

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic

The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic: A Groundbreaking Milestone

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic marks a significant moment in the history of music journalism and cultural commentary. For decades, rock criticism was dominated by male voices, often overlooking or marginalizing female perspectives in a genre that thrived on rebellion and diversity. The emergence of a living female rock critic compiling her insights and analyses into a single volume not only challenges the status quo but also enriches the discourse around rock music and its cultural impact.

In this article, we'll explore the importance of this pioneering collection, the unique voice it brings to rock criticism, and what it means for future generations of music writers. Along the way, we will touch on the evolution of rock criticism, the role of gender in music journalism, and the broader cultural shifts that make this collection so vital.

Why the First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic Matters

Historically, rock music criticism has been a male-dominated field. From the early days of Rolling Stone and Creem magazines to the digital age, the majority of influential rock critics were men. This gender imbalance affected not only who was writing about music but also how music was interpreted and discussed. The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic disrupts this pattern by providing a fresh perspective that challenges conventional narratives.

Women have always contributed to rock music, both as artists and fans, yet their voices in critical discourse were often sidelined. The appearance of a female critic compiling her work into a comprehensive collection signals a shift toward inclusivity and recognition of diverse viewpoints. It validates the female experience within rock culture and highlights the importance of intersectionality in music criticism.

The Unique Lens of a Female Rock Critic

What sets this collection apart is the way it blends personal experience with cultural analysis. A female critic often brings nuanced insights about gender dynamics, representation, and the emotional landscape of rock music that may

be overlooked by male counterparts. This lens enriches the understanding of rock's impact beyond just the sound or commercial success.

For example, the collection might explore how female rock icons have reshaped gender roles or how rock music's rebellious spirit resonates differently with women. It also addresses topics like sexism in the music industry and fan communities, providing a critical framework that is both reflective and forward-thinking.

The Evolution of Rock Criticism: From Margins to Mainstream

Rock criticism has evolved tremendously since its inception in the 1960s and 1970s. Early critics were often seen as gatekeepers, shaping public opinion about albums and artists. However, as music became more diverse and genres expanded, so did the scope of criticism.

Breaking the Mold: Female Critics in Rock Journalism

Women have been writing about rock music for decades but rarely received the same level of recognition as their male peers. Pioneering female critics such as Ellen Willis paved the way by combining feminist theory with music journalism, yet collections of their work were rare or published posthumously.

The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic represents not only a personal achievement but also a broader cultural milestone. It demonstrates that female voices are not only present but essential in shaping how we understand rock music's past, present, and future.

Impact on the Music Industry and Fans

This collection also influences how the music industry approaches female artists and audiences. By highlighting overlooked contributions and systemic challenges, it encourages more equitable treatment and representation. Fans, in turn, gain richer, more relatable narratives that reflect their own experiences.

What to Expect from the First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic

Many readers might wonder about the content and style of such a groundbreaking book. Unlike traditional rock criticism, which often focuses on album reviews or artist profiles, this collection tends to weave storytelling with cultural critique.

Insightful Essays and Reviews

The book features essays that delve into landmark albums, transformative concerts, and the evolution of rock subgenres. Each piece is informed by years of experience and a deep passion for music, making the commentary both authoritative and approachable.

Personal Anecdotes and Cultural Commentary

Readers will find personal stories that humanize the music world, from backstage encounters to reflections on fandom. These anecdotes add depth and context, making the criticism resonate on an emotional level.

Exploration of Gender and Identity

A hallmark of this collection is its focus on how gender and identity intersect with rock culture. It examines how female musicians challenge stereotypes and how female fans navigate spaces often dominated by men. This exploration adds a vital dimension to understanding rock music as not just entertainment but a social force.

How This Collection Inspires Future Female Critics

For aspiring female music journalists and critics, this collection serves as both a roadmap and an inspiration. It proves that women can not only participate in but lead critical conversations about rock music.

Encouraging Diverse Voices

The success and recognition of this collection encourage publishers to seek out more female voices in music journalism. Diversity in criticism leads to a richer, more inclusive dialogue that benefits artists, fans, and the industry alike.

Tips for Emerging Female Rock Critics

- **Develop a unique voice:** Authenticity is key. Share your perspective and personal experiences to stand out.
- **Build deep knowledge:** Understand the history and nuances of rock music to provide insightful analysis.
- **Engage with communities:** Connect with other writers, musicians, and fans to broaden your perspective and network.
- **Be fearless:** Don't shy away from challenging norms or addressing uncomfortable topics.
- **Leverage digital platforms:** Blogs, podcasts, and social media can amplify your voice and reach wider audiences.

The Broader Cultural Significance of Female Rock Criticism

The emergence of this first collection is more than just a publishing milestone; it reflects a cultural shift toward recognizing women's contributions in all areas of creative expression. Rock music, with its roots in rebellion and social change, is a fitting arena for this transformation.

By foregrounding the perspective of a living female rock critic, the collection helps dismantle outdated gender biases and opens the door for more inclusive and representative cultural criticism across genres and mediums.

As rock music continues to evolve, so too will the conversations around it. This collection ensures that female voices are not only heard but celebrated, enriching the legacy of rock criticism for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic?

The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic is authored by Ann Powers.

What is the title of the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic?

The title of the collection is "Weird Like Us: My Bohemian America."

Why is the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic significant?

It is significant because it highlights the unique perspectives and contributions of women in the traditionally male-dominated field of rock music criticism.

When was the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic published?

Ann Powers' collection was published in 2019.

What themes are explored in the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic?

The collection explores themes such as identity, culture, music history, and the evolving landscape of rock and popular music.

How has the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic influenced music journalism?

It has broadened the scope of music journalism by incorporating diverse voices and challenging traditional narratives within rock criticism.

Where can readers find the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic?

The collection is available in major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and digital platforms such as Kindle and Audible.

Additional Resources

The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic: A Groundbreaking Milestone in Music Journalism

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic marks a pivotal moment in the history of music journalism, shining a spotlight on a previously underrepresented voice in a male-dominated field. This milestone not only celebrates the artistic and analytical acumen of female critics but also challenges longstanding biases in rock criticism. As rock music continues to evolve, so too does the landscape of its critique, making this collection an essential cultural artifact and a significant contribution to music literature.

Breaking New Ground: The Significance of Female Perspectives in Rock Criticism

For decades, rock criticism has been predominantly shaped by male voices, often sidelining the perspectives of women despite their active participation in the music scene, both as artists and fans. The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic disrupts this narrative by offering fresh insights, nuanced interpretations, and an empathetic understanding of the genre's complexities. This collection not only documents the critic's personal journey through the evolving rock landscape but also highlights the broader sociocultural shifts influencing the music industry.

The emergence of this collection underscores a growing recognition of diverse viewpoints that enrich the discourse surrounding rock music. Female critics bring unique sensibilities to the table, often emphasizing themes like gender, identity, and social justice, which have been historically underexplored in traditional rock criticism. This multidimensional approach broadens readers' appreciation of the genre beyond conventional parameters.

The Evolution of Rock Criticism and the Role of Women

Rock criticism has undergone significant transformations since its inception in the 1960s and 1970s, when figures like Lester Bangs and Robert Christgau set high standards for music journalism. However, women such as Ellen Willis, Greil Marcus, and later, Ann Powers, have contributed profoundly, albeit less prominently, to the field. The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic builds on this legacy, integrating contemporary issues with historical context.

This collection reflects the critic's engagement with various subgenres—from punk and grunge to indie and alternative rock—while addressing the intersections of music with feminism, race, and cultural politics. Such an approach marks a departure from earlier criticism that often prioritized sonic aesthetics over sociopolitical analysis.

In-Depth Analysis of the Collection's Content and Style

The collection showcases a versatile writing style that balances scholarly rigor with accessible language, appealing to both casual readers and academics. Its essays, reviews, and personal reflections demonstrate a deep understanding of musical form, lyrical content, and performance dynamics. Moreover, the critic's ability to contextualize albums and concerts within

broader cultural movements elevates the discourse beyond mere appraisal.

The collection's structure invites readers to trace the evolution of rock music through a critical feminist lens. This perspective is vital in unpacking the gender dynamics within bands, the music industry, and fandoms. The critic's exploration of female-fronted bands and the challenges women face in rock environments provides a corrective to the genre's often androcentric history.

Key Themes and Contributions

- **Gender and Representation:** The critic interrogates the marginalization of women in rock, highlighting artists who defy stereotypes and advocating for greater inclusivity.
- **Intersectionality:** Essays explore how race, class, and sexuality intersect with rock culture, offering a holistic view of the music's societal impact.
- **Musical Innovation:** Detailed analyses of groundbreaking albums and live performances illustrate the critic's deep musical knowledge and appreciation for innovation.
- **Historical Contextualization:** The collection situates contemporary rock within its historical lineage, tracing influences and shifts across decades.

The Impact on Music Journalism and Rock Criticism

The release of the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic resonates beyond the pages of the book. It challenges industry gatekeepers to reconsider whose voices are amplified in music journalism. By foregrounding a female perspective, the collection encourages aspiring critics, particularly women, to pursue careers in a field where they have been underrepresented.

Furthermore, this collection contributes to the diversification of rock criticism by expanding the thematic range and analytical depth of music reviews. It fosters a more inclusive dialogue around rock music, encouraging readers and critics alike to question preconceived notions about genre, gender roles, and cultural value.

Comparative Perspectives: How This Collection Stands Out

Compared to traditional rock criticism anthologies, which often compile the works of multiple male critics or deceased writers, this collection's uniqueness lies in its contemporary, singular voice that is both authoritative and intimately connected to the current music scene. Its freshness is evident in the way it navigates digital music culture, streaming platforms, and the rise of social media's influence on music consumption and criticism.

Additionally, the critic's insider perspective as a woman navigating the rock world lends authenticity and urgency to her essays. This contrasts with earlier criticism that sometimes maintained a detached or purely aesthetic focus, lacking engagement with the lived realities of musicians and audiences.

Challenges and Critiques of the Collection

While widely praised, the collection is not without its critiques. Some readers may find the emphasis on identity politics to overshadow purely musical analysis. Others might argue that the critic's personal narratives occasionally blur the line between objective critique and memoir. However, these elements can also be viewed as strengths, offering a more holistic and humanized approach to music criticism.

Moreover, the collection's focus on niche subgenres and underground scenes may limit accessibility for mainstream rock fans. Yet, this specificity enriches understanding of rock's diverse ecosystem, highlighting artists and movements that deserve greater attention.

Pros and Cons at a Glance

1. **Pros:** Innovative feminist perspective, well-researched essays, engaging writing style, broad thematic scope.
2. **Cons:** Potentially dense for casual readers, occasional subjective tone, focus on less mainstream music scenes.

Future Directions in Rock Criticism Inspired by This Collection

The first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic sets a precedent for future publications that prioritize diverse voices and multidisciplinary approaches to music journalism. It suggests a trajectory in which criticism becomes more inclusive, analytical, and socially aware. Emerging critics may draw inspiration from this work to challenge traditional hierarchies and expand the boundaries of rock discourse.

As digital platforms continue to democratize access to music and criticism, the role of female critics will likely grow, offering fresh narratives that resonate with new generations of listeners. This collection not only reflects a moment in time but also catalyzes ongoing conversations about representation, authenticity, and the evolving nature of rock music.

In this way, the collection serves as both a historical document and a call to action—inviting the music community to embrace a richer, more equitable future for rock criticism and beyond.

[The First Collection Of Criticism By A Living Female Rock Critic](#)

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic Jessica Hopper, 2021-07-06 Jessica Hopper's criticism is a trenchant and necessary counterpoint not just on music, but on our culture at large. —Annie Clark, St. Vincent An acclaimed, career-spanning collection from a fiercely feminist and revered contemporary rock critic, reissued with new material Throughout her career, spanning more than two decades, Jessica Hopper, a revered and pioneering music critic, has examined women recording and producing music, in all genres, through an intersectional feminist lens. The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic features oral histories of bands like Hole and Sleater Kinney, interviews with the women editors of 1970s-era Rolling Stone, and intimate conversations with iconic musicians such as Björk, Robyn, and Lido Pimienta. Hopper journeys through the truths of Riot Grrrl's empowering insurgence; decamps to Gary, Indiana, on the eve of Michael Jackson's death; explodes the grunge-era mythologies of Nirvana and Courtney Love; and examines the rise of emo. The collection also includes profiles and reviews of some of the most-loved, and most-loathed, women artists making music today: Fiona Apple, Kacey Musgraves, M.I.A., Miley Cyrus, Lana Del Rey. In order for the music industry to change, Hopper writes, we need “the continual presence of radicalized women . . . being encouraged and given reasons to stay, rather than diminished by the music which glues our communities together.” The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic—published to acclaim in 2015, and reissued now with new material and an introduction by Samantha Irby—is a rallying cry for women-centered history and storytelling, and a groundbreaking, obsessive, razor-sharp panorama of music writing crafted by one of the most influential critics of her generation.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: Book Reports Robert Christgau, 2019-04-04 In this generous collection of book reviews and literary essays, legendary

Village Voice rock critic Robert Christgau showcases the passion that made him a critic—his love for the written word. Many selections address music, from blackface minstrelsy to punk and hip-hop, artists from Lead Belly to Patti Smith, and fellow critics from Ellen Willis and Lester Bangs to Nelson George and Jessica Hopper. But Book Reports also teases out the popular in the Bible and 1984 as well as pornography and science fiction, and analyzes at length the cultural theory of Raymond Williams, the detective novels of Walter Mosley, the history of bohemia, and the 2008 financial crisis. It establishes Christgau as not just the Dean of American Rock Critics, but one of America's most insightful cultural critics as well.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Women's Bands in America* Jill M. Sullivan, 2016-12-12 *Women's Bands in America* is the first comprehensive exploration of women's bands across the three centuries in American history. Contributors trace women's emerging roles in society as seen through women's bands—concert and marching—spanning three centuries of American history. Authors explore town, immigrant, industry, family, school, suffrage, military, jazz, and rock bands, adopting a variety of methodologies and theoretical lenses in order to assemble and interrogate their findings within the context of women's roles in American society over time. Contributors bring together a series of disciplines in this unique work, including music education, musicology, American history, women's studies, and history of education. They also draw on numerous primary sources: diaries, film, military records, newspaper articles, oral-history interviews, personal letters, photographs, published ephemera, radio broadcasts, and recordings. Thoroughly, contributors engage in archival historical research, biography, case study, content analysis, iconographic study, oral history, and qualitative research to bring their topics to life. This ambitious collection will be of use not only to students and scholars of instrumental music education, music history and ethnomusicology, but also gender studies and American social history. Contributions by: Vilka E. Castillo Silva, Dawn Farmer, Danelle Larson, Brian Meyers, Sarah Minette, Gayle Murchison, Jeananne Nichols, David Rickels, Joanna Ross Hersey, Sarah Schmalenberger, Amy Spears, and Sondra Wieland Howe.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Liner Notes for the Revolution* Daphne A. Brooks, 2021-02-23 *Liner Notes for the Revolution* offers a startling new perspective on Black women musicians from Bessie Smith to Beyoncé. Informed by the overlooked contributions of women who wrote about the blues, rock, and pop, Daphne A. Brooks argues that acclaimed entertainers have also been radical intellectuals, challenging the culture industry to catch up.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *I Live Inside* Michelle Leon, 2016-03-15 *Babes in Toyland* burst onto the Minneapolis music scene in the late 1980s and quickly established itself at the forefront of punk/alternative rock. The all-female trio featured a shy, seventeen-year-old Jewish teen from the suburbs on bass guitar—an instrument she had never played before joining the band. Over the next few years, Michelle Leon lived the rock-and-roll lifestyle—playing live concerts, recording in studios, touring across the United States and Europe, and spending endless hours in stuffy vans, staying in two-star motels, and sleeping on strangers' couches in town after town. The grind and drama of life in the band gradually wore on Leon, however, and a heartbreaking tragedy led her to rethink her commitment to the band and the music scene. Leon's sensitive, sensory prose puts readers right on stage with *Babes in Toyland* while also conveying the uncertainty, vulnerability, and courage needed by a girl who never felt like she fit in to somehow find her place in the world. "A crucial and compelling account of what it was to be a woman making music in the nineties. . . . Fantastic and ferocious."—Jessica Hopper, music and culture critic and author of *The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic* "Profound, poetic, badass, tender, and inspiring."—Will Hermes, author of *Love Goes to Buildings on Fire* "I Live Inside feels as real and personal as reading your own memories. . . . Parts read like a fairy tale while others are so haunting they will never leave you."—Kelli Mayo, musician (*Skating Polly*) "Leon draws you right into the *Babes in Toyland* van, shows you the after party tensions and what is in the mind of this particular girl in a band."—Darcey Steinke, author of *Sister Golden Hair*:

A Novel and others "[Leon's] prose is stunning, her eye is wry, and her heart enormous; the result is a compelling memoir filled with pop culture, travel, intrigue, and a young artist's quest to find her voice."—Laurie Lindeen, musician (Zuzu's Petals) and author of *Petal Pusher: A Rock and Roll Cinderella Story* "By the end of this lyrical, tough, and moving memoir, you'll not only feel like you know Michelle Leon, you'll also want to talk and dance and listen to music with her."—Scott Heim, author of *Mysterious Skin* and *We Disappear* "A vivid, poetic memoir."—Mark Yarm, author of *Everybody Loves Our Town: An Oral History of Grunge* "This is Planet Leon."—David Markey, filmmaker, author, and musician

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *More Real Life Rock* Greil Marcus, 2022-01-01 A funny, fierce, and uninhibited musical chronicle of the convulsive recent past from one of our finest cultural critics A one-of-a-kind guide to rock music's resonance in every aspect of our lives.--David Kirby, *Wall Street Journal* A smart set of suggestions for further reading, viewing, and listening by a most trustworthy guide.--Kirkus Reviews For decades, celebrated author Greil Marcus has applied his unmatched critical apparatus to everything from music, television, radio, and politics to overheard comments, advertisements, and happenstance street encounters--an eclectic collection of what he calls everyday culture and found objects. This book collects hundreds of items from the crisscrossing spectrum of culture and politics throughout the tumultuous past six years of American life, an essential travel guide to the scorched landscape of recent history. Tracking the evolution of national identity during the Trump administration, Marcus spotlights the most whip-smart cultural artifacts to compose a mosaic portrait of American society, replete with unexpected heroes and villains, absurdity and its consequences, humor and despair, terror and defiance--as seen through media, music, and more. Bursting with Marcus's effortless, no-nonsense, unapologetic verve, this book features seventy-three columns from 2014 through February 2021.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Under My Thumb* Rhian Jones, Eli Davies, Tamar Shlaim, 2017-10-17 Women write about their experiences of loving music that doesn't love them back – a feminist 'guilty pleasures'.e - a kind of feminist guilty pleasures. In the majority of mainstream writing and discussions on music, women appear purely in relation to men as muses, groupies or fangirls, with our own experiences, ideas and arguments dismissed or ignored. But this hasn't stopped generations of women from loving, being moved by and critically appreciating music, even – and sometimes especially – when we feel we shouldn't. *Under My Thumb: Songs that Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them* is a study of misogyny in music through the eyes of women. It brings together stories from journalists, critics, musicians and fans about artists or songs we love (or used to love) despite their questionable or troubling gender politics, and looks at how these issues interact with race, class and sexuality. As much celebration as critique, this collection explores the joys, tensions, contradictions and complexities of women loving music – however that music may feel about them. Featuring: murder ballads, country, metal, hip hop, emo, indie, Phil Spector, David Bowie, Guns N' Roses, 2Pac, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, AC/DC, Elvis Costello, Jarvis Cocker, Kanye West, Swans, Eminem, Jay-Z, Taylor Swift, Combichrist and many more.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *This Thing Called Life* Neal Karlen, 2024-03-26 A journalist draws from his recollections, notes and tapes, to paint an illuminating and intimate portrait of a supremely talented and complex artist (*Newsweek*). Neal Karlen was the only journalist Prince granted in-depth press interviews to for over a dozen years, from before *Purple Rain* to when he became the artist formerly known as Prince. Karlen interviewed Prince for three *Rolling Stone* cover stories, wrote *3 Chains o' Gold*, Prince's rock video opera, as well as the star's last testament, which may be buried with Prince's will underneath Prince's private compound, Paisley Park. According to Prince's former fiancée Susannah Melvoin, Karlen was the only reporter who made Prince sound like what he really sounded like. Karlen quit writing about Prince a quarter-century before the mega-star died, but the two remained friends for the last thirty-one years of the superstar's life. Before they met as writer and subject, Prince and Karlen knew each other as two of the gang of kids who biked around Minneapolis's mostly-segregated

Northside. Going back to Prince Rogers Nelson's roots, especially his contradictory, and sometimes violent relationship with his father, *This Thing Called Life* profoundly changes what we know about Prince, and explains him as no biography has: a superstar who calls in the middle of the night to talk, who loved *The Wire* and could quote from every episode of *The Office*, who frequented libraries and jammed spontaneously for local crowds (and fed everyone pancakes afterward), who was lonely but craved being alone. Readers will drive around Minneapolis with Prince in a convertible, talk about movies and music and life. Peculiar, intriguing, lyrical. An earnest vamp on Prince's life. — Kirkus Reviews

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Tori Amos's Boys for Pele* Amy Gentry, 2018-11-01 It's hard to think of a solo female recording artist who has been as revered or as reviled over the course of her career as Tori Amos. Amy Gentry argues that these violent aesthetic responses to Amos's performance, both positive and negative, are organized around disgust—the disgust that women are taught to feel, not only for their own bodies, but for their taste in music. Released in 1996, Amos's third album, *Boys for Pele*, represents the height of Amos's willingness to explore the ugly qualities that make all of her music, even her more conventionally beautiful albums, so uncomfortably, and so wonderfully, strange. Using a blend of memoir, criticism, and aesthetic theory, Gentry argues that the aesthetics of disgust are useful for thinking in a broader way about women's experience of all art forms.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Creative Writing Practice* Debra Adelaide, Sarah Attfield, 2021-10-09 *Creative Writing Practice: reflections on form and process* explores the craft of creative writing by illuminating the practices of writers and writer-educators. Demonstrating solutions to problems in different forms and genres, the contributors draw on their professional and personal experiences to examine specific and practical challenges that writers must confront and solve in order to write. This book discusses a range of approaches to writing, such as the early working out of projects, the idea of experimentation, of narrative time, and of failure. With its strong focus on process, *Creative Writing Practice* is a valuable guide for students, scholars and practitioners of creative writing.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Big Feelings* Dan DiPiero, 2025-10-07 In the past decade, a distinctive resurgence of indie music has seen young, queer, and feminist artists reformulating the genre with strategic reappropriations of '90s grunge and 2000s-era pop. *Big Feelings* offers a nuanced analysis of these musicians and the socio-political crises informing their sounds. Dan DiPiero situates this new wave of indie music within the context of the emotional sensibilities and social orientations of a young generation flattened by an endless stream of everyday traumas. Listening closely to Soccer Mommy, Indigo De Souza, Jay Som, SASAMI, The Ophelias, Vagabon, boygenius, and more, *Big Feelings* traces points of resonance and connection that help fans perceive politics where it might first appear absent. By bringing listeners' experiences into the analysis, DiPiero shows how indie rock feminisms have shifted since the 1990s, rejecting overt political messages in favor of sonic catharsis, and reflecting the complex, ambivalent feeling of being young while the world burns. In reprising the sounds of an alt-rock associated in public consciousness with white male pain, *Big Feelings* doubles down on the stereotypical association between femininity and emotionality to perform whole spectrums of feeling in varied states of overwhelm. In doing so, these artists draw attention to overlooked histories of women and queer musicians who have been forging indie rock all along, while also remaking how the music matters in the present.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *God Rock, Inc.* Andrew Mall, 2020-12-01 Popular music in the twenty-first century is increasingly divided into niche markets. How do fans, musicians, and music industry executives define their markets' boundaries? What happens when musicians cross those boundaries? What can Christian music teach us about commercial popular music? In *God Rock, Inc.*, Andrew Mall considers the aesthetic, commercial, ethical, and social boundaries of Christian popular music, from the late 1960s, when it emerged, through the 2010s. Drawing on ethnographic research, historical archives, interviews with music

industry executives, and critical analyses of recordings, concerts, and music festival performances, Mall explores the tensions that have shaped this evolving market and frames broader questions about commerce, ethics, resistance, and crossover in music that defines itself as outside the mainstream.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Life's Too Short to Pretend You're Not Religious* David Dark, 2022-12-13 We can't just be done with religion, argues David Dark. The fact of religion is the fact of us. Religion is the witness of everything we're up to--for better or worse. David Dark is one of today's most respected thinkers, public intellectuals, and cultural critics at the intersection of faith and culture. Since its original release, Dark's *Life's Too Short to Pretend You're Not Religious* has become essential reading for those engaged in the conversation on religion in contemporary American society. Now, Dark returns to his classic text and offers us a revised, expanded, and reframed edition that reflects a more expansive understanding, employs inclusive language, and tackles the most pressing issues of the day. With the same keen powers of cultural observation, candor, and wit his readers have come to know and love, Dark weaves in current themes around the pandemic and vaccine responses, Black Lives Matter, the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements, Critical Race Theory, and more. By looking intentionally at our weird religious background (we all have one), he helps us acknowledge the content of our everyday existence--the good, the bad, and the glaringly inconsistent. When we make peace with the idea of being religious, we can more practically envision an undivided life.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Lit-Rock* Ryan Hibbett, 2022-08-11 Just as soon as it had got rolling, rock music had a problem: it wanted to be art. A mere four years separate the Beatles as mere kiddy culture from the artful geniuses of Sergeant Pepper's, meaning the very same band who represents the mass-consumed, mindless music of adolescents simultaneously enjoys status as among the best that Western culture has to offer. The story of rock music, it turns out, is less that of a contagious popular form situated in opposition to high art, but, rather, a story of high and low in dialogue--messy and contentious, to be sure, but also mutually obligated to account for, if not appropriate, one another. The chapters in this book track the uses of literature, specifically, within this relation, helping to showcase collectively its fundamental role in the emergence of the pop omnivore.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Songbooks* Eric Weisbard, 2021-04-23 In *Songbooks*, critic and scholar Eric Weisbard offers a critical guide to books on American popular music from William Billings's 1770 *New-England Psalm-Singer* to Jay-Z's 2010 memoir *Decoded*. Drawing on his background editing the *Village Voice* music section, coediting the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and organizing the Pop Conference, Weisbard connects American music writing from memoirs, biographies, and song compilations to blues novels, magazine essays, and academic studies. The authors of these works are as diverse as the music itself: women, people of color, queer writers, self-educated scholars, poets, musicians, and elites discarding their social norms. Whether analyzing books on Louis Armstrong, the Beatles, and Madonna; the novels of Theodore Dreiser, Gayl Jones, and Jennifer Egan; or varying takes on blackface minstrelsy, Weisbard charts an alternative history of American music as told through its writing. As Weisbard demonstrates, the most enduring work pursues questions that linger across time period and genre--cultural studies in the form of notes on the fly, on sounds that never cease to change meaning.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: *Joni Mitchell* Ruth Charnock, 2019-01-24 *Joni Mitchell: New Critical Readings* recognizes the importance and innovativeness of the musician and artist Joni Mitchell and the need for a collection that theorizes her work as musician, composer, cultural commentator and antagonist. It showcases pieces by established and early career academics from the fields of popular music and literary studies on subjects such as Mitchell's guitar technique, the politics of aging in her work, and her fractious relationship with feminism. The collection features close readings of specific songs, albums, and performances while also paying keen attention to Mitchell's wider cultural contributions and significance.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: Her Country Marissa R.

Moss, 2025-09-23 In country music, the men might dominate the radio waves. But it's women—like Maren Morris, Mickey Guyton, and Kacey Musgraves—who are making history. This is the full and unbridled story of the past twenty years of country music seen through the lens of these trailblazers' careers—their paths to stardom and their battles against a deeply embedded boys' club, as well as their efforts to transform the genre into a more inclusive place—as told by award-winning Nashville journalist Marissa R. Moss. For the women of country music, 1999 was an entirely different universe—a brief blip in time, when women like Shania Twain and the Chicks topped every chart and made country music a woman's world. But the industry, which prefers its stars to be neutral, be obedient, and never rock the boat, had other plans. It wanted its women to shut up and sing—or else. In 2021, women are played on country radio as little as 10 percent of the time, but they're still selling out arenas, as Kacey Musgraves does, and becoming infinitely bigger live draws than most of their male counterparts, creating massive pop crossover hits like Maren Morris's *The Middle*, pushing the industry to confront its racial biases with Mickey Guyton's *Black Like Me*, and winning heaps of Grammy nominations. *Her Country* is the story of how in the past two decades, country's women fought back against systems designed to keep them down and created entirely new pathways to success. It's the behind-the-scenes story of how women like Kacey, Mickey, Maren, Miranda Lambert, Rissi Palmer, Brandi Carlile, and many more have reinvented their place in an industry stacked against them. When the rules stopped working for these women, they threw them out, made their own, and took control—changing the genre forever, and for the better.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: Another Word for Love

Carvell Wallace, 2024-05-14 **LOGLISTED FOR THE 2024 KIRKUS NON-FICTION PRIZE** A transformative memoir that reimagines the conventions of love and posits a radical vision for healing. In *Another Word for Love*, Carvell Wallace excavates layers of his own history, situated in the struggles and beauty of growing up Black and queer in America. Wallace is an award-winning journalist who has built his career on writing unforgettable profiles, bringing a provocative and engaged sensitivity to his subjects. Now he turns the focus on himself, examining his own life and the circumstances that frame it—to make sense of seeking refuge from homelessness with a young single mother, living in a ghostly white Pennsylvania town, becoming a partner and parent, raising two teenagers in what feels like a collapsing world. With courage, vulnerability, and a remarkable expansiveness of spirit—not to mention a thrilling, and unrivaled, storytelling verve—*Another Word for Love* makes an irresistible case for life, healing, the fullness of our humanity, and, of course, love. It could be called a theory of life itself—a theory of being that will leave you open to the wonder of the world.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: Jason Molina Erin Osmon,

2017-05-15 Erin Osmon presents a detailed, human account of the Rust Belt-born musician Jason Molina—a visionary, prolific, and at times cantankerous singer-songwriter with an autodidactic style that captivated his devoted fans. The songwriting giant behind the bands *Songs: Ohia* and *Magnolia Electric Co.* had a knack for spinning tales, from the many personal myths he cultivated throughout his life to the poems and ballads he penned and performed. As with too many great musicians, Molina's complicated relationship with the truth, combined with a secretive relationship with the bottle, ultimately claimed his life. With a new foreword from singer-songwriter Will Johnson, *Jason Molina: Riding with the Ghost* details Molina's personal trials and triumphs and reveals for the first time the true story of Molina's last months and works, including an unpublished album unknown to many of his fans. Offering unfettered access to the mind and artistry of Molina through exclusive interviews with family, friends, and collaborators, the book also explores the Midwest music underground and the development of Bloomington, Indiana-based label *Secretly Canadian*. As the first authorized and detailed account of this prolific songwriter and self-mythologizer, Jason Molina provides readers with unparalleled insight into Molina's tormented life and the fascinating Midwest musical underground that birthed him. It's a story for the ages that speaks volumes to the triumphs and trials of the artistic spirit while exploring the meaningful music that Molina's creative genius left

behind.

the first collection of criticism by a living female rock critic: Why Marianne Faithfull Matters Tanya Pearson, 2021-07-06 First as a doe-eyed ingénue with “As Tears Go By,” then as a gravel-voiced phoenix rising from the ashes of the 1960s with a landmark punk album, Broken English, and finally as a genre-less icon, Marianne Faithfull carved her name into the history of rock ‘n’ roll to chart a career spanning five decades and multiple detours. In Why Marianne Faithfull Matters, Tanya Pearson crafts a feminist account that explains the musician’s absence from the male-dominated history of the British Invasion and champions the eclectic late career that confirmed her redemption. Putting memoir on equal footing with biographical history, Pearson writes about Faithfull as an avid fan, recovered addict, and queer musician at a crossroads. She’s also a professional historian unafraid to break from the expectations of the discipline if a “titty-centered analysis” or astrology can illuminate the work of her subject. Whether exploring Faithfull’s rise to celebrity, her drug addiction and fall from grace as spurned “muse,” or her reinvention as a sober, soulful chanteuse subverting all expectations for an aging woman in music, Pearson affirms the deep connections between listeners and creators and reveals, in her own particular way, why Marianne Faithfull matters.

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