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Let's Start A Riot: How A Young Drunk Punk Became A Hollywood Dad



Synopsis

A biting, funny, always revealing collection of personal stories from the legendary Kid in the Hall, comedian, writer and director, Bruce McCulloch. Comedian, writer, director and legendary Kid in the Hall Bruce McCulloch chronicles his journey from wild early days as a "young punk" in 1980s Alberta, to his flannel plaid days and futon nights in 1990s Toronto, to becoming a "pajama-clad dad" living in the Hollywood Hills. Taking us from scowling teenager to father of two, this biting, funny collection of personal stories, peppered with moments of surprising poignancy, proves that although this infamous Kid may be all grown up, his singular brand of humour and signature wit remain firmly intact.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have not read this book. That said, I have always found books to be the best place to find collections of words. I like when they are organized into sentences, paragraphs and chapters. I have every reason to believe Let's Start a Riot meets these criteria. I know the avant-garde sometimes lean toward sentence fragments and eschew punctuation. I hope Bruce has steered clear of these reckless pretensions. If not, please disregard my 5 star rating. Dave Foley

Some of my thoughts are in the book jacket quotes so I'll try not to repeat them here. I'll just share that I have always devoured humorous prose and, although I was sure Bruce's book would be funny, because he is, I was stunned at just HOW good 'Let's Start a Riot' was. So funny in that

sweet/wise way I read David Sedaris for and insanely funny as in the best of Woody Allen. This testimonial may weaken my edge temporarily in creative fights in 'Kids in the Hall' but I have to give it up - Its the best thing Bruce has ever done. And one of the few things he has done that has not caused property damage or personal injury.

This book just joined "Catcher in the Rye" to become the second book I've ever read in one sitting. It elicited all of the emotions-- mostly high hilarity and out-loud laughing, but a few chapters near the end made my eyes soppy as well. As I tend to love books that make me cry even more than I love books that make me laugh, this was good. For Kids in the Hall fans, it's obviously a must. It gives a brief overview of his time with the troupe and just a few behind-the-scenes stories, but they each pack a punch. Even better are just his pithy Brucelike observations, his way with words. This is Bruce at his writerly best.

Let's Start a Riot is described as having "surprising moments of poignancy." It's true that they kind of sneak up on you, like how he describes how his young daughter helped him when he was bombing at an event at her school (and it hits again when he later relates how he helped his own, less deserving dad). And while it is often said that when someone reads something a well-known actor or actress has written, the reader can hear the writer's voice, this is especially true of Bruce, whose distinctive speech patterns and cadence come through loud and clear for anyone who has enjoyed his work in sketches and monologues. He's even included a couple of his (slightly tweaked) classic bits. As an angry and misunderstood young man, Bruce obviously found it a huge comfort to have a new family with the other Kids in the Hall; and this book is a cranky but heartfelt thank you/love letter to all of the fans who also get him. However, it's not just the fans for whom this book is a must read; the combination of wry, biting humor and heart that are both amusing and inspiring make it worthy of any humor or memoir collection. Great job, Brucio!

Bruce had me at Riot..it is a riot and his voice is truly original, fun, fresh and so easy to read. I tried to read it as slowly as I could without looking like a complete idiot to other people on the plane around me. I was laughing out loud. Buy this book. You are welcome!!

Bruce (my favorite Kid In the Hall) might not know that "robbed" and "burglarized" are two very different things, but since he doesn't illustrate that point (again and again) until the last chapter, we'll forgive him for his error (and for talking

smack about Radiohead). Instead, we will focus on the fact that this is an entertaining book that I would highly recommend to any Klth fan. And since there really isn't *that* many mentions or stories relating to the Kids, I guess I'd recommend it to anyone who has a good (and dark) sense of humor. So, what is this book, exactly? A collection of essays and poems? An autobiography? All of the above, I suppose. One chapter might be about a HIV unicorn (I don't believe this will get made into a children's book), another about his difficult relationship with his father, a tear jerker of a tale involving a dead dog, or stories about his life with Nancy Drew and as a Hollywood Dad. It made me giggle out loud, AND it almost made me cry (but I'm tough as nails, so I didn't actually cry "well, OK, maybe a little. I mean, the thought of a beloved dead dog will get me every time). There are so many crappy books out there. Probably many that you yourself have read. So why not give this one a try? Exactly "there is NO reason. So buy now. You might be like me, and not even regret it!

Oh this guy! The reviews are true! He spins words quite delightfully, and does so repeatedly (and also consecutively). Stories from his life fit for sharing, and you feel like you're really getting the good stuff straight from the secret Bruce parts of his brain. It's somewhat autobiographical, so maybe you won't get as much out of it if you don't already know about Bruce. If you've seen his work/play and are curious for a glimpse into his inner workings, Lets start a Riot.

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