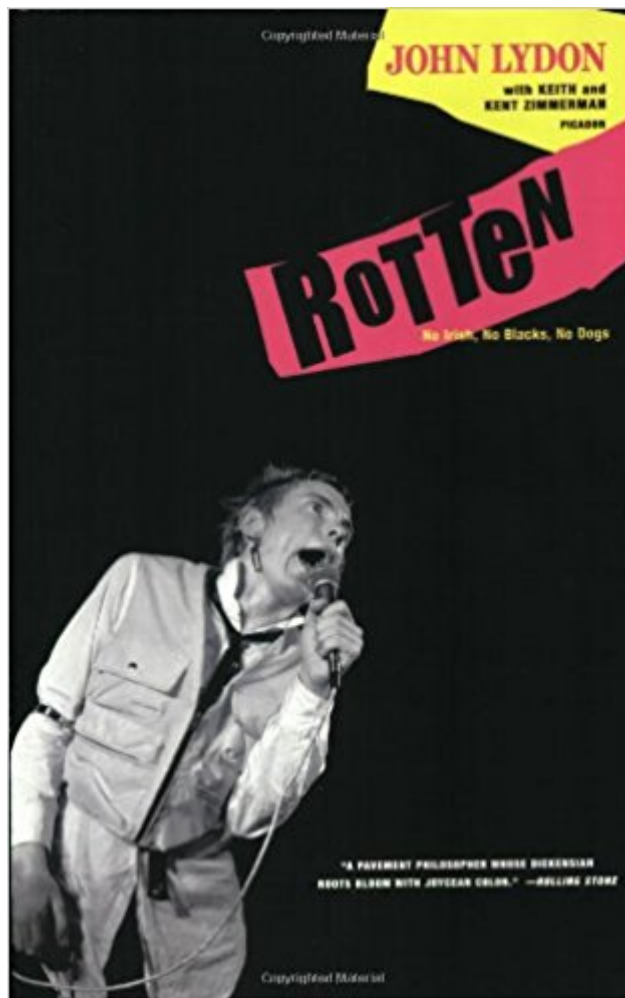


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Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs



Synopsis

"I have no time for lies and fantasy, and neither should you. Enjoy or die."--John Lydon Punk has been romanticized and embalmed in various media. It has been portrayed as an English class revolt and a reckless diversion that became a marketing dream. But there is no disputing its starting point. Every story of punk starts with its idols, the Sex Pistols, and its sneering hero was Johnny Rotten. In Rotten, Lydon looks back at himself, the Sex Pistols, and the "no future" disaffection of the time. Much more than just a music book, Rotten is an oral history of punk: angry, witty, honest, poignant, and crackling with energy.

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Customer Reviews

"Much has been written about the Sex Pistols. Much of it has either been sensationalism or journalistic psychobabble. The rest has been mere spite. This book is as close to the truth as one can get ... This means contradictions and insults have not been edited, and neither have the compliments, if any. I have no time for lies or fantasy, and neither should you. Enjoy or die." So writes author John Lydon, a.k.a. Johnny Rotten, in his introduction to the book Rotten, an oral history of punk: angry, honest, and crackling with energy. Seventies punk has been romanticized by the media and the up-and-coming punk bands of today, but the sneering, leering disaffection of that time has been lost. Now, Lydon candidly and at times, dare we say it, fondly looks back at himself, the Sex Pistols, and the "no future" attitude of the time. Rolling Stone calls Lydon a "pavement philosopher whose Dickensian roots blossom with Joycean color," and the San Francisco Chronicle

calls Rotten an "invaluable [book] ... sheds welcome light on that short period of great music and spasmodic cultural change." Bollocks you say? Read, sneer, and enjoy or die. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Britain's short-lived, notorious late-'70s punk band the Sex Pistols has become one of rock 'n' roll's greatest legends. But it's time to set the record straight, writes Lydon, aka Johnny Rotten, frontman for the Pistols and author of the controversial songs--"Anarchy in the U.K.," "God Save the Queen"--which made his band an immediate sensation. In his engagingly nasty and unexpectedly witty autobiography, he seeks to demythologize the Sex Pistols by suggesting that punk rockers are just like the rest of us, people with families, friends and financial troubles. Vitriolic about the British class system and the music industry, Lydon is nevertheless unabashedly affectionate when discussing his own family. And his depiction of Sid Vicious, his ironic bandmate who has been alternately romanticized and maligned for his addictions to heroin and self-mutilation emerges as a touchingly helpless figure. Lydon's account of the Sex Pistols' demise is one-sided and his narrative rambles at times, but textual anarchy seems appropriate in the context. He augments his personal perspective with the disparate impressions of his fellow bandmates and associates to make his memoir a convincingly candid account of the Sex Pistols as working-class stiff who mainly wanted to shake things up a bit and inadvertently stumbled across rock 'n' roll sainthood. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rotten paints a good picture of the chaos and turmoil that surrounded the emergence of punk rock in the late 70's. At times his account of events seem a bit too ludicrous to believe, but since he includes accounts by a vast array of people, you sort of have to accept that it is the truth. A good book, that tells the story of an angry group of teenagers, with a taste for the original, battling the established powers of record companies and media corporations, all the while being despised by much of the general public. He includes different accounts, even if they contradict him or insult him, which adds to the feeling that he is trying to shed light on what actually happened. A good read, that I can recommend.

Top Notch!! don't write reviews, most books aren't worth the effort now days. Some people earn their right to write a book, while others.... well (don't get me started!) Lydon is one of the last men standing, a rare cat who only deals with the truth, no holes barred. This has become a radical act in

a world full of hype marketing, imitation and BS. Refreshing read from perhaps one of the last great icons of our time Wow! My advice is watch the DVD 'Filth and the fury' and his new one 'Anger is an energy' to accompany this one.

John Lydon is brash, occasionally comes off as a bit pompous, and mighty opinionated for several pages at a go. Just what one expects from the man. But he also drops the bluster plenty enough to reveal a very thoughtful and well-educated viewpoint on things. One thing for sure- it's not a book to be lukewarm about. You'll either give it one star or five. And really, I think he'd want it no other way.

This missive penned by the one and only Johnny Rotten tells the story of the Sex Pistols from his vantage point. If you grew up exposed to punk music, you will get a very interesting story of what it was like to grow up in the UK during this time and what it was like to live inside the tornado that is the Pistols. Lydon provides not only names and dates but his opinions on the whys. He is articulate and intelligent, and while you might not agree with everything on which he opines, but you will walk away with a healthy respect for them.

"The book started out good with John talking about his childhood growing up, but then it talked about things I already knew about and it became boring. I also don't like how the book switches narrator's from different people talking. John should of just done the whole book himself without other people involved in it. John had another book just recently come out, so hopefully he is the only narrator and has added some more stories and details about his life.

I really enjoyed John's insight concerning the social and economic conditions in mid-1970's London. The Sex Pistols were a product of their times but are still relevant today. Lydon was able to articulate the rage and alienation but the Pistols needed all its members, even mama's boy Matlock and hapless, doomed Sid to become the punk pioneers and cultural icons they are today.

I gave it 5 stars because I absolutely love Johnny Rotten. Any punk kid or outcast can relate to him and the stories in this book, and it's fantastic that he comes out on top. After reading, I am no longer a fan of Sid Vicious. What an idiot/animal abuser/loser! The book jumps around a bit so you must pay attention. He does tend to repeat himself and there are a few contradictions and inconsistencies. It's easy to grow tired of the same bitch sessions over and over, but hey, it's Johnny Rotten, so you can't hold that against him. But other than that, the book is great and I was

especially excited to learn that he, Siouxsie, Billy Idol, and Chrissie Hynde all hung out and were friends! Definitely a must read for fans. He clears up a lot of folk stories and sets the record straight.

I couldn't really get into the book, but it does have some interesting stories and anecdotes. If you are a Johnny Rotten fan, and like to hear about the drama behind rock bands, you'll probably enjoy it.

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