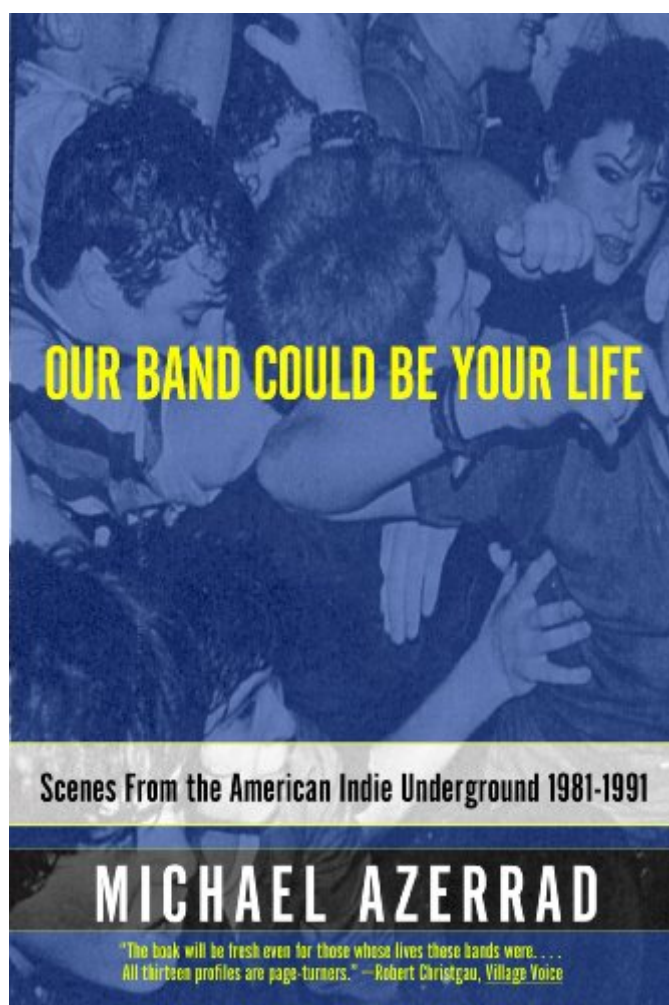


The book was found

Our Band Could Be Your Life: Scenes From The American Indie Underground, 1981-1991



Synopsis

This is the never-before-told story of the musical revolution that happened right under the nose of the Reagan Eighties--when a small but sprawling network of bands, labels, fanzines, radio stations, and other subversives reenergized American rock with punk rock's do-it-yourself credo and created music that was deeply personal, often brilliant, always challenging, and immensely influential. This sweeping chronicle of music, politics, drugs, fear, loathing, and faith has been recognized as an indie rock classic in its own right. Among the bands profiled: Mission of Burma, Butthole Surfers, The Minutemen, Sonic Youth, Black Flag, Big Black, Hüsker Dü, Fugazi, Minor Threat, Mudhoney, The Replacements, Beat Happening, and Dinosaur Jr.

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Customer Reviews

Our Band Could Be Your Life is a very thorough book with about 590 pages to read. If you are of the age group of the 'Indie' records, you will identify and like reading about the known groups. If you missed the generation and always wondered what it was all about, you'll learn about what these groups went through just for getting their music heard. I was impressed with their desire to make

their own songs, have a friend make the labels and distribute their records the old fashion way, locally. All this with boyhood angst, they created a new genre. I might add, there are quite a few youtubes with footage from many of their gigs, so you can listen to them. I found this most helpful whilst reading each chapter. ~

The best thing about "Our Band Could Be Your Life" is how well it works as both an introduction to indie/punk/DIY to those who are unfamiliar with the music, and how well it will adds, reinforces, and strengthens the knowledge of those familiar with this type of music. Most of these bands are quite different from each other in terms of sound but they all share a similar story of rising from nothing to become unique and important bands in the world of independent rock music. "Our Band" is an easy and well paced read and spends enough time on each to give you a solid understanding of each band but not so much that is overwhelming or becomes too tedious. A unique portrait of an often overlooked time in Independent music !

Prior to reading this book, I wasn't extremely familiar with the majority of the bands within it. I had followed Minutemen, Sonic Youth, Big Black, and Husker Du extensively because of their popularity and acclaim within my circles of friends, but I had never known anything about Black Flag's sordid history, Beat Happening's metamorphosis from a noisy garage band to a crisp-sounding Twee band, Muhoney's exploration of studio sound and songwriting approach, or The Replacement's interest in the past and the future and how that factored into what music they played. These were the Punks after Punk, No Wave, and Post-Punk had all fizzled out and they were extremely instrumental in shaping the music industry of today and the widely accepted independent style that is utilized by all sorts of bands and artists. It's very worth buying this and learning about the history of these bands.

Well written and opinionated set of band biographies, including interviews with the musicians. I enjoyed the book very much.

This is a pretty decent book! It gives a good starting point for all of the bands featured and it's pretty excellent to see how some of them connect. I found it slow-going at times, but I think part of that was my own focus. Overall, if you're interested in this tumultuous time in music or if you've got a liking for one or more of the bands contained therein, it's definitely worth a read :)

Predictable profiles? Here's what I mean. 1. Band broke up sometime in the 80's : "This band was great, underrated, and ahead of their time." 2. Band continued into the 90's and signed to a major label: "They were mind blowing as an indie band, then kinda sucked when they went to a major. (Although Husker Du broke up before the 90's hit, their profile also falls into this model.) 3. Fugazi : "Your band will never be this great." Still, it's a good read, although I suspect there are better books available for most of these bands.

I saw many of these bands in the late 70's and early eighties. How great for me to relive my musical youth at 49 years old. This book brought me back to many happy days. I saw the Minute Men a couple of times and I remember where I was when I heard about the car wreck that killed D. Boone. My brother and I had seen them only a couple months earlier in a Phoenix area bar. I strongly recommend this book to the older dudes if you will. Great time and investment if you want to remember the good old days of Indie/Punk/Alternative music.

I haven't finished the book, but I find it merely OK. Like most music writers, Azerrad thinks that the time period he is discussing (the 1980s) is more important than any other time period in music. I don't entirely agree, so to hear him talk about how critical the "Reagan Years" were and how everything before or after it was lacking gets a bit tiresome. That being said, the book has some interesting profiles of indie bands like Minor Threat, Black Flag, Mission of Burma, Sonic Youth, etc. If you're looking for a good book about independent punk bands, I preferred reading "We Owe you Nothing" by Daniel Sinker which is a little less "music-writer-ey"

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