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Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys.: A Memoir



Synopsis

"Ms. Albertine's book is wiry and cogent and fearless.â | Her book has an honest, lo-fi grace. If it were better written, it would be worse."â •Dwight Garner, The New York Times"Forget Katniss And Tris - Viv Albertine Is Your New Hero."â •MTV.comThe Rough Trade #1 Book of the Year!Viv Albertine is a pioneer. As lead guitarist and songwriter for the seminal band The Slits, she influenced a future generation of artists including Kurt Cobain and Carrie Brownstein. She formed a band with Sid Vicious and was there the night he met Nancy Spungeon. She tempted Johnny Thundersâ |toured America with the Clashâ |dated Mick Jonesâ |and inspired the classic Clash anthem "Train in Vain." But Albertine was no mere muse. In Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys., Albertine delivers a unique and unfiltered look at a traditionally male-dominated scene. Her story is so much more than a music memoir. Albertine's narrative is nothing less than a fierce correspondence from a life on the fringes of culture. The author recalls rebelling from conformity and patriarchal society ever since her days as an adolescent girl in the same London suburb of Muswell Hill where the Kinks formed. With brash honestyâ •and an unforgiving memoryâ •Albertine writes of immersing herself into punk culture among the likes of the Sex Pistols and the Buzzcocks. Of her devastation when the Slits broke up and her reinvention as a director and screenwriter. Or abortion, marriage, motherhood, and surviving cancer. Navigating infidelity and negotiating divorce. And launching her recent comeback as a solo artist with her debut album, The Vermilion Border. Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys. is a raw chronicle of music, fashion, love, sex, feminism, and more that connects the early days of punk to the Riot Grrl movement and beyond. But even more profoundly, Viv Albertine's remarkable memoir is the story of an empowered woman staying true to herself and making it on her own in the modern world.

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Customer Reviews

Here's what I tweeted when I finished the book: "Finished superb memoir #clothesmusicboys by @viv_albertine last night. Wonderful book - entertaining, moving, sad, amusing, profound" And I don't need to say a lot more - it was really was that good. Viv Albertine was the guitarist of iconic 1970s English punk band The Slits. When that band broke up, she disappeared into a marriage in which her creativity wasted away. This is the story of how she got to that point and how she resumed her creative life after 25 years' obscurity. It's also the story of some very bad (and some very good) choices, taken with a fierce commitment to independence, and the emotional price she has had to pay for that independence. Along the way, there are fascinating portraits of Sid Vicious, John Lydon, Mick Jones, Ari Up and many other famous figures of the punk era; unexpected connections with musicians and actors as diverse as Steve Howe of Yes and Tom Hiddleston; and the voice of a fine storyteller. This is, so far, my favourite book of 2014.

A wonderful book on so many levels--an inside look at the creation of punk; wildly interesting portraits of friends such as Johnny Thunders, Sid Vicious, and Mick Jones (who comes off as a sweetheart--wish he'd write a book too); ordinary stuff about what it's like to be a woman, but told in such an appealing, signature way; and a message that there are second acts in life (and third and fourth acts too--Albertine's intriguing performance in the Joanna Hogg film *Exhibition* led me to this book). I loved this so much I even put it down for a day, to postpone the painful inevitability of having no more Viv Albertine words to read. And her hilariously described Vincent Gallo encounter is just priceless icing on the cake.

Can't say what possessed me to purchase this book??? I had never heard of Viv Albertine or The Slits. I didn't listen to punk rock. However, I found this book captivating. The honesty of it all. Congratulations Viv!! I'm a fairly avid reader and would recommend this book to most anyone who can keep an open mind. The book created some type of cathartic experience for me.

In the non-stop stream of celebrity autobiographies available, Viv Albertine's *Clothes, Clothes, Clothes, Music, Music, Music, Boys, Boys, Boys* is in a class by itself. Eschewing the

standard form of chronicling events in long, wistful chapters of excess, Albertine goes for short entries of brilliance. The woman knows how to write, crafting observant and blunt bits of streetwise prose to describe the many mini-moments that make up this great book. The gangs all here; sex, drugs, rock and roll, but that's only a part of it. After the days of punk, The Slits, and notoriety had faded, Albertine tackled the next stage of her life, one in which she tried to have something approaching normalcy, only to find herself beset by a host of physical maladies which left her an empty and depressed shell of the renegade she once was. It's in this second half of the book that the reader is jettisoned from appreciative fan to empathetic confidant, a powerful transformation to be certain. Throughout her tale, the author is relentlessly, brutally, and heartbreakingly honest. It's easily the most intimate autobiography I've read, one in which the reader isn't just consuming the sterile recounting of actions, but rather becoming enmeshed in a spellbinding, painful, and wry confessional. It's essentially linear, but has some disjointed chapters that seem to have no purpose save to give you one more anecdote or life observation. I can best compare it to a long conversation with someone wherein the drinks or drugs flow, the talk rambles, and nobody is bored. Hers is a story as unique as she, but it's her ability to unflinchingly express the raw innermost thoughts she was experiencing during those moments that make this book so special, so personal, and so endearing. The book is an easy read, told in two parts, mirroring the two very different eras of her life. By the end of the book, I had fallen so utterly and completely in love with this woman, that she's ruined every other woman forever. Beneath the stunningly beautiful woman is an intelligent, thoughtful, courageous, and utterly absorbing person who I wish I had the privilege of truly calling my friend. This book will have to suffice.

Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys: A Memoir--a great title for a wonderful memoir! The title is based a comment by Viv Albertine's mother when Viv was a teenager, saying all Viv was interested in was clothes, music, and boys. Although I suspect that is true for many teenage girls, Viv stands out by how she throws herself into punk fashion, music, and the boys in the bands. I know only a little about the 1970s musical era in this memoir, but that didn't impact my enjoyment of the book. Viv's drive to learn, to play, to experience music and life is timeless. For the first part of the book, Viv is young, reckless, and free, surrounded by music and boys. In the second half of the story, a more mature Viv has sought out stability, created a family, and struggled with her health. But underneath her carefully constructed life, there is still a flicker of desire to be more, do more, and learn more. Clothes, Music, Boys is a well-written and engaging

memoir. One doesn't need to be a fan of 1970s music, early punk fashion, or girl bands to appreciate the coming of age story of a creative, sometimes lost, woman.

What began as a modest memoir of punk rock memories & related celebrity namedropping cascaded into a torrent of betrayal, cancer & the perseverance that seems to be demanded for middle age survival. So it's much more than a rock star TMI-tell all, though there's plenty of that. I mean, you get your Mick Jones & The Clash as well as Sid Vicious & Johnny Rotten, et al. But you also get the challenge of marriage, the passion for giving birth & enough, uh, female troubles to take out a lesser woman. In other words, the full messy scope of life rather than sanitized greatest hits. And it's told breathlessly, w/ humor & an unrelenting introspection. Very moving.

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