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We Owe You Nothing, Punk Planet : The Collected Interviews

Daniel Sinker

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Daniel Sinker : We Owe You Nothing, Punk Planet : The Collected Interviews before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Owe You Nothing, Punk Planet : The Collected Interviews:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the most inspiring books I've ever readBy Pen Name?This is a truly amazing and inspiring collection of interviews. From Kathleen Hannah, Noam Chomsky, Jello Biafra, Thurston Moore, and many more known and unknown personalities, this book should work to revitalize your spirit to live, to dare, to create. Aside from Frank Kozik (who, while interesting, is not very inspiring) the people included in this

anthology are vital, engaged artists, writers and just regular people who share some remarkable stories, fascinating insights. If you're interested in real life political issues, what it means to create and sustain a culture, to be involved in communities or just interested in the human experience, I highly recommend this book. If you are into all of the "I'm so hip and crusty" stuff that the guy who trashed the book is into, then no, you won't like this, I suppose, because you have your own microscopic view of "punk" and will dislike anything that doesn't fit into it, but maybe you should still read this collection anyhow. It might help.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. a cultural chronicle that's important, readable, and fun

By Will Tupper

In America's TV Nation, where reading is often considered dangerous (and for the most part, undesired), the books that are repeatedly shoved down our throat (like "Dope-rah's Book Club," as my witty friend Jack says) are ones that are... for the most part, really saying nothing that we haven't heard before. I mean it when I say, this is not one of those books. "We Owe You Nothing" is a collection of 25 of the best interviews from Punk Planet magazine. Voted "Best Zine of 2000," in the Alternative Press Awards (sponsored by the Utne Reader), the stories of these musicians, writers, filmmakers, political activists, et. all are, simply put, some of the most incredible you may ever read. You'll see something in many of them that the mainstream media never wants you to see, never wants you to comprehend, understand, or read. The truth. These interviews are of the highest quality, and make for enlightening, entertaining, utterly enjoyable, invigorating reading. Once you get done with We Owe You Nothing, you'll know something valuable: that your life is up to you to define, that you can find art and revolution in the last places most would look, and that it's time for everyone to wake up just a little more, and become deeper in tune with the world around us. My only complaint is that it all ended too soon. Clearly, it's far more deserving than five little stars on a computer screen, or my words about it. This book belongs in your hands, because once you're done reading, it's words, ideas and wisdom will surely seep into every one of your actions. You could do much worse in your purchases, but it would be hard to do much better. We Owe You Nothing, on every level is sets out to achieve, totally, totally delivers.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. All Interviews, Better than Expected

By A Customer

Beng familiar with the fanzine version this book took the interviews from since their first issue, I did not initially think this book would be that good. But coming from someone still involved in punk and hardcore and indie rock, I gotta say the interviews are quite good, and the subjects interviewed are some of the most important and best known. The entire book is made up of interviews from past fanzine issues but I think interviews are great historical documents and should be more appreciated. Punk Planet the fanzine doesn't blow me away but this book is really very good. Any indie music fan should have this on his/her bookshelf. No joke.

Cultural Writing. Includes interviews with Jello Biafra, Black Flag, Noam Chomsky, and Steve Albini, among others. PUNK PLANET is indispensable reading for anyone and everyone who is at all interested in vital music that has yet to be co-opted, commodified, or covered to death in the mainstream press. Passionate music writing for the right reasons -- Jim DeRogatis, Chicago Sun-Times/ author of Let it Blurt: The Life and Times of Lester Bangs. In principle, the idea doesn't seem that outrageous: Why not create a magazine about music and politics that doesn't have its hands tied behind its back from the start, freed from the shallowness and trend mandates of official media, the insularity and disciplinary bifurcations of academia, and the ideological blinkers that held back Maximum Rock n Roll? Simple, right? So try thinking of anyone but PUNK PLANET who's pulled it off -- Eric Weisbard, Village Voice.

From Library Journal

Over the past six years, Daniel Sinker's Chicago-based Punk Planet has grown from being one of the better self-published fanzines dedicated to punk culture to a professional, income-generating publication that hasn't lost sight of the ideals and uncompromising style that first garnered it attention. This collection of interviews reflects one of Punk Planet's most important qualities: Sinker's willingness to look beyond the small world of punk bands and labels and deal with larger issues. With interview subjects ranging from punk icons Thurston Moore and Ian MacKaye to Noam Chomsky and representatives of the Central Ohio Abortion Access Fund, as well as many other artists, musicians, and activists, this book is not solely for the tattooed, pierced teenage set. All of the interviews are probing and well thought out, the questions going deeper than most magazines would ever dare; and each has a succinct, informative introduction for readers who are unfamiliar with the subject. Required reading for all music fans. Vincent Au, New York Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "...'We Owe You Nothing' goes beyond the more obvious figureheads to feature interviews with a lot of the players behind the scenes..." -- Hartford Courant, January 7, 2001 "All of the interviews are probing and well thought out...Required reading for all music fans." -- Library Journal, February 15, 2001

From the Publisher

Punk Planet Magazine has just won an Utne Reader 2000 Alternative Press Award!!