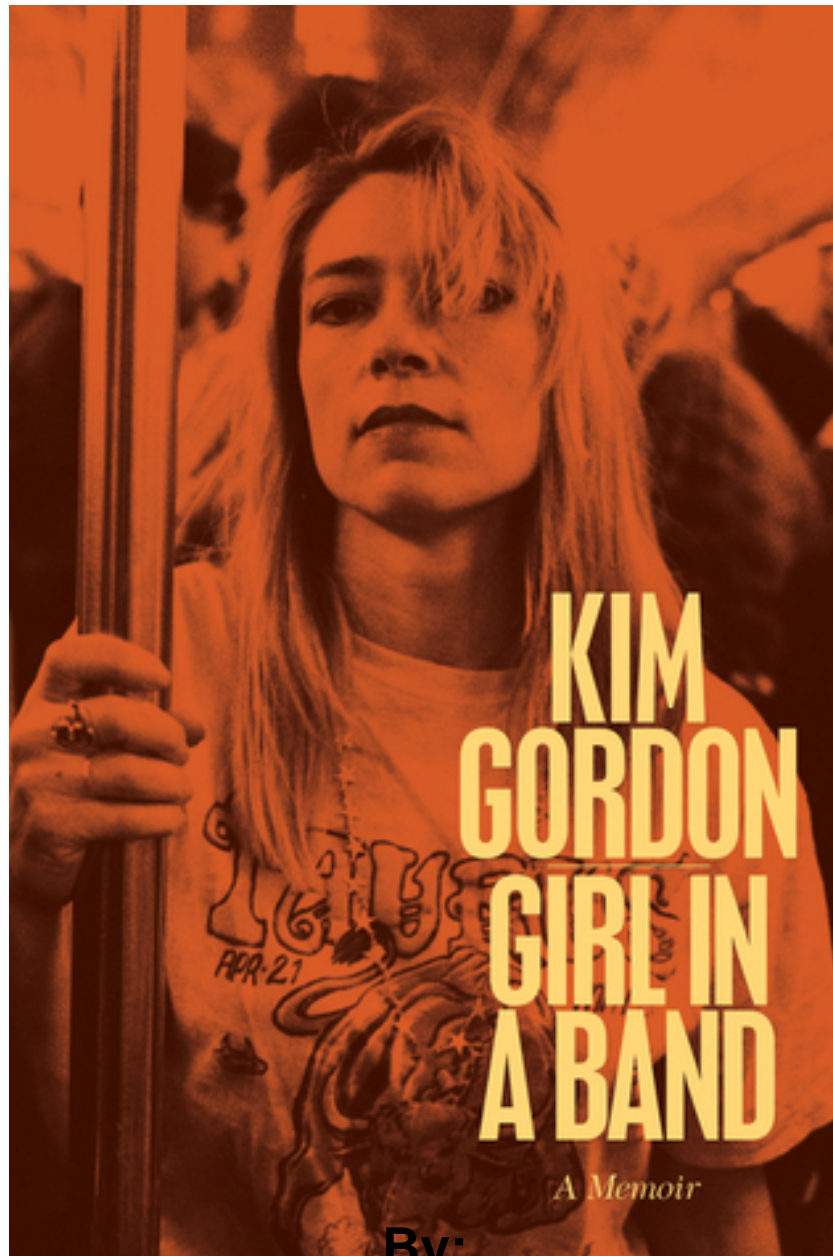


Girl in a Band Book PDF Download



By:

Kim Gordon

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What people Say:

Lauren

Interesting and at times even moving, but mostly, there is a distance there and whether or not it's because there are places she doesn't want to go or doesn't care to take you, I'm not sure. There is something very unresolved about it as a memoir but again, that's ok - she's in the middle of a major life change and you can feel it.

Not that different from how I feel about Sonic Youth, a band I liked and even admired, but never felt a heart connection to.

All that said, I still enjoyed reading it

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All that said, I still enjoyed reading it and rooting for her - a woman at the midpoint of her life, thinking about the choices she was going to make. I loved her descriptions too - of what it was like to be on stage and play music.

I guess everyone has a New York that they love reading about and this had mine: Canal Jeans, Pearl Paint, Unique, Veselka's, the Mudd Club.

Sgossard

I thought (just like you) that Kim was the coolest ever in the hippest band ever. If you want to keep

thinking that, don't ever read this book.

. If you're already set on reading it anyway or got it as a gift or pre-ordered it just like me, at least let me help you a bit.

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Out of the 288 pages in this book, around 150 are about how growing up was for her, how her brother emotionally abused and traumatised her, who she was dating at the moment and lots and lots of name dropping. Her musings on music and art are nice, I enjoyed them, wish there had been more of those, chapter 51 was great. Then you get just a little bit of what was going on with Sonic Youth at the moment (about 60 pages). If you already have the book, these are the chapters with names of their records or songs, those are cool, read those. Then stop.

If anything, I think at least she's being honest. That makes me feel sorry for her. That's why I just didn't drop this book, some of her integrity does come through in what she's writing.

Jane Settles cigarran

A very fast read and quite illuminating though not for the reasons one might expect. I was pretty dismayed at how Kim's elitism and namedropping goes hand in hand with her playing punk rock contests and speaking really harshly about other women. It's one thing to say Courtney Love is crazy but quite another to complain just chapters before, how sexist it was to call a brash woman "crazy". It's one thing to admit to dating older, influential, stifling men as a young women but quite another to say

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"crazy". It's one thing to admit to dating older, influential, stifling men as a young women but quite another to say in the next breath that people like Lana Del Ray don't know what feminisim is and should stop dating old gross men? Don't even get me started on how she talks about the other woman (i'm sure just one of many she knows of) that Thurston left her for. That's when it stopped being entertaining and just became plain sad. I feel for her...I hope she finds a new, less co-dependent direction in her golden years. She could be a great asset to the rock/female world but she's not taken that title on with very much intelligence or class thus far.

It's truly fascinating to me how unaware she is of how hypocritical she is...and how inadvertently anti-woman she is. She mentions in jest that she might be a sociopath. She might be on to something....

That said, fun read, I recommend reading it while playing a drinking game where you take a shot each time she contradicts her own philosophies.

-jane

Lynx

Kim Gordon's life has certainly taken her to fascinating places. Growing up in the sixties, traveling, infiltrating the NYC art scene, Sonic Youth's formation and success, starting her own fashion line, producing others music and films, becoming an artist in her own right and all while being female and a mother, something ignorant journalists never fail to ask her about. Theres certainly never a dull moment in this book. Kim opens up about all these things as well as her personal relationships,

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Kim is very articulate and honest while discussing her personal life, including the painful details of Thurston's infidelities which led to their divorce. At times I could sense the pain and anger in her words, clearly not completely over the betrayal just yet. However there were other moments in the book that had me cringing, the attitude in her words while writing about her place in the scene, or certain people made her come off as snobbish and very self-important. I expected some (deservedly) negative comments about Courtney Love thrown in, she did after all work in studio and tour with her but for instance writing comments about how scarred Love's nose was and how she's clearly had more than one nose job as well as throwing in an "ewww" at the idea of her liking Billy Corgan (he's "in no way punk rock"), made her come off as a high school mean girl as opposed to a 61 year old adult.

While slightly disappointed in what read at times as though Kim has come to believe her own hype I still did very much enjoy the book and recommend it to Sonic Youth/feminists/90's nostalgics like myself!

Thank for Edelweiss for this review copy.

Jim

I think its telling that after spending 270 pages with the author I don't really have a sense of her as an artist, musician, or a person. I know a lot more about her projects and things that happened to her, but at the end of the book she remains a cipher. For someone who has accomplished so much the book feels thin, understandably disjointed, yet lacking in depth. It's also oddly humorless, but as many have remarked, the memoir begins and ends with her break-up with Thurston Moore and it colors

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colors the project in its sad tones. While Gordon is generous in her praise of Moore's artistry, musicianship and abilities as a father, one can't help but wonder what this book would be like if she'd let a bit more water flow under the bridge. The meat of the book describes her relationships with various artists and the circumstances under which Sonic Youth's records were produced. I loved learning about her friendship with the L.A. artist Mike Kelley and how she wrote an article for Artforum about him and Raymond Pettibon. She was also inspired by Black Flag house show in Hermosa Beach. This is really engaging stuff, I just wish there was more of it.