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The Official Punk Rock Book Of Lists

[Image of the book cover]

AMY WALLACE & HANDSOME DICK MANITOBA

FOREWORD BY DANNY FIELDS  ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLIFF MOTT

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Synopsis

(Book). The Official Punk Rock Book of Lists features over 200 of the funniest, craziest lists from the Most Offensive Songs to Stupidest Band Names, from Punk Sell-Outs to Fashion Don’ts culled from historical archives and generated by celebrity guests. Contributors include rock stars and punk luminaries, from members of Guns N’ Roses and the Ramones to Little Steven Van Zandt, Nick Tosches, Lenny Kaye, Debbie Harry, and every other big-name punk from the last 30 years of rock history. Wicked caricatures, by noted underground artist Cliff Mott, of punk rock stars are peppered generously throughout the book, which is already being hyped as the most fun music book of all time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've loved lists since i was a kid waiting for WABC & WMCA (AM, friends, AM) to unveil the new survey (chart) every week. Where would the new Stones record be? Would it blow past The Beatles latest? Aretha's new one could be this week’s PICK HIT OF THE WEEK!! Watching your favorites jockey up and down the charts was like betting on the horses for kids; except we didn’t bet and there were no horses; but THAT degree of seriousness. In the years since i have found that i still compulsively read year-end (or whenever they appear) Best Of Lists, whether it's records, movies, books, restaurants, etc, etc. BUT, i can tell you that this one here is unlike any book of lists you've ever seen. These lists are as passionately compiled as any you've seen but when did you last see lists like KIM FOWLEY’S TEN GOLDEN MOMENTS IN PUNK ROCK preceded by NICK
TOSCHES’ 10 WHO WERE PUNK BEFORE THERE WAS PUNK alongside THEY OD’d: 13 PUNKS WHO ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT IT, which itself precedes THEY DIDN’T OD: 21 PUNK DEATHS. I think my favorite ones were the ones about food. There’s Handsome Dick’s own 5 FAVORITE PIZZA TOPPINGS, VIKING THRUST’S 5 DISGUSTING BURGERS YOUR BAND CAN HAVE NEXT TIME YOU TOUR AMERICA. I’ve had a few of ‘em myself. Viking Thrust are right! And, i feel compelled to mention the always inappropriate 6 GREAT MOMENTS IN PU king. Ok, now! Really, it’s just a lot of fun, pick it up any page, anytime, anywhere, and you’ll find something to argue about, laugh about, even think about. It’s a great gift, as it just has a cool, irreverent spirit to it that i’ve found endlessly entertaining. Lots of cool rock types show up throughout and they all behave like they too grew up waiting for the new survey each week from their local radio station/lifeline.

I picked up a copy of this about a month ago at the John Varvatos store (formerly CBGB’s) in New York City. I needed a cool souvenir and this was sitting right on the front counter- last one! I skimmed through it a few times over the past month or so and there are some great lists, but yesterday I read it cover to cover and was a little disappointed for several reasons. I’ll start with the “Bad” first... (but there is lots of good stuff too- so please read all!!!) One thing that stands out in almost every list is that it’s very NYC biased. Don’t get me wrong, some of the best punk rock of all time came from the Big Apple, but it’s certainly not the only city to produce great punk music. They did mention ”The Germs” quite a bit, but that’s about the only California punk band that was represented in most of the book. Out of about 300 pages, I don’t think they mentioned Social D or Operation Ivy once, and when they mentioned Rancid and NOFX, they mostly made fun of them. I’m not claiming these are the greatest bands of the genre by any means, and I’m from the midwest so it’s not a personal thing- I just think there were so many obvious lists and stories that barely looked passed the Manhattan Skyline. (Please don’t turn this into a EC vs WC punk feud- I just picked those bands b/c they were the first ones I thought of... and we saw what happened to Biggie and Tupac) The west coast bands they do mention, I think are more grunge / alternative than anything- the Butthole Surfers, Mudhoney, Pearl Jam, Nirvana and Dinosaur Jr are mentioned at least 50 times combined, but not one mention of Mike Ness?! Are you kidding me? Another thing I noticed throughout the book is the massive amounts of quotes from other books. Some parts are almost literally pages from other’s work.

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