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This Is A Book About The Kids In The Hall



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Synopsis

The first book to explore their history, legacy, and influence. This is a book about the Kids in the Hall - the legendary Canadian sketch comedy troupe formed in Toronto in 1984 and best known for the innovative, hilarious, zeitgeist-capturing sketch show The Kids in the Hall - told by the people who were there, namely the Kids themselves. John Semley’s thoroughly researched book is rich with interviews with Dave Foley, Mark McKinney, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, and Scott Thompson as well as Lorne Michaels and comedians speaking to the Kids’ legacy: Janeane Garofalo, Tim Heidecker, Nathan Fielder, and others. It also turns a critic’s eye on that legacy, making a strong case for the massive influence the Kids have exerted, both on alternative comedy and on pop culture more broadly. The Kids in the Hall were like a band: a group of weirdos brought together, united by a common sensibility. And, much like a band, they’re always better when they’re together. This is a book about friendship, collaboration, and comedy - and about clashing egos, lost opportunities, and one-upmanship. This is a book about the head-crushing, cross-dressing, inimitable Kids in the Hall.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviews said that this book was bad and poorly written, but I wanted to buy it anyway. The official Kids in the Hall book doesn’t come out for a while and I’ve been on a KITH kick and needed something extra in my order to qualify me for free shipping.It’s kind of a bad book. I didn’t learn anything new that I couldn’t have read online somewhere. It is a cursory glance at the history of a group that has been around for three decades at this point."Why is the book 300 pages long if it’s so

cursory?" you may ask. The reason is because the author saw fit to editorialize for entire pages, thinking out loud about who his favorite Kid is, or list the IMDb credits of John Vernon. Some of the footnotes (and the footnotes NEVER have anything to do with anything) are so long they take up over half a page.At one point Semley sees fit to tell you, the reader, what he thinks the best seasons of "The Simpsons" are. He paints a clearer picture of himself coming home from school to watch "The Simpsons" than just about anything else in the book.However I am pleased to read some of these interviews with the Kids. I'm not sure if he conducted all of them himself but it's nice to hear fresh quotes from the boys every now and again.But, if you're like me and want to buy the book anyway, I have some tips to maximize enjoyment:1. Do not read the footnotes. If you want, glance at them and see if it looks like anything worthwhile. Most of the time he'll just be telling you that an actress in a TV show mentioned was also in another thing and the star from that thing was also in a movie written by Bruce McMulloch, or something. Fun if you want to learn some trivia or if you want to indulge Semley's whole "look how smart I am" comedy nerd schtick. Unfortunately I didn't come to learn about him, I'm strictly here for KITH.2. If he ever starts a sentence with "at the risk of editorializing," don't read the rest of the sentence unless you care about his unsolicited opinion.3. Sometimes he won't even warn you and just start editorializing. He complains for like, two paragraphs about how disgusting he finds Molly Shannon's Mary Catherine Gallagher character. When you realize he's doing something like that, or laying out the entire plot of a movie while also naming five other movies it reminds him of and their plots, just keep skipping ahead to the next paragraph until he's done.4. Definitely still buy the official Kids in the Hall book when it comes out because it will most likely be way, way better.

Mmm, quite a book. It really spells out how much we need a definitive bio of the Kids in the Hall. The author, a self-described Millennial, can't seem to tell a story w/out fully inserting himself into it unnecessarily. And yet he's not interesting. Or clever. Nor are his tedious observations (which are repeated over-and-over and cause the book to drone on-and-on).. There's even an endless stream of distracting, self-referential footnotes. The narcissism of this young guy...I'm surprised the book made it into print - it reads like an annoying, self-absorbed fan-boy blog. And an average one at that. He has nine friends. Good to know, John!

In the final credits we discover what is painfully obvious after the first few pages...The Kids in the Hall were not officially involved with this book. If you enjoy randomly intertwined fan-fiction with an emphasis on the Canadian geographical and pop cultural references of the late 80's, early 90's,

then by all means, have one of your friends read this book and describe to you what happened to the KITH. With any luck, they will be a better story teller and you'll avoid all of inconsequential drivel placed in between actual stories about the group. I've read the original interviews from the author, which were quite good, which leads to the much larger question of WHY WEREN'T THE KITH DIRECTLY INVOLVED? A book of interviews would be fantastic, and definitely in the author's wheelhouse. Instead we have been subjected to the equivalent of a bar conversation with a guy who spends two beers telling you all about Paris, but later reveals that he has only really been to the airport during connecting flights. I'm not saying it's not a worthy conversation, you just may not want to be stuck with the tab.

Anyone who loves sketch comedy knows the Kids in the Hall. Whether you're a superfan or just vaguely familiar with their work, this extensively researched book about one of the most legendary and innovative groups in sketch history is a must read.

This is a fantastic Kids In The Hall memoir about their rise to fame and their horrific fallout from fame and each other. The author spends an equal amount of time writing about aspects of all 5 troupe members and the conflicts they faced with tv networks and film studios. An absolute must read for any KITH fan.

One of the best comedy books I've ever read. The author does an amazing job of balancing historical/biographical information and personal anecdotes with in-depth analysis and theory, and his knowledge and love of KITH really comes out in the writing. A must-own for any fan of KITH, comedy, or Canadiana.

I bought this as a gift for my husband. He read it very quickly and found it engaging, though he was quick to point out one or two factual errors. I can't wait to read it next!

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