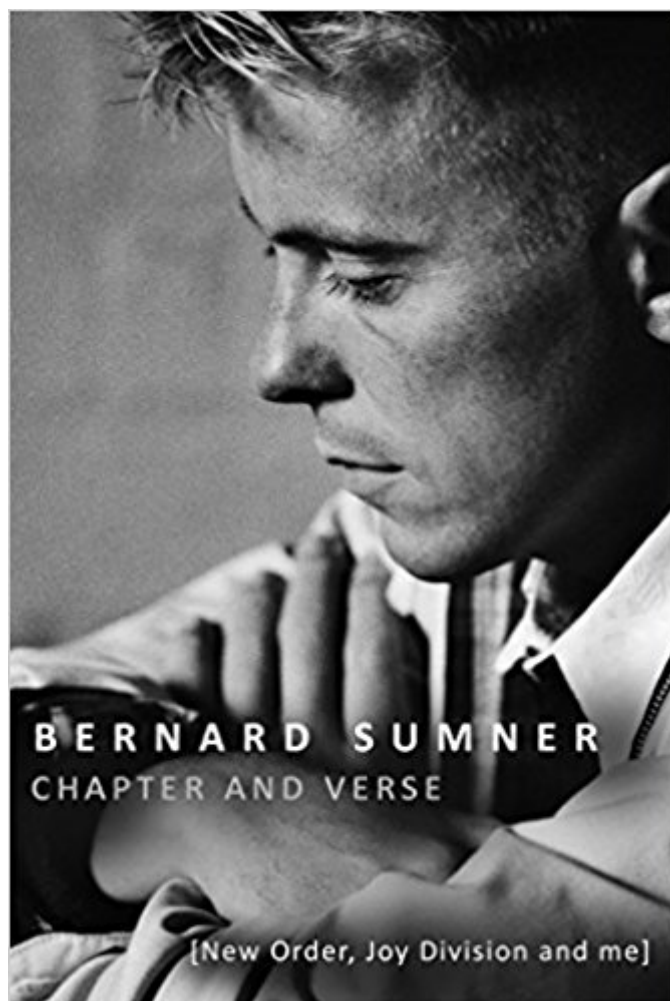


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Chapter And Verse: New Order, Joy Division And Me



Synopsis

Founding member and guitarist of Joy Division and the lead singer of New Order, Bernard Sumner has been famous over the years for his reticence. Until now . . . An integral part of the Manchester, UK, music scene since the late 1970s, his is the definitive version of the events that created two of the most influential bands of all time. Chapter and Verse includes a vivid and illuminating account of Bernard Sumner's childhood, the early days of Joy Division, the band's enormous critical and popular success, and the subsequent tragic death of Ian Curtis. Sumner describes the formation of New Order, takes us behind the scenes at the birth of classics such as "Blue Monday," and gives his firsthand account of the ecstasy and the agony of the Hacienda days. Sometimes moving, often hilarious, and occasionally completely out of control, this is a tale populated by some of the most colorful and creative characters in music history, such as Ian Curtis, Tony Wilson, Rob Gretton, and Martin Hannett. Others have told parts of the story, in film and book form. Now, for the first time, Bernard Sumner gives you chapter and verse.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Thomas Dunne Books (November 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250077729

ISBN-13: 978-1250077721

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #380,976 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Â Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Punk #130 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

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Customer Reviews

A very insightful autobiography from one of the music communities most elusive, yet talented members. Founding member of Joy Division & New Order gives a wonderful first-hand account of his early days as a child growing up in Salford, England during its darker days, to a single mother suffering from CP and confined to a wheelchair. I honestly had no idea of the depressed state of his childhood until reading this book. There is a lot of somber reading material throughout the first quarter of the book, but it certainly gives the reader a deeper appreciation of Bernard. Sumner, as

well as other artists who perhaps have gone through similar situations during their childhood. Naturally there is a lot written about the Joy Division years and this section is certainly not without its share of sadness, what with singer Ian Curtis' depression and bouts of epileptic seizures. It's never pleasant to read things such as this, but the friendship and support that Bernard gave Curtis during his life is very uplifting. The chapters on the transition between Joy Division and New Order are very interesting, as are the chapters written about their time in the studio and Bernard's discovery of the various electronic studio equipment that New Order had employed during the recording of their albums. His perspective on the Hacienda is entertaining and of course he touches on the issues surrounding New Order and former bassist Peter Hook. There's no trash talking---it's actually very "high road" and Sumner makes his stance on the matter quite effectively. Very entertaining if you like New Order or even Joy Division, but still a great read for the casual fan looking for something new to read.

This was well-written and had a manageable length. With such a long span of time to cover, he does breeze through a lot of time periods and just cherry picks random events to elaborate on. By comparison, the Peter Hook book about Joy Division was incredibly detailed, although not as eloquently written as this one. Overall I enjoyed it and learned a lot about New Order, Joy Division, and Mr. Sumner.

I've been a New Order fan for years, so this was a must read for me. A very well written summary of a long career that was more eventful than he probably ever intended for it to be. If you're a fan of New Order or any of the bands that they created, you'll enjoy this book.

If you like New Order, Electronic, and Barney, you will love this book. When I read it, I got insight into Barney's personality after feeling he was inscrutable for many years. Great inner content expressed well enough for me to feel the transference of his person energy. I was sad when I finished the book. Just wish he had written more about Electronic. Having read Hooky's books, I'll say this: Hooky's an entertaining and funny writer, but definitely an embellisher, and, I suspect, a liar. Barney's book, while not as funny (as Hooky's) felt pure, positive, and true. I felt like I was getting more of what I get when I listen to him sing and play. Highly recommended.

A great insight into Bernard's life. I'm a great fan of New Order and found some of the behind the scenes stuff really fascinating. My two criticisms were that, while he has been in a longtime

disagreement with Peter Hook, Bernard sometimes comes across as a little childish in his constant justification of himself as being completely blameless in the argument (though in fairness, Hooky's book pretty much does the same in reverse). It takes two to have an argument, and I found this quite jarring. I also thought he was a little condescending about Gillian. I paraphrase "she had come on in leaps and bounds". I always thought she added a lot of 'warmness' to New Order records (witness the recent 'Music Complete'), and it just felt dismissive as if she isn't that important. I'd disagree. However, these are fairly minor criticisms and all in all, if you are a fan of Joy Division, New Order, or even that period of English music, this is well worth a read.

Great memoir from the lead of one of my favorite bands. I enjoyed reading about his early life then his life as a rock star with Joy Division, New Order, Electronic and Bad Lieutenant and back to New Order for the future and beyond. Sad to hear about Ian's demise and other members of the JD/NO family that are no longer around. Especially tough to read about issues with Hooky. It doesn't appear like he's reuniting with his old mates anytime soon. But good to hear Barney's side of the story. Great read!

I really enjoyed this book. It was well written, honest, unashamed and engaging throughout. I still have questions that I may never get answered: 1) Were Bernard and Hooky ever best/close friends, or just co-workers in two bands? 2) what happened to Bernard's first marriage? Is he close to his son from that marriage? 3) Would this book ever see the light of day if Hooky didn't leave the band and throw him under the bus?

I enjoyed reading this book because I am a fan of every band Bernard Sumner has been in. His is a very talented musician and a good writer. I only wish he would have written more about the songs he created and what moved or inspired him to create the songs/lyrics.

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