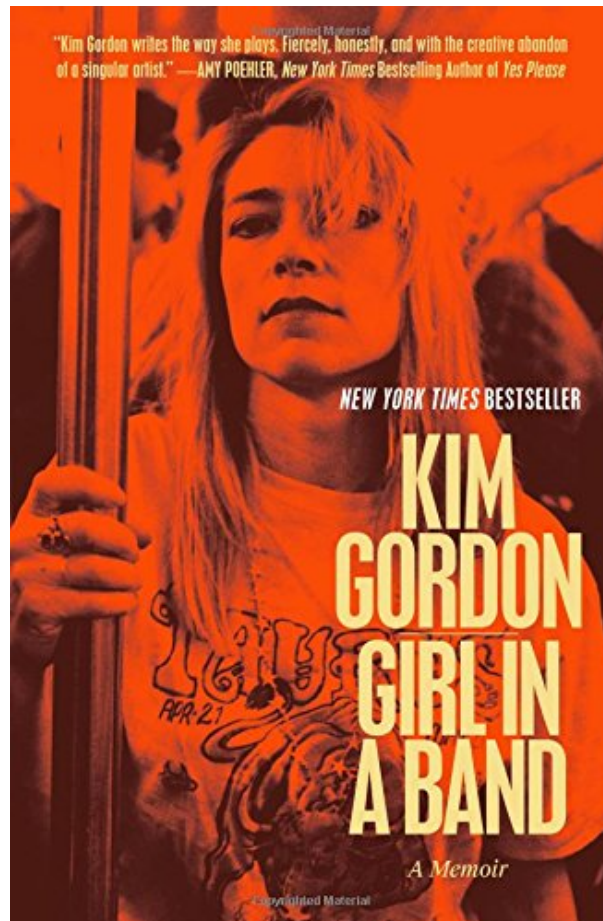
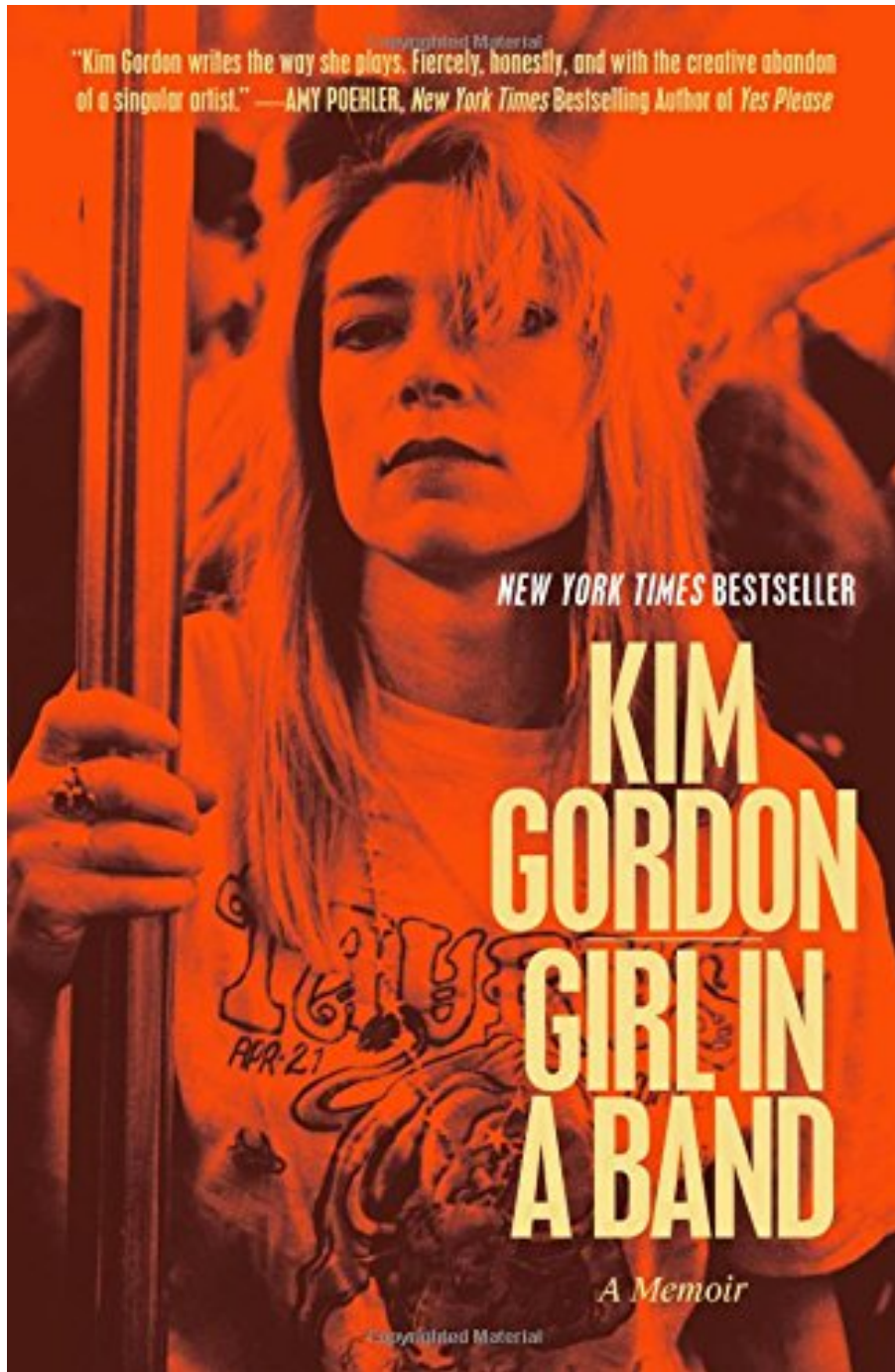


# GIRL IN A BAND: A MEMOIR BY KIM GORDON



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## Review

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# GIRL IN A BAND: A MEMOIR BY KIM GORDON PDF

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Kim Gordon, founding member of Sonic Youth, fashion icon, and role model for a generation of women, now tells her story—a memoir of life as an artist, of music, marriage, motherhood, independence, and as one of the first women of rock and roll, written with the lyricism and haunting beauty of Patti Smith's *Just Kids*.

Often described as aloof, Kim Gordon opens up as never before in *Girl in a Band*. Telling the story of her family, growing up in California in the '60s and '70s, her life in visual art, her move to New York City, the men in her life, her marriage, her relationship with her daughter, her music, and her band, *Girl in a Band* is a rich and beautifully written memoir.

Gordon takes us back to the lost New York of the 1980s and '90s that gave rise to Sonic Youth, and the Alternative revolution in popular music. The band helped build a vocabulary of music—paving the way for Nirvana, Hole, Smashing Pumpkins and many other acts. But at its core, *Girl in a Band* examines the route from girl to woman in uncharted territory, music, art career, what partnership means—and what happens when that identity dissolves.

Evocative and edgy, filled with the sights and sounds of a changing world and a transformative life, *Girl in a Band* is the fascinating chronicle of a remarkable journey and an extraordinary artist.

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York and Los Angeles.

Most helpful customer reviews

63 of 65 people found the following review helpful.

I wanted so badly to LOVE "Girl in a Band

By 4eyesguy

I wanted so badly to LOVE "Girl in a Band." A lot had been written on the internet regarding this book; a scathing excerpt here concerning Courtney Love, another about Thurston Moore, etc. By the time the book came out, I bought into the hype. I couldn't wait for equal parts Sonic Youth history from the source, '80s NYC life, behind-the-scenes '90s alternative s\*\*\* talking, and scenes from a failed marriage.

In reality, "Girl in a Band" manages to offer all of that, just never fully. We get an interesting background about her upbringing, her childhood, moving around the world at a young age. From there, Kim Gordon focuses on growing up in the '60s, her budding love of the art, and her travels around the country, offering up interesting, albeit brief tidbits and interesting namedropping along the way.

Upon explaining her arrival in New York, Gordon tackles the Sonic Youth sections by focusing on each album. At first, I was excited when she presented the history so concisely. However, Kim Gordon speeds through each album so quickly, it's sometimes disappointing. She tends to focus on certain sections of lyrics rather than the dynamics of the band at the time, or their travels, recording, etc.(for a easily enjoyable book on the history of Sonic Youth, check out "Goodbye 20th Century" by David Browne). While many sections offer a fresh perspective, I can't help but wish she would have expanded on certain areas.

The book is a quick read, at times very well constructed, and page turning. However, certain sections are written as if it managed to dodge an editor, suddenly taking on a sloppy casual tone following a well crafted previous chapter. All in all, Kim Gordon's memoir is a welcomed addition from a strong female voice and true artist. At the end of the day, I wished this book could have been longer. It left me wanting more in a "there's more to say" sense rather than "I can't put it down." In the end, if all of the story hasn't been set straight, at least we have a glimpse into the mind of a living legend.

23 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

a subtle personal memoir

By Brent C. Airey

This isn't a rock'n'roll memoir, nor is it a play by play on sonic youth through the years. Instead it's a subtle memoir about a thoughtful artist who was in a highly influential band as well as other artistic endeavours. There are insights into the band but very little if that's what your specifically after.

I'm only a cursory fan of the band. I respect them completely and to me they have been incredibly important to modern music, especially what's often called 'alternate'. So I thoroughly enjoyed this book for what it is and highly recommend it to anyone even remotely interested in an artist that has more time for creating art than overthinking it.

The insights into feminism were something I greatly appreciated (as a guy). Her approach to finding a truth to this while also performing in a highly sexualized arena were-like most things she seems to do-subtle, informed, clever and progressively inclusive.

Kim Gordon is a mysterious icon. This memoir offers an insight into the voyage of her life and the love of art that has driven her to create. It lessens the mystery and makes her a greater inspiration.



34 of 40 people found the following review helpful.

Incredible. I don't know much about Sonic Youth, ...

By George DeMark

Incredible. I don't know much about Sonic Youth, but I have always been aware of Kim Gordon, partly because my daughter who is 17 has always thought Gordon is the coolest person ever, not that i am really sure what that means. My daughter wanted the book so I got it and six hours later I had read it and gotten my socks blown off. Kim Gordon can WRITE with a capital W, and her scenes of growing up in LA and new york in the 1970s and the early 1980s are just incredible and I even found myself looking for Sonic Youth videos on YouTube (not my kind of music but it doesn't matter). Read this one you won't regret it.

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