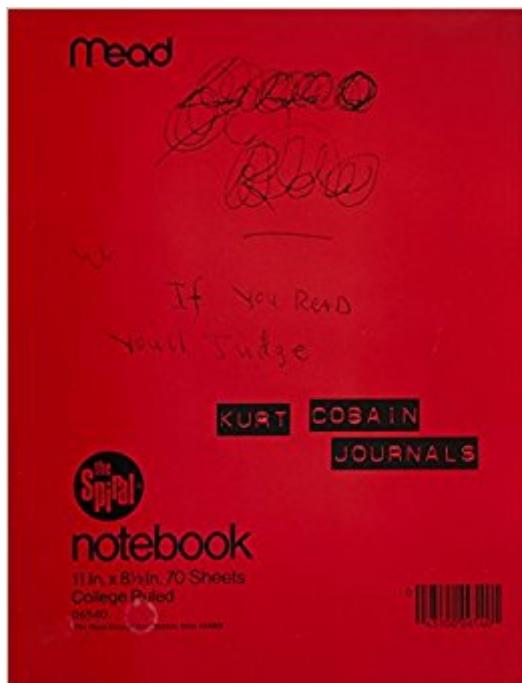


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Journals



Synopsis

The lyrics notebook and personal journals of Kurt Cobain, iconic singer of the band Nirvana. Kurt Cobain filled dozens of notebooks with lyrics, drawings, and writings about his plans for Nirvana and his thoughts about fame, the state of music, and the people who bought and sold him and his music. His journals reveal an artist who loved music, who knew the history of rock, and who was determined to define his place in that history. Here is a mesmerizing, incomparable portrait of the most influential musician of his time.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Riverhead Books; Reissue edition (November 4, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 157322359X

ISBN-13: 978-1573223591

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.9 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 415 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,692 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock #324 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers #331 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Biographies

Customer Reviews

These journal entries by Nirvana front man Cobain record his thoughts from the late 1980s until his suicide in 1994. There are no real answers to his death to be found in this collection of scrawled notes, first drafts of letters, shopping lists, and ballpoint pen drawings, although the nature of Cobain's fame will make it hard for readers not to look for them. At best, a series of intimate portraits emerge: a kid from high school; a cousin and neighbor; a bright, sensitive, fun-loving and morbid punk rocker who became spokesman for a generation he largely detested. Cobain's journals remind fans of how unlikely was his rise to fame: here was a kid from Aberdeen, dreaming of being in the next Meat Puppets, not the next Doors, who signed on with an independent label named SupPop, and ended up changing the course of commercial radio. Cobain's early letters to fellow rockers in the grunge scene also remind readers of how small and close that community was, and of the fairly incendiary politics it had developed through the Reagan years. For a true punk believer like Cobain, the loss of that community was also the loss of himself. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information,

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The question of how to package Cobain's journals (originally contained in more than 20 notebooks) became as important as whether they should be published. Courtney Love, Cobain's widow, ultimately decided to go with Riverhead, and her choice appears to have been a good one.

Reproduced here are actual notebook pages, filled with the musician's drawings, thoughts, desires, moods, lists, and declarations, showcasing his many talents, as much as his penchant for morbidity, in an amalgamation of handwritings. While this collection offers another level of intimacy for fans who have already experienced the musician's life via records, news clippings, album art, and several biographies, no one involved with the project provides any context, and this absence is keenly felt. Notes are scattered and applied to things that are of little interest, while other confusing pieces are left without the slightest comment. Given Love's vigilance in all matters Nirvana and Cobain, it is surprising that she was not more hands-on here. Still, *Journals* remains a good complement to Charles R. Cross's *Heavier Than Heaven*, which references the notebooks, and a unique addition to popular music collections. *Rachel Collins, "Library Journal"* Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

If you want to know who Kurt Cobain was, this is a necessary piece of the complex puzzle to ingest. Yes it is an intrusion into the guarded secrets of this complicated man's mind. But guess what - he's not here to protest. Is it disrespectful to read a dead person's diary? It is if you're looking for something lurid [which is not in these *Journals*]. I do recommend doing some research first so that the undated entries make more sense. Listen to Nirvana's music and the pre-Nirvana music. There's a lot of early Kurt in here, the literally starving penniless musician. This is where the successful Nirvana came from. Look at performance videos, watch interviews. If you still find Nirvana interesting, still find Kurt Cobain worthy, then buy these *Journals*. He is smart, angry, funny, articulate, with a rare ability to stand outside himself and see himself clearly. He doesn't always like what he sees, both in himself and in the world, the music industry in particular. Oftentimes I will know a particular story as told by a band member or friend, then read his version in his *Journals*, and break up my insides with laughter. He really does crack me up, makes me smile so many times. Especially after reading the *Journals*, I wish I had known him, could have hung out with him, called him Friend. He is worth the effort.

I highly recommend this Kurt Cobain *Journal*, especially anyone interested in the art of music and/or

to enhance understanding of the intelligence & passion in music, whole process of writing lyrics & how much time Kurt Cobain put towards finding his style of writing. I feel Kurt Cobain does not get anywhere near the true understanding of how intelligent, artistic & how well he truly learned to understand each part of a word & each letter of alphabet and the sound in end of word before a word & the sound in beginning of word after a word, combined with giving attention on how he specifically wrote out each word, in which letters are lower case & which are upper case letters, you can find messages in words, a modern James Joyce like talent. I feel Kurt Cobain's artistic ability in music, has not yet gotten the credit deserved. Kurt is an excellent example of true creative talented beautiful mind in which he was so advanced in art of music & writing lyrics etc. that the direct message & lyrics were not always the point of the lyrics, this journal gives people opportunity to see from his format of writing, the other messages in words. Truly a genius in writing, my opinion seems he had influence from famous writers such as James Joyce & Beckett. I feel people from looking closely at his writing in the journal & then listen to Nirvana songs can give more depth & understanding to lyrics, past just listening to the direct lyrics but more attention to each word, his way pronouncing, getting a different idea of messages in lyrics. I feel society has been too hard on Kurt Cobain & Nirvana, especially after his death, focusing on end too much, not enough on what a genius mind Kurt had & bringing him back in teaching, inspiring & understanding of artists like Kurt Cobain, to bring back the art missing in a lot of music today to influence future artists & use his challenges and artistic ability as example for building better opportunities & support for artists and increasing art's importance in our nation. I highly recommend this book to anyone with interest or even curiosity in arts, truly shows the genius behind Nirvana lyrics Kurt Cobain wrote. A man who more than deserves to be truly seen for his true genius artistic mind!

If you're not a Nirvana or Kurt Cobain fan, this is not for you. Some stuff in here I can't believe they published, but I really got insight into this troubled and I would say confused man. God only knows what Courtney left out like the lost lyrics and poems...he says were stolen during his stints in rehab and the hospital. I only pray one day they will surface...somehow.

"Oh yeah and our final name is NIRVANA" I know there are some who feel like reading this is somehow violating Kurt, and I know that "rape" quote has been floating around in some reviews. However, with respect to that, Kurt was referring to not only his journals, but a slew of other items that were stolen from him and the band. Also, Kurt said a lot of things that were contradictory. He at one time made a comment saying he would like to maybe someday publish his old journals. He said

being so famous so fast was conflicting, then he would say it's not so bad. Literally, on the first page of this book is a note from Kurt to someone (maybe his first girlfriend that he lived with?) that says "Don't read my diary when I'm gone. Ok I'm going to work now, when you wake up this morning please read my diary. Look through my things, figure me out." And was written at the same time, its obviously not 2 separate entries. That's who Kurt was. Yes, we still can't necessarily say that Kurt would want people reading these, but I still didn't feel all too guilty reading these. I sat with this book for a while, so I can digest the beautiful, scrawled words one of my all time heroes. You will know Kurt better than you ever thought. Sometimes, it can be tricky determining what time period some of the entries and notes were in, because Kurt didn't date his entries. However, there isn't really meant to be a narrative here, is there? These were Kurt's private thoughts. There are entries from the late 80s, with Kurt lamenting about his miserable experience at school and his salvation at the hands of punk rock. Even at a younger age, Kurt was so self aware and intuitive and an excellent people-reader. We also get an insight into his extreme anger at others. There are many fairly violent fantasies he conjures up. He was a very talented artist, and many of his drawings are included. We see the early days and Kurt's ambition and determination to get Nirvana jumpstarted. Also included are drafts of song lyrics. I got the chills reading the still unfinished lyrics to songs like Lithium and All Apologies and Teen Spirit and Drain You and 'Aneurysm', and 'Dumb'--especially reading Kurt's scrawl of "I'm not like them, but I can pretend". Then, later on, we see Kurt's frustration with music journalists (put very succinctly by Kurt), and brainstorming of video ideas, including Heart Shaped Box, in which Kurt's notes pretty much exactly map out how the video would turn out. "In Utero's original title was "I Hate Myself and I Want to Die", and Kurt writes quite a bit about it. I'd have liked to have seen what made Kurt ultimately change the title, unless it's documented somewhere else, but no big deal. Kurt was so eloquent in so many ways, and his journals confirm that from a young age he stood up against unjust oppression of any kind, especially against women and homosexuals. He was a sensitive, intelligent man. I know some have criticized the book, because Courtney sold them, so Courtney "controlled" the story, so to speak. And many have it in their head that Courtney probably withheld some entries that maybe were less than flattering about her. Kurt wrote about everything in his life, so it would stand to reason that there would be plenty about Courtney and Frances, yet there really isn't much. However, I don't really find this suspicious. There are a few mentions of Courtney. But Think about it, would you want your husband's or wife's most intimate thoughts and most intimate frustrations about your marriage published? It's no one's business. I don't exactly understand why people they have a right to read that. It's her prerogative to release that or not. People are just immediately suspicious of anything she does, or doesn't do. Even if he

wrote some negative things about her, why would she want that out there? Nobody would. No one wants to look bad. I think there are so many (myself included) that hold Kurt pretty sacred. And, most Kurt fans have animosity toward Courtney, and they want to see something, in writing, concrete, from Kurt that is derogatory or negative about Courtney. That way, it would validate their own hatred for her. There is, however, a love letter to Courtney included in here that is probably the most beautiful letter I've ever read, and written in a way that only Kurt could write. There is also a heartbreaking, I'm assuming unsent, letter that Kurt wrote to his dad. Kurt documenting his descent into addiction is also heartbreaking and a must read for anyone thinking of taking drugs. Since the entries are undated, don't expect to find out exactly what Kurt wrote in the days before he died. There is simply no way to know. It's amazing that Kurt saw himself as a worthless, emaciated, uneducated loser yet he's one of the best lyricists our generation, any generation, was blessed with. He was wise beyond his years, and even his journals entries are some of the best stuff I've ever readALso, it's literally the scanned pictures of Kurt's journals. There is no typed transcription. Which makes it even better--the picture quality is so incredible that it looks like you are reading the actual journals of Kurt's. You can see the pen marks jump off the page. It looked so realistic that if one didn't know better, you would be able to erase the pencil writings yourself. And it's better this way, the dynamic of the book would be completely different and not as compelling if it was just transcribed.Bottom line, Kurt is one of my heroes. If he is one of yours, too, then buy this. You won't regret it. You will have a much more well rounded perspective of Kurt. Yes, not everything that went on in his life is spelled out, but you will still gain a huge insight. It made my heart ache, and realize just how big of a loss it was when he died. I know that I wouldn't be quite the person I am today if I hadn't gotten the cassette of nevermind when I was 8. Rock music died with Kurt Cobain unfortunately. And I get pissed and angry that he committed suicide. We know he adored Frances with all his heart, and you would think she would be enough to keep him going. Kurt himself talked at length about his parents' divorce and the horrible effect it had on him, how he so desperately wanted the 2 parent household. He of all people should have known better, what he was doing to his daughter. He wrote "her (frances') life will be so much better without me" in his suicide note. Come on, kurt. How could that be true? But, I guess that's the difference between people who aren't suicidal and those who are too far gone.

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