


OneHotGlobe presents:

a Soul to Squeeze




Chapter 10
Warped



a Soul to Squeeze

an unofficial Anthony Kiedis Biography

by Penny Lane



First of all I would like to thank Pascale and Maria for giving me the info I requested.

Secondly, I would like to dedicate this pamphlet to all the Red Hot Chili Peppers fans in the world and particularly to those who've been with me in this adventure which has been going on for 12 years now, to Jason, Yvette, Michelle, Zoe and all my friends of The Red Hot Chili Peppers Forum/Ezboard and One Hot Globe Forum.

And last but not least, everybody do a jig for my editor, the Great Ardnac.



NOTE OF THE AUTHOR

This biography is mainly based on interviews and facts I have read on the press and that to my opinion are reasonably reliable; I have just briefly hinted at a few things I've heard with my ears from the man himself or from people close to him. Of course some things might be missing or inaccurate, but nothing has been made up. While reading on you will notice I have written some dialogs between Anthony and Flea, or Anthony and Hillel or other people. Of course those dialogs have been made up because I wasn't there and even if I had been there I would have needed a tape recorder with me to report them faithfully. However, the reason for those conversations is mainly to lighten up the story and to add something fresh to things we already know (you will notice the dialogs are inserted mostly in the points of the story all the world already knows about) cause repeating the same things over and over again would be rather boring. But once again, also those conversations are based on true facts and are written with the style echoing the typical way of expressing the people involved. Also Dave Thompson, in his book about the Red Hot Chili Peppers, had to insert dialogs based on his intuition. I have followed the same rule.

Penny Lane

Chapter 10: Warped

Waiting to play at Woodstock the Red Hot Chili Peppers joyfully got busy in some diverse activities during that summer. Anthony and Flea popped up one more time in the movie world appearing in an action comedy entitled "The Chase" where they played two mad "freeway avengers" who tried to fuck up Charlie Sheen.

"When you live in Hollywood it's easy ending up in movies every now and then" Anthony explained "You always seem to know someone who's shooting something and asks you if you wanna appear in his film".



Anthony in The Chase, 1994



Out In L.A.

EMI, who still had the right to publish a Red Hot Chili Peppers album, came up with a collection of very old, both unreleased and known tracks entitled "Out In L.A.". The guys though wanted to put their nose also in this operation.

"They had decided to release a bunch of ill-fated mixes in any case" Anthony said "so, we proposed them something which was surely more cool, that is our first demo ever recorded in 1983 accompanied by some biographic notes penned by ourselves".

A few months earlier the first biography of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, compiled by British writer Dave Thompson had been released in U.S. It was a detailed essay about the life and art of the four musicians, though at times erroneous, which mainly focused on the late 80s period and stopped abruptly in 1993 soon after Arik Marshall's departure. Some famous magazines, like Spin and Interview, published a review of the book featuring the Chili Peppers on their covers. Spin came out with a beautiful picture of Anthony and Flea hugging and radiating happiness under the headline "The Chili Peppers come clean", Interview put Anthony alone on the cover, half naked and made up, to celebrate the magazine's 25th birthday. Even more attractive were the pictures featured in the article, taken by Anton Corbijn, a series of artistic and dramatic photos where Anthony revealed all his dark side.

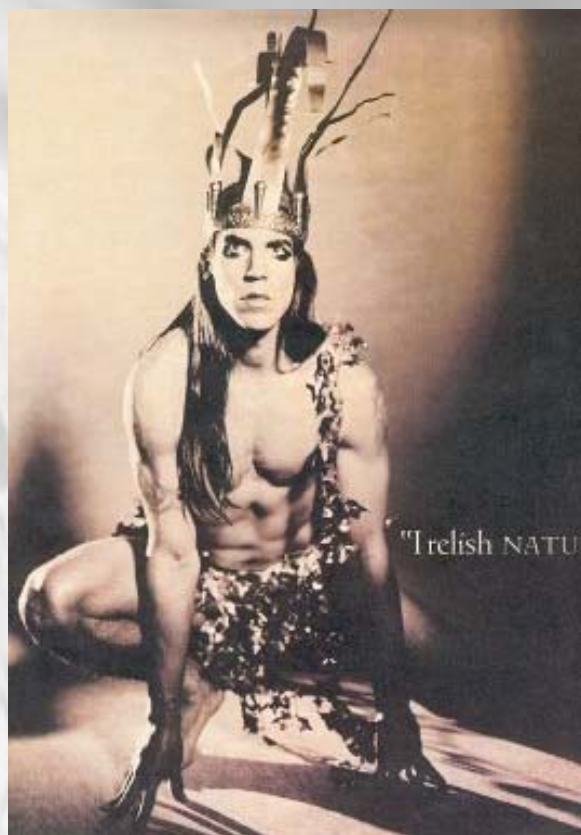
With all these summer shenanigans the date of the Woodstock festival fell on their heads before they even realized it.

"We need something special for Woodstock" Anthony said with a sparkle in his eyes and Flea and Chad giggled. Dave lifted his eyes to the ceiling.

"When I first joined the band" Dave confessed a year later "My biggest fear was that I would be forced to do something which I felt uncomfortable doing. The lightbulbs were one of those things".

Who first got the idea to go onstage at Woodstock dressed up as giant lightbulbs? Nobody knows, as usual. It was August 14th and the Red Hot Chili Peppers climbed on the stage. The audience couldn't believe their eyes. It had been pouring like mad all day and the ground was covered with mud. Now it was night, the sun had just set down and four little figurines suddenly appeared on the stage. Four little figurines attired in silver costumes and with giant light bulbs over their heads.

The first unmistakable chords of "Give it away" filled the air and the guys in the crowd looked at each other in amazement: "These are the Red Hot Chili Peppers?!". Oh yeah they were, definitely. "Give it away" started thundering as usual.



Anthony in "Interview" magazine



Lightbulbs: "Oh the things we do for showbiz!"

lightbulb, took off his costume and set his long, long hair free, revolving on the stage like a lunatic. "Oh the things we do for showbiz!" he told the audience tongue-in-cheek. Through all the set he kept singing and dancing with just a black mini skirt on and his

"Those lightbulbs were pretty heavy!" Chad told laughing a year later "I was sitting down at least and I had a support, but the other three were standing there with those things on and they couldn't even move!"

"The bright side of that" said Dave "was that I was very nervous cause I was playing with the band for the first time but when I put that stuff on my head I got so angry that I totally forgot about the audience!".

At the end of "Give It Away" Anthony removed his

Nike sneakers. At one point he picked-up a t-shirt from the floor and started swinging it around over his head like a helicopter's pale, inviting all the audience to do the same. "It's a bit corny but cool!" he said, and the crowd followed him: 250.000 people swinging their shirts over their heads. "It was unbelievable" said Aerosmith's Steve Tyler. "In case you didn't know" Anthony said laughing to the crowd "Dave hated the lightbulb idea".

Anthony was definitely on top form at Woodstock. Situations like that was his natural environment. "He looks like a Greek statue" a reporter commented. When the moment came for the encore the guys disappeared to reemerge soon afterwards in the shape of four perfect versions of Jimi Hendrix as he had looked in the original edition of Woodstock in 1969. Clara was with them, messed up as a baby-Hendrix as well, and she even gave a bizarre rendition of the Star Spangled Banner while Anthony was suggesting the words behind her. Then the encore began and it wasn't "Fire", as everybody was expecting, but "The Power Of Equality".

OK, for the Red Hot Chili Peppers the second edition of Woodstock Festival was a real triumph. A few days later, happy and on top form, the guys left for a short European tour. Spirits were high. "I'm on tour, over the moon and outta my empty skull" Anthony wrote, "It's good to be back on the road".

All the people who bumped in the Chili Peppers, in Europe, in US, or everywhere, had only one question: when is the new record out? Anthony reassured everyone: "If none of us breaks his leg playing bowling the record should be out in January-February 1995".

Flea heard those statements and went open-mouthed. In reality Anthony had been writing very, very little. He had only completed two songs, Aeroplane and Warped. Both had been played at Woodstock, though Warped's lyrics were totally different from what we know. Actually the title of the song was not "Warped" yet, but "She Said", where the "She Said" verse was in the place of the familiar "Descend". It was a simple love song by then but as time went by and Anthony was slowly "descending all the way everyday", once again deep in his old addiction those lyrics started to change until they reached the final version we all know. Flea, at reading those lyrics, was startled a bit. They were pretty dark. He was aware that Anthony wasn't clean anymore but he had no idea how deep he had already "descended". Flea chose to close his eyes again, cause he couldn't be of much help at the moment. But in any case Anthony had better move his cute little ass and write down SOMETHING. January-February my ass!

"OK, after the Rolling Stones gigs I'll start writing seriously" Anthony said. Flea rolled his eyes and noisily puffed. The Chili Peppers were booked to open two Rolling Stones shows at Pasadena Rose Bowl at the end of October.

"We have still two months before those gigs, Anthony" Flea said "Maybe you could write something also before them..."

Anthony shook his head "I'm not fucking concentrating".

"What?"

"It's all in my head, I have just to put it on paper. I'll be on a roll after those gigs. But please, don't put all that pressure on me. I can't take it".

Flea just murmured "OK. No pressure. Take your time".

The Red Hot Chili Peppers opened for the Rolling Stones on October 19th and 22nd. Anthony went to the gig on a limo with Jamie. Their relationship had been going on for one year but the girl was still a bit puzzled with many things about her boyfriend. She wasn't quite sure about his intentions. She had already known many crazy people but Anthony seemed to be more windblown than anyone else. Lately she had asked him to go to Pennsylvania and meet her parents, and eventually he had agreed to spend some days with Jamie's family at Christmas. Was it a commitment?

Anthony was nearly 32 and he usually behaved like a silly kid. Jamie had also tentatively spoken about marriage: she knew that Anthony thought she was fairly too young for that, but she felt that, at 18, she was much more mature than him.

"She has still a lot to learn" he told an Asian female reporter some months later. And what about kids? "I'm going to have a lot of kids" Anthony said to the same reporter "...when I'm ready".

Fuck. If one isn't ready at 32 when does he think he will? He was all so sugary and cheesy with other people's kids. But he couldn't see himself as a dad, not at all. "It's big responsibility" he vaguely said.

To console his "sugar pussy", as he used to call her, he wrote a song to her, not reassuring at all! It was entitled "Let's make evil":

*Let's make evil
Let's make good
I'd do anything I could
Just to get you in my dirty world
Go down on you*

*Seventeen and thirty-one
I am just my mother's son
Brown eyes and a silver tongue
All the mothers come undone
At the sight of me*

*Let's get soft
Let's get hard
Let's get off in my backyard
Where the desert wind
Will wash our skin
A lighter red*

*Let's make peace
Let's make war
Let's break into heaven for
A dance with heaven's devils or
Is that more than you can store
Inside your head*



***Jamie and Anthony on their way to
the Rolling Stones show***

OK, Anthony, Jamie thought, I'll make evil with you if that's what you want.

The fact was that Anthony didn't have any intention to explain to Jamie, to Flea, to no one else why he wasn't how they wanted him to be. If they were happy the way he was, great, otherwise fuck them. Everybody was asking, everybody was demanding this and that, everybody was pulling him back and forth. You gotta write the new songs, you gotta meet my parents, you gotta quit using drugs. Why didn't they all leave him alone? Why didn't they all mind their own business and stop thinking about him? He couldn't stand all that pressure, he just couldn't. In those moments he only needed to be alone.

Alone, or with Hillel.

Anthony was still in touch with Hillel. It wasn't just that he was still missing him so much, and it seemed to him that he was missing him more and more as time went by rather than the opposite, no, it wasn't just that. Anthony had learned how to be with Hillel again, really to be with him. When he fell asleep and started dreaming, or maybe when he would just get too high Anthony used to leave his body and go to meet Hillel. At first he had thought it was a delusion created by the drug, but the more it happened the more he knew it was happening for real.

He had learned how to create the ideal conditions to make it happen: first of all of course nobody had to be around, nobody with a physical body that is. He couldn't even imagine what Jamie would have thought if she had seen him "talking" with Hillel. No, he had to be alone, far from the big city, somewhere in an isolated and natural environment. The first time it had happened he was in the mountains, alone, sitting next to a fire. He had felt like he was leaving his physical body, "I felt going out of my spinal cord", and he had looked down to see his miserable self sitting down there while his astral body had been floating for a while, then everything was over and he was back in his usual container.



Out of body experiences: "I've had quite a few"

He knew that there were many techniques to improve this kind of experiences and he was eager to learn. What made him sad was that he couldn't share these experiences with anyone, not even Flea. And he couldn't express his feeling with words. But he actually couldn't express anything with words in those days! He would try to, he would take the pen, concentrate, and BANG! His head suddenly exploded with everything except words.

*It's raining in my cranium
my head feels like a stadium.*

How could he ever explain all that to Flea and the others? Everybody thought he was a fruitcake. They should have tried to write songs with their heads in that state. Fuck

them. They just hadn't a bit of sympathy, those assholes. He wasn't a machine, he was a human being, he...

Fuck them.

Fuck fuck fuck...

Fuck.

Oh my God.

Maybe a score will make me feel better after all.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers took different paths at Christmas. Flea went to Australia with Marissa. It was summertime down under and Flea vowed to himself that he would just had fun and go surfing and make love with his girlfriend. Surely he didn't want to think about Anthony.

On his behalf Anthony went to spend his Christmas holidays happy and relaxed with his family and then, as he had promised, paid a visit to Jamie's parents in Pennsylvania. "I was terrified" he told later "Sharing the same roof with the parents of my 18-year old girlfriend looked like a very little promising scenario. But I was wrong, everything went great". To conclude their holiday Anthony and his sugar pussy went to have fun, scuba-dive and get tanned in the Virgin Islands, and then they came back to L.A.

One of those days Anthony received a strange phone call. It was an old ex of his, Jennifer Bruce, alone and desperate from the prison's phone. Jennifer had been caught with various doses of smack in her bag and, since that wasn't the first time, the judge wanted to give her seven years.

"I know you're clean now" she told Anthony "but I need you anyway".

Anthony chuckled "Just tell me what you need" he said.

"You know what I need" Jennifer said and hung up.

Anthony ran to the jail to see Jennifer. She had never quite gotten out of his life. What's weird in a relationship between two severe drug users is that they're more deeply linked than most regular couples cause they share something that other people, the people on the "otherside" could never understand.

But Jennifer was also the girl for whom Anthony had sung "Forgot about my love", because heroin makes you forget about everything, "your love" included. Now she was asking for his help and he would have never denied it! He felt he owed her this at least.

As soon as he arrived at the prison two sturdy cops halted him. Though he had tried to disguise himself with his bike helmet, huge sunglasses and stuff, his face was still too familiar for too many people and the cops had no intentions to be fooled by that stupid junkie rockstar.

"So, man" one of them asked him "how much smack are you carrying?" Anthony opened his mouth.

"No, maybe you'd better tell us where you're carrying it" said the other one.

"I'm here to see a friend of mine" Anthony said with his best innocent face.

"Sure. Come on, man, is it in your knickers? Your expensive Calvin Klein knickers mate?"

Anthony was too smart and too used to dealing with cops. He wasn't going to fall in that stupid trap.

"Are you going to search me?" he said "You know you can't without a mandate don't you? Or you usually search all your fucking visitors here?"

"No need to talk like that mate" the cop said.

Anthony was in a hurry, Jennifer was anxiously waiting for him and after his visit he had to rush to the studio to talk with Dave and Rick. He was too nervous to stand more. He simply put down his hands to his crotch and told the cops "That's the only drug I brought just for you, morons".

Then he went to see Jennifer, gave her what she needed, and told her he was in a rush.

"I'm standing on the brink of emptiness" she told him.

"So am I" Anthony said.

Jennifer didn't make any comment about Anthony's "cleanness". She just thanked him and let him go. Anthony jumped on his bike to go to the studio but seeing his ex-girlfriend in that state had upset him so much that when some pick-up driver tried to surpass him he brushed too close to the pick-up and fell off the bike. He arrived at the studio all bumped and bruised, and mad with rage.

"Crap day" he just said, and nobody dared ask nothing.

That night Anthony finally managed to write another song.

Flea came back to L.A. in February. He was nearly afraid to go and see Anthony but when he finally did Anthony greeted him with great enthusiasm.

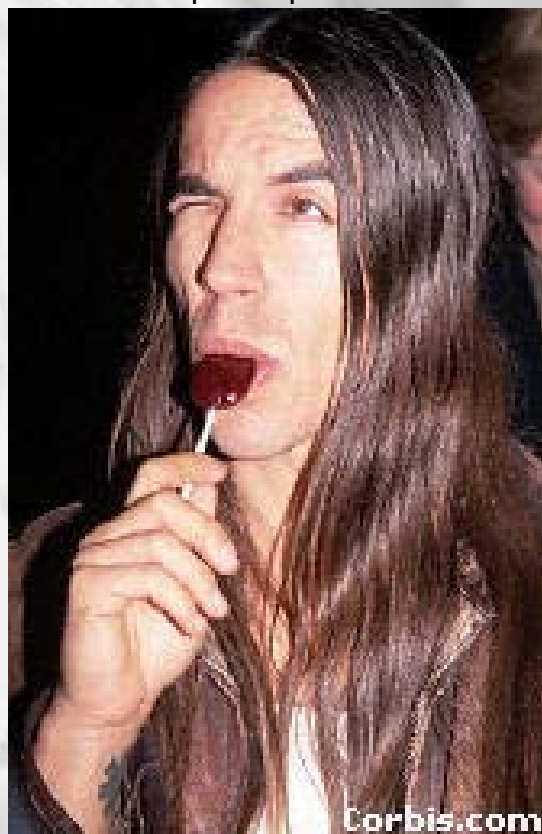
"I've been writing a lot" he said, "It's all sorted out, I think I was just tired. Of course we have still those fucking live shows on our way that de-concentrate us so much but..."

The next fucking live show was a festival in Australia, booked for Easter. Flea couldn't believe it was nearly Easter and the record wasn't ready yet. Everybody kept asking him about it, the title, the release date...

"Just the title, Flea. Spit it out, come on".

The title? There was nothing here yet, really nothing, forget about the title!

Flea had written two songs for the record and, since Anthony was having all that trouble, he thought they could have been included. One was an elegy to his deceased friend River Phoenix and it was called "Transcending", the other was a little song the Chili Peppers had already performed many times on stage, they had played it also at Woodstock, and it was entitled "Pea".



On the brink of emptiness

*I'm a little pea
I love the sky and the trees
I'm a teeny tiny little ant
Checking out this and that
Fuck you asshole
You homophobic redneck dick
You're big and tough and macho*

*You can kick my ass
So fucking what*

Flea told later that the inspiration for the song had come from something that had happened to him as a teenager when he had been kicked and beaten up by some bullies in the parking lot of Mayfair Supermarket.

"What I want to say with this song" he said "is that I'm small, I'm insignificant, I'm tiny and I'm happy to be this little piece of shit".

Anthony didn't feel upset at Flea's desire to include those two songs in the new record. On the contrary, he was happy cause that was sparing him some more hardship. At this point the Red Hot Chili Peppers gathered together and started rehearsing for the upcoming Festival in Australia, where eventually they didn't go at all because a few days earlier Anthony broke down completely.

"THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS STALLED BY KIEDIS'S MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS".

One of the first websites devoted to music, www.sonicnet.com, opened its newpage this way at the end of April 1995.

"The Chili Peppers are back in the studio finishing their work on the long-awaited new album while Anthony Kiedis is recovering from a mystery stomach ailment. Kiedis's illness has been keeping the band at stall for many months now and has enormously delayed the release of their new album. Due to the same illness the Chili Peppers recently had to cancel an appearance at a Festival in Australia etc etc"

People who were gravitating in the Chili Peppers orbit weren't surprised at all at these news: Anthony had lost a lot of weight in the last months, he was hardly leaving his house, he was constantly sick with this or that, from his head down to his toes. But nobody was totally sure about what had really happened this time to force the band to cancel the show. Somebody spoke of a massive overdose, somebody of a nervous breakdown, somebody even of a suicide attempt.

"It's really not my place to comment on what he was going through" Flea said a few months later "But I can say he was going through a very difficult time in his life and he needed to go through what he went through before he was ready to deal with life. I think that everybody has problems, some are more severe than others. Everyone has psychological demons, and sometimes facing them can be very hard and very painful".

Anthony tried to explain somehow what had happened to him, but his words were always very enigmatic and vague. "I've found myself heavily surrounded, engulfed and wrapped up in an unresolved personal tragedy" he told the Rolling Stone.

In another occasion he was just a little more clear: "I've been riding on a blistering rollercoaster of emotional ups and down" he said "Germs of psychosis knocked me out for a while".



I'm a little Pea...



On an emotional rollercoaster

His parents convinced him to go under therapy again, and not only for his drug abuse: this time the matter was even more serious than in the past. And with this, the long-awaited successor of "Blood Sugar Sex Magik" had to be postponed again.

"The album can wait" Flea vaguely said, and the others reluctantly followed. Flea was worried about his friend but he was also tired of Anthony's problems. He had been carrying on his shoulders the consequences of Anthony's self-destructive behavior for too long. He had hoped too many times that things would have changed forever, and that Anthony would have become a grown-

up man for once and for all. His best friend had always let him down. In spite of all the love and the affection Flea still had for him, he was also too tired to see him going into pieces day after day without being capable to help him at all, because Anthony in reality didn't want any help.

Flea had other things in his life besides his best friend: he had a beautiful daughter, he had a girlfriend he was deeply in love with, and he had his music. His music with or without his band. While Anthony was slowly recovering from his collapse Flea left L.A. and went to Southern Australia where he bought a house in a place named "Congo Beach"; he stayed there for a while, playing with local musicians, experimenting, surfing and just loving. At the beginning of the summer he went back to California and started working together with Dave Navarro on the record of a young Canadian singer named Alanis Morissette: the fruit of that collaboration was a song entitled "You Oughtta Know", the first single taken from an album, "Jagged Little Pill", which soon turned out to be one of the top selling records of the year.

Eventually he went to see Anthony. His friend had partially recovered but he was still having difficulties in writing the lyrics for the new songs. Flea's resentment at that



Alanis Morissette: were she and Anthony separated at birth?

point had evaporated and he promptly told Anthony that he was ready to help him to finish the work.

So, besides "Pea" and "Transcending", the new record featured another song written by Flea in collaboration with Anthony, practically the first song whose lyrics were written by the two of them since the old experiments of the early years. The song was "Deep Kick", a deeply heartfelt journey in the troubled past of the two soul mates which ended with Flea himself quoting his friend Bob Forrest: "It's better to regret something you did than something you didn't do".

"Writing songs is therapeutic" Anthony confessed, "I'm a disturbed character, to me it's an outlet". At this point, hot summer was there and the Red Hot Chili Peppers finally shut themselves in with the bearded one at Ocean Studios on Sunset Boulevard to give the final touch to the greatly anticipated new album. Four years had passed since "Blood Sugar Sex Magik".

END OF CHAPTER 10

IMPORTANT LINKS YOU MUST KNOW !

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> onehotglobe.com
- + [One Hot Globe forums / onehotforums](#) ~ <http://rhcp.proboards6.com>
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