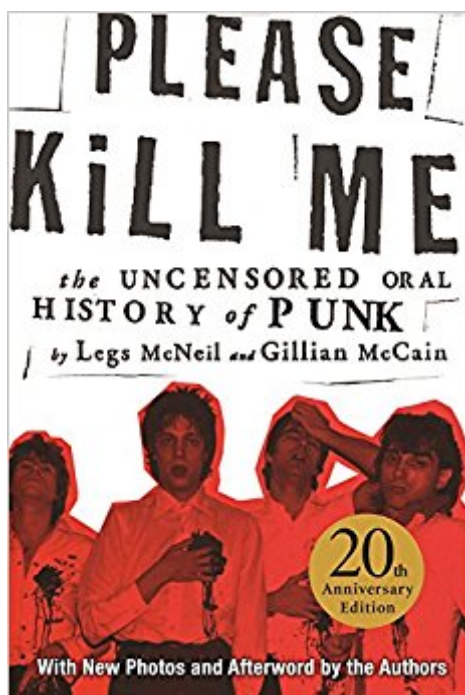


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# Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History Of Punk



## Synopsis

•Ranks up there with the great rock & roll books of all time. •Time Out New York•Lurid, insolent, disorderly, funny, sometimes gross, sometimes mean and occasionally touching . . . Resounds with authenticity. •The New York Times•No volume serves juicier dish on punk's New York birth . . . Tales of sex, drugs and music that will make you wish you'd been there. •Rolling Stone•A contemporary classic, Please Kill Me is the definitive oral history of the most nihilistic of all pop movements. Iggy Pop, Richard Hell, the Ramones, and scores of other punk figures lend their voices to this decisive account of that explosive era. This 20th anniversary edition features new photos and an afterword by the authors. •Utterly and shamelessly sensational. •Newsday

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Though Britain's notorious Sex Pistols shoved punk rock into the face of mainstream America, the movement was already brewing in the U.S. in the 1960s with bands like the Velvet Underground and Iggy and the Stooges. Through hundreds of interviews with forgotten bands as well as the ones that made names for themselves--including Blondie and the Ramones--Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain chronicle punk rock history through the people who really lived it. Please Kill Me is a thrash down memory lane for those hip to punk's early years and an enlightening history lesson for youngsters interested in the origins of modern "alternative" music. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

As its sensationalist title suggests, this stresses the sex, drugs, morbidity and celebrity culture of punk at the expense of the music. Starting out with the electroshock therapy Lou Reed received as a teenager, working through such watersheds as the untimely deaths by overdose or mishap of Sid Vicious, Johnny Thunders and Nico, as well as the complicated sexual escapades of the likes of Dee Dee Ramone, the portrayal here of the birth of an alternative culture is intermittently entertaining and often depressing. McNeil, one of the founding writers of the original 'zine, Punk, in 1975, is certainly qualified to tell this tale. But the book's take on punk rock as "doing anything that's gonna offend a grown-up" overemphasizes the self-destructive side of the movement. Details of Iggy Pop's drug abuse and seedy sex with groupies receive more attention than important bands such as Television and Blondie, which had comparatively puritan lifestyles. Constructed as an oral history, the book weaves together personal accounts by the crucial players in the scene, many of whom seem to have been so drugged out most of the time that their reliability is questionable. McNeil and McCain (Tilt) provide a vivid look at the volatile and needy personalities who created punk, if they do not offer perceptive musical or cultural analysis. Photos. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The book, physically, has sturdy, soft pages. The cover art is amazing. The book itself is one of the best oral histories I read. I had to read excerpts for a class this semester and after buying the book, I tore through it like it was nobody's business. The way in which the interviews are weaved together is the mark of a true storyteller. It makes these punk icons seem like real people, not just Pharaohs on a stage.

Hardly anyone believed me back in the mid-late 80's -- I was in high school-- when I asserted that "Punk" was an outgrowth of 60's Avant Garde music and style. That groups such as The (East Village and Other) Fugs, The Velvet Underground, the mc5, The Stooges, etc., etc., catalysed a movement toward REAL topics; the return to REAL American Music (e.g., "Garage"); and the realities of the streets of N.Y., Detroit, et al. (Amphetamines, China White Heroin, 'Ludes, LSD; the liberation of homosexuals and transvestites; and outright thuggery). Legs McNeil has provided --through interviews and first-hand resources-- absolute raw data, just as his book's title suggests. And, this data is served in generous amounts; no holds barred by its subjects. I must admit, my favourite "Superstars" from that era are: Sterling Morrison (1942-1995), Ed Sanders (1938-), Dennis "Machinegun" Thompson (1948-), Ron Asheton (1947-2009), and Jim Carroll. Ostensibly,

my favourite era is , say , '65-'73 .But , the decadence continues ! After the V.U. , mc5 and Stooges dissolved , the next generation took the helm ! The New York Dolls' story is both delightful and tragic . Reading how Syl Sylvan recalls his youth and his brotherhood-friendship with Jim Mura (spelling?) , and the story which ended in a horrible manner.Although I've never been much of a fan of the Sex Pistols , I certainly have enjoyed reading about them and their antics !Thanks to Legs McNeil , et al. , the REAL story of "Punk" has been told , in all of its candid entropy .HIGHLY RECOMMENDED !

A must read for anyone interested in hearing about the dirty details of the budding punk scene in NYC in the early to mid 70s. I'd never read an "oral history" style of book before, so it took some time before I got used to it, but once I did it was an engrossing read. Tip for any of you reading this on an e-reader - make sure you bookmark the end of the book ("Cast of Characters") so that you can refer back to it when new folks are introduced. I failed to realize that until I finished the book. Whoops. Awesome book!

Completely entertaining and filled with great interviews and anecdotes. The book doesn't go back nearly far enough to uncover the true roots of punk, and is a bit heavy on MC5 and Iggy. Those are the only complaints I've got, and they didn't prevent me from enjoying the book.

This book isn't such an incredible narrative about the history of punk rock and the origins of a movement that is still changing lives to this day. Make sure you get the most current edition, the extra stories are unforgettable.I received 2 copies, one of which I purchased for a band mate and the other to reside on my shelf. I have purchased this book 4 times, I always lend it out and no one ever wants to give it back.The copies i received were in fantastic condition. A++.

What a fun read. I was around for much of this time period in music (I was 18 in 1977) and it brings me right back to some of those concerts and places I had been to. It's presented chronologically in time via interviews of the people who lived through it first hand. Fascinating, gossipy, insightful, salacious fun and, a cautionary tale of how certain drugs can ravage a persons life.

Interesting history of underground and punk, but many of the interviews veer off into unrelated territory that can become tiresome quickly. Overall, however, pretty good.

I bought this book for my bf for his birthday as a recommendation from an old coworker that loves punk. He read the entire book as soon as I gave it to him and I read it when he was finished. I was completely surprised by how well it flowed together, despite being interviews from different people. I would definitely recommend buying this if you have any interest in punk, or any interest in '60's-70's counter culture

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