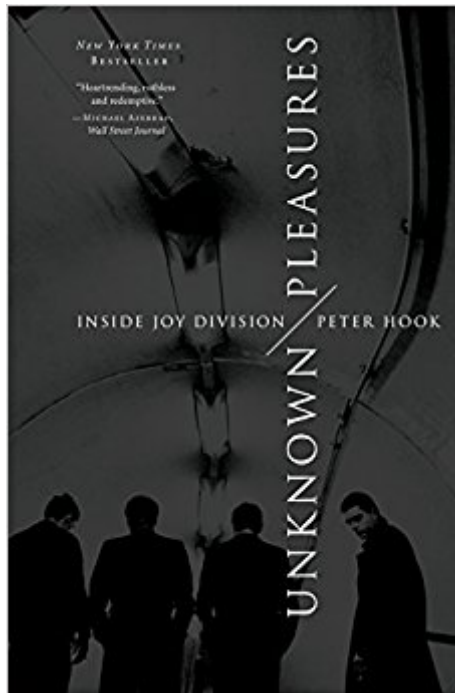




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Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division



Synopsis

In *Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division*, Peter Hook, bassist for the legendary, groundbreaking band Joy Division, takes readers backstage with the group that helped define the sound of a generation and influenced artists such as U2, Radiohead, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Unlike other books about Joy Division, Factory Records, or lead singer Ian Curtis—who took his own life just before the band's first U.S. Tour—*Unknown Pleasures* tells Joy Division's story from the unique perspective of one of the three surviving band members. Told with surprising humor and vivid detail, *Unknown Pleasures* is the book Joy Division fans have been waiting for.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: It Books (December 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062222570

ISBN-13: 978-0062222572

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 107 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #202,158 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Punk](#)

#61 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk](#)

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Customer Reviews

An NPR Best Book of 2013 (NPR) A SPIN Best Music Book of 2013 (Spin) The most colorful and intimate account of Joy Division ever written . . . Hook evokes the spirit of the age with a bluff authenticity that no outsider could hope to emulate—explaining the creation of his band's remarkable music with all the passion and insight it deserves. (Keith Cameron, MOJO) “A bittersweet, profanity-filled recollection of their brief existence . . . recalled with Hook's winning Manc gallows humor . . . If you like Joy Division you really have to read it.” (Ian Harrison, Q Magazine) “An immense account of Joy Division's rise, cataloguing the group's struggle for recognition, their rapidly gained superiority on the Manchester scene and the epic numbness following Ian Curtis's shock suicide. Having read Hook's book, you'll feel like you were the fifth member of the band.” (GQ

(UK))
It's a window like no other into the reality of life in this most aloof of bands.
(Metro London)
"Vivid, funny, and unexpectedly touching, Peter Hook's memoir strips away the shroud of myth surrounding Joy Division to offer a refreshingly gritty perspective on the story of four ordinary young men who together made extraordinary music."
(Simon Reynolds, author of Rip It Up and Start Again: Postpunk 1978-84)
"Unflinchingly honest . . . Hook peels away the romantic sheen colored by its dark history and gives unfettered insight into the band's origins and inspirations . . . this is required reading for anyone who ever felt moved by Joy Division's cold, dark music."
(Kirkus Reviews (starred review))
"A tiny gem written by a monster musician. It's the best document yet to be produced on Joy Division. There's nothing like hearing the story straight from Hook's foul mouth."
(Rock Cellar Magazine)
"Honest, punchy, and rough-hewn . . . a portal into a vivid moment in rock history . . . the life and times of a working band . . . and, in the middle of it all, the transformative power of music."
(Los Angeles Times). The passages where Hook details the recording of the Unknown Pleasures album are fantastic and insightful . . . the book itself is gorgeous. . . (A.V. Club, The Onion)
"A surprisingly funny-and gleefully profane-portrait."
(Entertainment Weekly)
"Rich in detail."
(LA Weekly)
"A comprehensive, illuminating portrait of the band that often takes the piss out of its doom-ridden legacy."
(Cincinnati City Beat)
"Intimate."
(San Francisco Chronicle)
"Like talking to a bawdy uncle after his fourth beer. Apparently being in the saddest post-punk art-goth band in history can occasionally be pretty fucking funny."
(MTV Hive)
With Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division fans can finally hear the band's story from someone who was there from the very beginning-iconic bassist Peter Hook.
(SF Weekly)
You don't have to be a hardcore fan of Joy Division or New Order to appreciate Hook's wry evocation of Britain's 1970s punk scene and his street-level remembrance of the tragedy and ecstasy . . . that went into building the foundation for the next few decades' alternative rock scene. (Neda Ulaby, NPR Best Books of the Year)

Joy Division changed the face of music. Godfathers of alternative rock, they reinvented music in the post-punk era, creating a new sound •dark, hypnotic, and intense• that would influence U2, Morrissey, R.E.M., Radiohead, and numerous others. The story is now legendary: in 1980, on the heels of their groundbreaking debut album and on the eve of their first U.S. tour, the band was rent asunder by the tragic death of their enigmatic lead singer, Ian Curtis. Yet in the mere

three years they were together, they produced two landmark albums and a handful of singles—including the iconic anthem "Love Will Tear Us Apart"—that continue to have a powerful resonance. Now, for the first time, their story is told by one of their own. In *Unknown Pleasures*, founding member and bass player Peter Hook recounts how four young men from Manchester and Salford rose from the punk scene to create a haunting, atmospheric music that would define a generation. Peter talks with eye-opening candor about the suicide of Ian Curtis; the band's friendships and fallouts; and the larger-than-life characters who formed the Joy Division legend. Told with surprising humor and vivid detail, *Unknown Pleasures* is the book Joy Division fans have awaited for decades.

Very engaging. enjoyable, often very funny and also quite sad as there is a pall hanging over the story. Peter Hook writes in an intimate yet not so personal way. He's a natural story teller. I found the book revelatory in that it captures the excitement and some of the glamour and youthful exuberance of being in a band discovering and developing themselves while at the same time de-glamourizes the whole thing with the wonderful often foul mouthed english humor along with describing the conditions of touring and recording that only the young could put up with. These guys did what they did for the sheer hell of it, and that at least to me is what rock and roll (and all its sub-genres) are about. It's hard not to wonder what may have been but they certainly made their mark during their short existence. I have always been a fan of Joy Division (I still remember hearing them the first time and sensing it was them from all that I had heard and read) , and come away from their story more impressed with their music and legacy. Just a very well written book. Absolutely worth reading for any Joy Division fan, plus any fan curious about a very influential band not that well-known except by aficionados and also for anyone curious about what it really is like to be in a band trying to develop their abilities along the way, while also just surviving (for most anyway) along the way of them shooting for success.

Not a pro writer. Not a ghost writer. Just a bloke talking about his mates. Brilliant read. Hook takes the reader inside and makes them a part of the real history rather than the mythology. Kudos Hooky!

I have read many books about my favorite band, Joy Division, so I did not expect to learn anything new from this book, but I was wrong! Hookie captures the essence of Ian's personality in a way that makes me think differently of him. Ian was a buddy, one of the guys, a jokester, NOT the depressive melancholy man he has been made out to be in the press. His demons were deeply internalized

and surfaced through his music, not his behavior. I was also surprised to learn of the difficulties the guys had after starting New Order. New Order are such an incredibly unique and solid band, I never would have thought that the guys mostly did not get along, and that they all had tremendous doubts about the project as a whole. I would recommend this book to fans of Joy Division and New Order alike.

Awesome book for real Joy Division fans. I've watched *Control* several times and read Deborah Curtis's book as well, but this book is probably the best I've read or watched yet. During their rise to popularity, Peter Hook spent more time around Ian Curtis than Deborah Curtis. So in that way, this book is way more informative because it has a detailed timeline of gigs, studio recordings, etc. that weren't covered in *Control*. There are some funny stories included and Peter Hook does a great job shedding light on the lighter side of Ian Curtis before he really began to deal with his personal demons. It's also heartbreaking in a way to hear him recall his regrets after Ian's death and not recognizing the obvious warning signs. I'm 32 and I discovered Joy Division a little over a year ago but they have quickly become my favorite band, so I would highly recommend this book to true music and Joy Division fans.

For those who love music, it is an endlessly fascinating story how bands form at the outset, why they click, and how they develop their musical styles. There is also the almost inevitable falling out somewhere along the way. Joy Division did not have time to get to the "falling out" stage. But this narration of the formation of the band and the combination of pressures that led to the tragic loss of their lead singer is a riveting window into the early days of a band coming from nowhere and gaining astonishingly fast and astonishingly lasting respect in the highly competitive British music industry. Hook is a gifted storyteller and can make you laugh out loud before skillfully changing the tone to one of sensitivity and insight. I've read this through once, have listened to the Joy Division's greatest hits, and am eager to read it again. For someone who professes to be tone deaf in the book, Hook is far from tone deaf in both his musicianship and in his writing.

I became a HUGE fan of New Order 30 years ago and only discovered Joy Division after learning about New Order. For those who know both bands, it's probably easy to understand how growing to like Joy Division after discovering New Order was difficult at first. This book is an opportunity to sit down with "Hooky" in a small pub and hear the whole story from the beginning, jaw agape from the hilarious stories behind the band's humble beginnings, rapid rise, and stunning demise. It's one of

those amazing stories about 4 "lads" that really had no idea what they were doing but were able to tap the genius deep within themselves and create timeless music about the human experience. And that's the undercurrent in the book - it is Peter Hook's reflection on how Ian Curtis wrote music about his experience, and none of them understood it's meaning. In conversational style he describes the laughter, the partying and the "rock star life" they tried to lead in their short time together, and he describes the details behind most of their songs. But he also describes the many, many ways they all missed the signs of impending disaster. It's a story you won't be able to put down, or soon forget.

It was a fantastic read to better understand how all the band(s) in Manchester interacted and grew together. The book has a really cool format. There are chapters where Hooky tells the story, and then placed throughout the book there are "Timelines" that detail the factual events for that entire year. The timelines cover all the gigs, who Joy Division played with at each gig, the sets they played....lots of history...really good. I'd say this is a must read for anyone who grew up in the early 80s enjoying bands like Cabaret Voltaire, New Order, OMD, Simply Red, and so many others. After reading it, I felt just how connected the music movement of that era was. Loved the story about the early sighting of Bono as well.

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