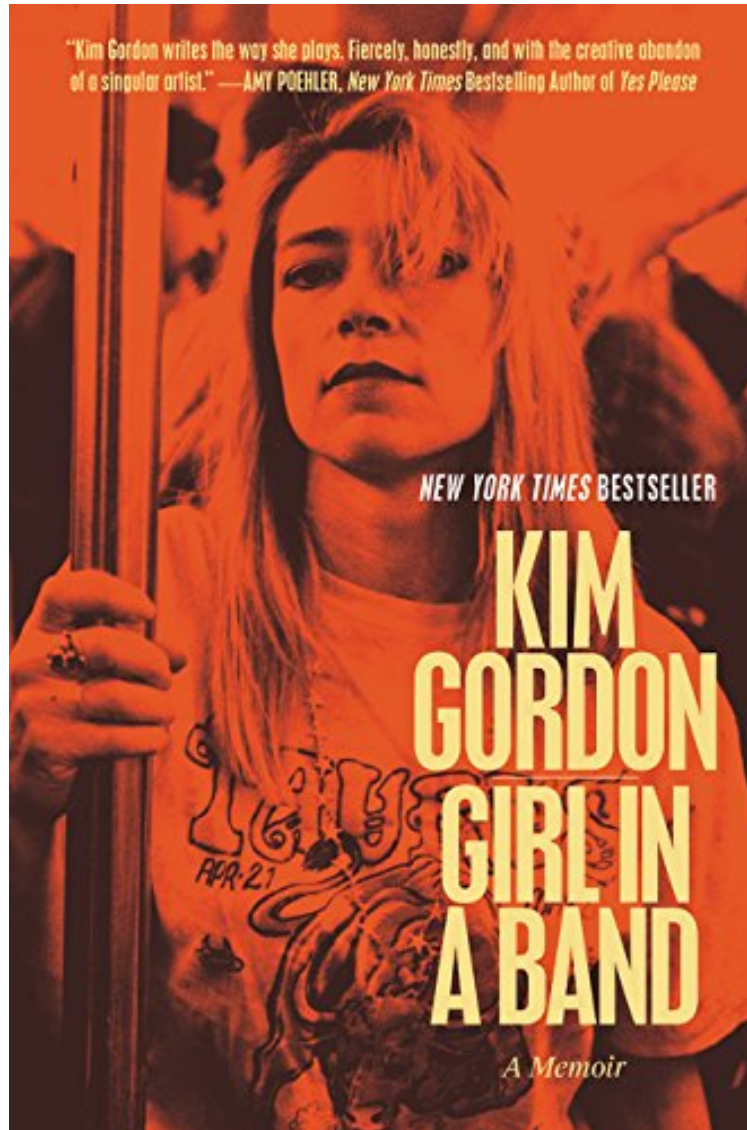


[E-BOOK] Girl in a Band: A Memoir

Girl in a Band: A Memoir

Kim Gordon

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#22297 in Books Gordon Kim 2015-12-01 2015-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311,
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Kim Gordon : Girl in a Band: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Girl in a Band: A Memoir:

76 of 78 people found the following review helpful. I wanted so badly to LOVE "Girl in a Band" By 4eyesguy I wanted so badly to LOVE "Girl in a Band." A lot had been written on the internet regarding this book; a scathing excerpt here concerning Courtney Love, another about Thurston Moore, etc. By the time the book came out, I bought into the hype. I couldn't wait for equal parts Sonic Youth history from the source, '80s NYC life, behind-the-scenes '90s alternative s*** talking, and scenes from a failed marriage. In reality, "Girl in a Band" manages to offer all of that, just never

fully. We get an interesting background about her upbringing, her childhood, moving around the world at a young age. From there, Kim Gordon focuses on growing up in the '60s, her budding love of the art, and her travels around the country, offering up interesting, albeit brief tidbits and interesting namedropping along the way. Upon explaining her arrival in New York, Gordon tackles the Sonic Youth sections by focusing on each album. At first, I was excited when she presented the history so concisely. However, Kim Gordon speeds through each album so quickly, it's sometimes disappointing. She tends to focus on certain sections of lyrics rather than the dynamics of the band at the time, or their travels, recording, etc. (for a easily enjoyable book on the history of Sonic Youth, check out "Goodbye 20th Century" by David Browne). While many sections offer a fresh perspective, I can't help but wish she would have expanded on certain areas. The book is a quick read, at times very well constructed, and page turning. However, certain sections are written as if it managed to dodge an editor, suddenly taking on a sloppy casual tone following a well crafted previous chapter. All in all, Kim Gordon's memoir is a welcomed addition from a strong female voice and true artist. At the end of the day, I wished this book could have been longer. It left me wanting more in a "there's more to say" sense rather than "I can't put it down." In the end, if all of the story hasn't been set straight, at least we have a glimpse into the mind of a living legend. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Some enjoyable trips down memory lane but mostly an emotional and slightly disjointed journey. By Michael Walsh Really wanted to love this book as I love Kim Gordon and all her music dearly. But the emotional thread about the breakup with Thurston was not enjoyable (or imo necessary), and took away from the experience. As some others have noted there are some nice insights about her childhood.. and I liked the who's who of NY and 1980s alternative music culture. The details on Sonic Youth projects in the middle was my favorite part. But as a book it felt unfinished, emotional, raw, and disjointed in parts. Still love you, Kim. But didn't love the book like I hoped. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Girl in life, nit just in a band. By Syrene Yesterday, when I finished reading, I had a few lines written down -the things I wanted to emphasize in the review. First of all, it's a very complicated journey, that is mostly about finding a way for a person, and a woman to express herself via art. The concept of a girl in "a band" is actually secondary, but the idea of a girl in life, and art - that's the actual foundation of this book. The band part is way less important, especially since this is far from another rock-and-roll cliché. One of the phrases I wrote down was "real feminism", because without pushing the topic too hard, and waving the flag, Kim Gordon explores the matter, by her own journey, by the things she's seen and encountered. And she doesn't do it by copying anyone or by acting out. So there is actual, real growth. Needless to say how refreshing it is to find a real story, written by a smart person, who admits their mistakes, and is able to analyze the events of their life, and the surrounding changing world.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Kim Gordon, founding member of Sonic Youth, fashion icon, and role model for a generation of women, now tells her story: a memoir of life as an artist, of music, marriage, motherhood, independence, and as one of the first women of rock and roll, written with the lyricism and haunting beauty of Patti Smith's *Just Kids*. Often described as aloof, Kim Gordon opens up as never before in *Girl in a Band*. Telling the story of her family, growing up in California in the '60s and '70s, her life in visual art, her move to New York City, the men in her life, her marriage, her relationship with her daughter, her music, and her band, *Girl in a Band* is a rich and beautifully written memoir. Gordon takes us back to the lost New York of the 1980s and '90s that gave rise to Sonic Youth, and the Alternative revolution in popular music. The band helped build a vocabulary of music paving the way for Nirvana, Hole, Smashing Pumpkins and many other acts. But at its core, *Girl in a Band* examines the route from girl to woman in uncharted territory, music, art career, what partnership means and what happens when that identity dissolves. Evocative and edgy, filled with the sights and sounds of a changing world and a transformative life, *Girl in a Band* is the fascinating chronicle of a remarkable journey and an extraordinary artist.

Kim Gordon writes the way she plays. Fiercely, honestly, and with the creative abandon of a singular artist. (AMY POEHLER, actor, producer, writer) I've always admired Kim Gordon. She is cool, smart, and dignified. *Girl in a Band* is a fascinating and honest memoir full of raw emotion and insight. (SOFIA COPPOLA, filmmaker) The best thing one of your heroes can do is make you feel heroic yourself. Kim Gordon has done just that in her memoir; it is full of beauty and power, inspiration, kindness, boldness and hope. (CARRIE BROWNSTEIN, writer, actor, musician) CARRIE BROWNSTEIN, writer, actor, musician) Written with the same cool passion she brings to her lyrics, Gordon delivers a generous look at life inside the punk whirlwind. (Kirkus s) Everybody loves Kim Gordon. So its pretty much my bet that everybody will be hanging on the words of anyone whos read her forthcoming memoir (which is reportedly phenomenal). [Ed. note: Its even better than youre probably expecting.] (Flavorwire) From beginning to end, the icon chronicles the evolution of music, art, and herself, set in and out of an ever-changing New York. (Interview) Gordons career as a musician, artist, critic, performer, producer, and designer spanned the last truly hip era of downtown New York. The names and the nostalgia-for those who remember or who wish they did-are well worth the price of admission. (Booklist) An intriguing memoir. . . [Gordons] unique sensibility never fades. (Publishers Weekly) heartbreaking, raw, articulate, and inspiring. (Bust Magazine) From the Back Cover Unconventional. . . . Not a garden-variety rock memoir . . . [but] a strange and lovely book about a woman finding and losing herself onstage and

off and crafting a complicated creative life when none of the molds quite fit. *Los Angeles Times Book* Engaging and surprisingly intimate. *Vanity Fair* More than a memoir, though one of the most riveting music biographies ever penned. *Examiner.com* For many, Kim Gordon, vocalist, bassist, and founding member of Sonic Youth one of the most influential and successful bands to emerge from the post-punk New York scene has always represented the epitome of cool. And almost as celebrated as the band's defiantly dissonant sound was the marriage between Gordon and her then husband, Thurston Moore. When it was announced that the couple was splitting after twenty-seven years of marriage, fans were devastated. In *Girl in a Band*, this famously reserved superstar speaks candidly about her past and the future. From her childhood in the sunbaked suburbs of Southern California, growing up with a mentally ill sibling, to New York's downtown art and music scene in the eighties and nineties and the birth of a band that would pave the way for acts like Nirvana, as well as help inspire the Riot Grrl generation, here is an edgy and evocative portrait of a life in art. Exploring the artists, musicians, and writers who influenced her, and the relationship that defined her life for so long, *Girl in a Band* is filled with the sights and sounds of a pre-Internet world and is a deeply personal portrait of a woman who has become an icon.

About the Author Kim Gordon is an artist, musician, producer, fashion designer, writer, and actress. She is a founding member of the experimental post-punk band Sonic Youth. Following the breakup of Sonic Youth, Gordon formed the group Body/Head. A collection of her early critical art writing entitled *Is It My Body?* was released by Sternberg Press in January 2014. Recent art exhibitions include a show of paintings through the Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles and the show *The City Is a Garden* at 303 Gallery in New York. She lives in New York and Los Angeles.