogue Records

Current lineup

Victor Hargreaves: lead vocals, rhythm guitars, programming, songwriting, lyrics, management, album art (2005 – 2016, 2018 – present)

Jenny Abingdon: bass, backing vocals and songwriting (2018 – present)

Ernie Westford: lead guitars and songwriting (2019 – present)

Wilma Park: drums (2018 – present)

Former members

Freya Koston: bass, backing vocals, songwriting (2005 – 2012)

Andrea Ryan: drums (2005 – 2008, 2008 – 2013)

Ron Jaeger: lead guitars, songwriting (2005 – 2016)

Rosalind Rathjen: drums (2008)

Anne Bartlett: bass, backing vocals (2012 – 2016) (died 2016)

Nicola Davenport: drums (2013 – 2015)

Pyotr Vujin: drums (2015 – 2016)

Vasily Tkachenko: lead guitars (2018 – 2019)

Releases

EPs:

Decaying Ruins of Sanity (August 9th/September 9th 2007)

Dead In the Alleyway (Split with Stabbed to Death) (September 14th 2015)

LPs and full length albums:

Thrones of Brutality (cover album) (November 21st 2008)

Unprovoked Attack (November 21st 2008)

Perpetual Darkness (June 29th 2010)

Process of Elimination (February 5th 2012)

Natural Selection (January 14th 2014)

Currently untitled sixth studio album (TBA)

History and formation

Severed Head, which Victor Hargreaves, a gold bat, fronted as rhythm guitarist and lead vocalist, disbanded in 2001 after the drummer was arrested for money laundering and arms dealing for the Cartel operating in Smokestacks and Caesia. Following this, Victor kept out of the spotlight, though he regularly attended concerts that were held in and around Weron, particularly those who helped to influence his lyric writing while in Severed Head. He was momentarily plunged into a deep depression when the vocalist of one of his key influences, Three Paths, openly insulted all of the members of the lineup upon spotting him in the crowd.

When he attended one of Troll's concerts in early 2005, he spotted a fox he recognised from Alternative Metal band Naked Flame standing next to a moshpit near the front of the crowd. Victor had seen his band perform and had taken a liking to his style. Upon introducing himself to the fox, Ron announced that he had

his own friends to introduce – Freya Koston, a dark blue panther who had played the bass and lead vocals in her high school band before leaving to serve in the Army, and Andrea Ryan, a white cat who had played the drums alongside her. And each of them had been looking to form another band, this time wanting to experiment with Death Metal.

The four arranged several jamming sessions in Victor's home not long after, where he was stunned by the performances of each of the three other musicians. With that, Victor announced on his website that he had formed a brand new band, which he named Unprovoked Attack. Freya would later take a permanent role as the bassist, backing vocalist and lead songwriter, Ron would act as the lead guitarist and secondary songwriter, and Andrea, whose precision and techniques Victor was particularly impressed with, would handle the band's drums and percussion.

Decaying Ruins of Sanity (2007)

The line-up was completed, and in 2007 the band entered Syndication Studios in Crilby to record a seven track demo CD over June and July with the help of the band's manager and producer, Robert Audrey. However, the production value was quite thin, with frequent changes in volume and heavy distortion of the bass and drums, rendering them sometimes inaudible under the guitars and vocals.

The album, named *Decaying Ruins of Sanity*, was self-released on the 9th of August. Dissatisfied with the album's poor quality and lacklustre sales, the band approached Robert and requested that they re-record their album. They were allowed the only available free slots at the time, and had finished remaking and remastering the demo in a week. The new version was self-released again and made its debut on the 9th of September, sporting a different design on its cover to the previous edition.

Unprovoked Attack (2007 – 2008)

Later on the band began to tour various parts of the country, though in later months focused mainly on Weron due to each of the members having taken up courses at the city's Angelika College. The band also covered songs from a number of other artists, with Victor having taken much of his influence from Troll, Dead Feast, Asphyxiation, Consumption of the Dead and Maniacal Surgery amongst others. Victor soon became known for his charisma on stage and his fast paced guitar solos, while the band itself became known for its complex song structures and very fast drumming.

Sometimes, the band members would poke fun at the stereotypes directed at their species. In particular, Victor and Freya played along with this, with Freya sometimes increasing the speed of her plucking whenever she was given a catnip bag, while Victor would introduce himself and the band by swinging down from a metal support beam and flying down to the stage.

Unfortunately, Victor was forced to fire Andrea after she was suspended after being found smoking crack cocaine in the women's toilets. Rosalind Rathjen, the band's session drummer, was recruited to take on Andrea's duties when she was admitted to a rehabilitation clinic. However, just as her treatment had finished, Rosalind suddenly departed from the band to spend more time with her family. Victor and Ron approached Andrea and she enthusiastically took up their offer for her to return to the band.

In the summer break of their college terms, the band approached Robert Audrey again to record their follow-up to their demo, *Unprovoked Attack*, as well as an album containing eight covers named *Thrones of Brutality*. This time, the recordings were near perfect and did not require much editing. For several months, no release date was stated, but both albums were eventually released in November 2008. Sales of the albums were surprisingly strong and managed to become one of the best selling Metal albums of that year, with many of the buyers having been fans of Severed Head.

"We hadn't expected the albums to sell out like this, even with my last band's legacy." said Victor in an interview the band took part in with *Black Heart Recordings* when asked about the sales of these releases. "Our demo didn't sell very well because of the production problems we encountered. So, we wanted to make a better impression with this album, and we hoped these albums would help to get us into the limelight and show the world who we are, beyond just advertising it during our concerts. Freya was the only one who thought it would sell well, but this goes beyond even her expectations."

Unfortunately, it was during this time that Victor's ex girlfriend began to stalk the band. He had been receiving incessant phone calls since the time he had broken up with her due to her extremely possessive behaviour and the amount of control she had exerted over him and the band, but by this point she had

started sneaking into his concerts, leading to Victor ordering that the security surrounding the band's concerts was tightened.

However, on December 28th 2008, she was able to bypass the front entrance of the Causeway Arena in Kryptbury, North Triston by flirting with the security guards, and invading the stage just as the band was getting ready to play their final song. This resulted in the band leaving the concert early, which in turn led to Brenda being chased out of the venue by furious audience members. The band has not played there again since this incident, and this quickly resulted in her becoming reviled by fans and other bands alike.

Perpetual Darkness (2008 – 2010)

Throughout 2009, the band embarked on a number of tours that took them to many parts of the world, concentrating on the promotion of their band and new releases. After nine months of touring, the band returned to North Triston to write material for and record their next album, which the band hoped would demonstrate a more technical side to their writing and deeper lyrical content. Indeed, the final track of the album took several months to write, and turned out to be by far the longest track on the album, clocking in at 13:20 in length. It was at about this time that the band started to also cover mental illness, society, doomsday scenarios and historical figures in their music as well as their previous themes and those that Victor had written about in his previous band.

On June 14th of that year, Ron survived an attempt on his life by Brenda, who had cornered him when an adoring fan, Ruth Lythall, had chased him out of his concert at the Nighttime club in Weron, North Triston. Separated from his band, he tried all he could to hide from the lovestruck skunk, only to run into Brenda, who had been armed with a butterfly knife. She slashed him across the chest, but the skunk intervened just as she had been about to stab him to death and prevented her from inflicting any more wounds. Brenda eventually left, vowing that she would strike again.

Following this event, the band tightened their security around their concerts even further and made sure that none of the band members were separated from each other or any of the security guards. Fortunately, Brenda ceased contacting the band entirely a few months afterwards, but made one final appearance much later.

Between further touring, the album's recording and editing was completed by the end of the year, and it was released midway through 2010. However, reviews for the album were generally not as favourable as they had been for their previous two albums due to the sudden switch in their musical style, although it still managed to sell a respectable number of copies. Indeed, several reviewers believed that the amount of technicality robbed them of the soul and passion that Victor's music was previously known for, much to the band's disappointment. Disheartened by the album's lukewarm reception, Victor turned his attention to refining his lyrical content, while Freya and Ron tried a more melodic approach in the songs they wrote for the next planned release.

Freya's departure and *Process of Elimination* (2011 – 2013)

Just one month later, the band was forced to temporarily suspend touring after Freya was involved in a car accident, in which she had broken her right leg. Despite Victor's recommendations, she had refused to leave the band and even insisted that she still take part in the tour that the band had coming up the week after. Thus, for the next few months, she performed in concerts using a wheelchair. As a result, they were quoted many times in Metal publications and on related websites, and even referenced by several other bands during their concerts for Freya's determination to keep serving her duties.

By the time she was finally able to walk again, their album was ready to be released, and an air of uncertainty was surrounding this release following the lacklustre reviews for their previous album. Breakdowns were frequent elements of this album, and four songs featured Freya on lead vocals rather than Victor. It would be released on February 5th 2012, and the more melodic approach meant that their music remained beautifully harmonic yet crushingly heavy in the eyes of many and scored perfect reviews across the board, much to the band's delight.

However, this was not to last. She was becoming dissatisfied with the band's musical direction, namely due to Victor's lyrics becoming more graphic with time. Additionally, she had recently broken up with her boyfriend and had found herself starting to fall for Ron. Due to his marriage, he was not interested in a relationship with her and both he and Victor had openly discouraged her from pursuing relationships with either of them.

She had concluded Victor had not wanted a repeat of what happened with his ex girlfriend, who by then had launched her own growing empire of strip clubs after her brother's murder and had seemingly forgotten about him after the final time they'd met. Consequently, she had not wanted to continue to work with him, so had departed from the band despite the remaining three members' attempts to keep her. She was replaced by a cheetah named Anne Bartlett, who had parted ways with her own band after falling out with its lead singer.

Andrea's departure and *Natural Selection* (2013 – 2014)

The band embarked on another tour spanning four months, which helped to boost the sales of the album. Much to their pleasant surprise, this album attracted very positive reviews. But at the beginning of 2013, only a few weeks after it concluded, Andrea was on her way home from visiting her family when the train she was travelling in derailed near the Cuthbertson City railway station. She had broken both of her legs and her right arm in the accident and damaged her spinal cord, leaving her paralysed from the waist down. This resulted in her needing to leave the band and end her career.

"It felt like history was repeating itself," said Victor in his interview with *Metal Brain Magazine*. "My friend Fred died in a car crash all the way back in '91. Andrea survived, and I'm glad she did. But she gave so much to the band and she is heartbroken that she can't do it any more. She loved being with us. All we can do is wish her the best in her recovery." Soon after this interview was aired, Nicola Davenport, a white rhino whose band Slain had disbanded just a few months earlier, was brought in as a replacement.

The band was ready to begin recording their next album, and after a great many delays, finally released *Natural Selection*, featuring some of the most grotesque lyrical content Victor had penned, as well as some of his most graphic album art. The album featured more tracks than had been featured on any other album save for the compilation release, having fifteen tracks, the last four being covers of one favourite Death Metal song of each member.

Anne's murder and Unprovoked Attack's disbandment (2015 – 2016)

While Andrea was no longer able to perform, she still stayed on as the band's manager and paired up with Victor to handle their administrative affairs and touring schedules. By then, Freya had formed an Industrial Metal band named Strife, with Andrea being the only one of her former bandmates she kept in touch with. Whenever she appeared in public, she got around using a motorised wheelchair, having completely lost the ability to walk or stand. Though she was crestfallen that a replacement had been found so quickly, she stated that she preferred that over the band breaking up on her account, but also felt glad that it hadn't suffered the same fate his previous band had.

However, after recording their split with Stabbed to Death in 2015, Nicola had begun to lose her desire to continue performing, believing her role was not as fulfilling as it had once been. She had started to take a mechanical engineering course a car manufacturer was offering and despite Victor and Ron trying to persuade her to stay, she finally left a mere few weeks after recording was completed.

With that, the band accepted an offer from a muscular human named Pyotr Vujin and allowed him to join the band as their new drummer. However, due to him also being the drummer of Ukrainian band Krull at the same time, who were as active in touring as they were, production and touring was to prove much more difficult when the bands were not sharing the same touring destinations.

Unfortunately, the lyrics of one of the songs on *Natural Selection*, titled *Disappearing Into the Night*, proved to be chillingly accurate. Just a few months after Nicola left, Anne suddenly vanished when they were scheduled to record at a studio the band had booked in Ramsdell in South Triston's capital, Borna City. Twenty four hours later, a passer by discovered her body next to a disused warehouse. A large scale police investigation was launched when it was determined that she had been the victim of an elusive serial killer operating in the area.

"We were devastated when we found out," said Ron in the interview he gave to *Blood Red Sky Records*. "We don't know who could have wanted to kill her like that and we're struggling to think of any reason why. We're not sure whether this was the work of a crazed fan or what not, but this has had a huge impact. If this is a serial killer, why pick her of all creatures out? We've had tributes to her pouring in from all over the world, and right now, our thoughts are with her family."

Having seen his last band disintegrate as a result of the drummer getting involved with criminals and now seeing one of his own bandmates murdered, Victor decided this was the last straw. These events had the

consequence of him losing any and all desire to continue performing. With immediate effect, he broke up the band and vowed never to work in music again. He kept out of the limelight thereafter and got a job as a medical researcher at the Weron General Hospital. Ron returned to his previous band Naked Flame after their rhythm guitarist stepped down due to poor health, while Pyotr has gone back to his full time duties with Krull, who released a song dedicated to Anne the following year.

Reformation and future plans (2018 – present)

Victor soon began to miss his time performing. While he enjoyed the medical profession, he didn't find it as fulfilling as music had been. He approached Ron and Freya, but both of them turned down his offers due to other priorities in their lives. Ron was busy with his own band and Freya was now a computer engineer. Thus, he reformed the band with a completely new lineup consisting of musicians from two bands that had disbanded just three months apart from each other. He welcomed a black dragon named Vasily Tkachenko as the lead guitarist, having served the same role in Dead Army, while a red panda named Wilma Park and a lioness named Jenny Abingdon both reprised the respective roles they had performed in Lesion.

The quartet set about rehearsing Unprovoked Attack's past material in preparation for the largest tour Victor had ever undertaken with any group of musicians. Taking their place on the *Worldwide Extermination Tour*, their contribution proved to be a huge success, resulting in the venues filling up very rapidly, namely due to how many fans were delighted to see them reform.

It was observed that the band did not perform any of the songs from 2014's *Natural Selection*, though their contribution had still led to a huge increase in the sales of their past albums. The band had also changed their logo, removing the butterfly knife dividing the two words and altered the font to resemble calligraphy. The band also began to wear formal suits and dresses to their concerts. Victor was quizzed about this in the band's interview with *Metal Brain Magazine*, to which he responded:

"We talked this over for a long time. I no longer felt comfortable performing any of the songs on *Natural Selection* after what happened to Anne. One of Wilma's friends knew her and she totally got where I was coming from. I've got in touch with Nuclear Attack Records and they've agreed not to rerelease it. But it's not just the result of her death. Unprovoked Attack will still be as crushingly heavy as always, but where writing lyrics is concerned, I want to pursue a more mature direction in future releases. Making songs about things you'd expect to see in horror films gets tiresome after a while. You don't want to listen to the same thing over and over again."

However, Vasily suddenly left the band in February 2019, citing personal problems. A white husky named Ernie Westford, whose career in music had spanned two decades and who had recently seen his own band break up, was recruited to take over. With the lineup completed once more, the band has begun to write material for their next album. Also feeling that the band's name has changed meaning over time, Victor has stated that he will not be writing violent lyrics with his band's future material and will instead cover philosophical, mythological and psychological themes.

