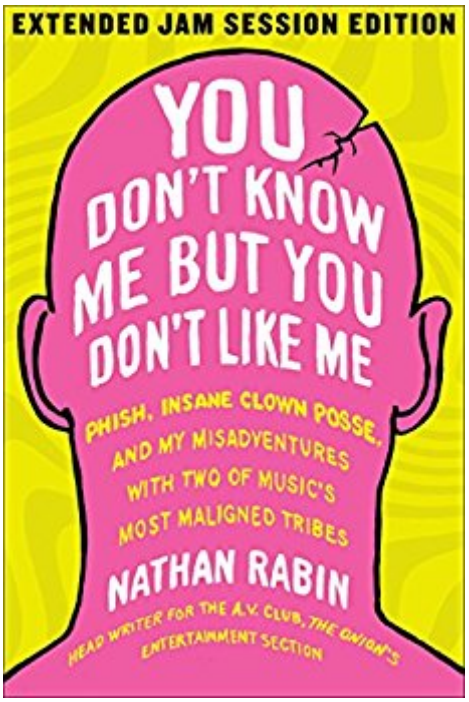
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You Don't Know Me But You Don't Like Me: Phish, Insane Clown Posse, And My Misadventures With Two Of Music's Most Maligned Tribes



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Synopsis

One of Rolling StoneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 20 Best Music Books of 2013 and one of SlateÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Staff Picks for Best Books of 2013 The ebook edition now includes Nathan RabinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s "Extended Jam Session"Ã¢â ¬â •a two-part bonus chapter about what writing this book did to (and for) his life. The first part chronicles the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s melancholy yet hilarious excursion on the maiden voyage of the Kid Rock ChillinÃ¢â ¬â„¢ the Most cruise, and the second part depicts the life lessons gleaned from getting sued by American Express over the charges the author racked up writing the book. The chapter sheds new light on a singular and unique exploration of personal and musical obsession and further highlights the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s theme of transcendence through utter, abject failure. When memoirist and former head writer for The A.V. Club Nathan Rabin first set out to write about obsessed music fans, he had no idea the journey would take him to the deepest recesses of both the pop culture universe and his own mind. For two very curious years, Rabin, who Mindy Kaling called "smart and funny" in The New Yorker, hit the road with two of musicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most well-established fanbases: PhishÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hippie fans and Insane Clown PosseÃ¢â ¬â„¢s notorious "Juggalos." Musically or style-wise, these two groups could not be more different from each other, and Rabin, admittedly, was a cynic about both bands. But once he gets deep below the surface, past the caricatures and into the essence of their collective cultures, he discovers that both groups have tapped into the human need for community. Rabin also grapples with his own mental well-beingÃ¢â ¬â •he discovers that he is bipolarÃ¢â ¬â •and his journey is both a prism for cultural analysis and a deeply personal exploration, equal parts humor and heart.

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Customer Reviews

I’m a Phish fan, and I have no firm opinion on ICP; my rating is not a reflection of the subject matter. At least half of this book is this guy writing about writing this book -- like a less lovable Hunter S. Thompson. And he uses the word "oeuvre" maybe a half-dozen times. As someone who was really hoping to love this book, it left me feeling pretty bummed out.

This book blew me away and I don’t dare say that lightly. Picture hurricane-level winds pushing me from page to page in anticipation. I purchased this gem because of the overwhelming passion that I have for music. Even more so, I enjoy getting a feel of the culture of fans and how they find themselves identifying to and drawn to certain musicians. My interest in Phish is somewhat significant. It would probably be greater had I not been sober at the one and only show I’d attended, but that’s irrelevant. I found myself anxious to delve into the Phish-y part of the book. My thoughts with the portion that focused on ICP were "meh". Then I began reading... Nathan is a genius. He has a way of writing that makes you feel not only that you are right there in the middle of Bethel Woods and Cave-In-Rock, but that you desire to be there with him sharing in the same crazy experiences regardless of where either band stands within your musical tastes. I didn’t feel as if I was reading this book. I felt instead that Rabin was sitting there sharing his story while seated right beside me over coffee.

I actually enjoyed this book (I see a lot of others didn’t). I didn’t come in to this book with any expectations- I had really enjoyed how he connected his own stories of personal struggles to iconic pop culture "moments" in The Big Rewind and thought I’d give this a try, too. I didn’t know anything really about ICP or Phish, so certainly not a die-hard fan looking for insight in to either of the bands. I just really enjoy reading analyses of pop culture and had been in a reading rut for some time. This was the first book in a couple months that I was able to read without letting it sit untouched for

months at a time.True, this book is somewhat rambling and lacks focus at times- the author himself admits to this. I like his style of writing though- lots of humor. Overall, this is probably more suited as a beach or poolside book. Light, easy, full of easy laughs and easy to pick up on if you are reading in multiple settings.

I really enjoyed the book and getting to know more about ICP. CONTRARY to the author you can be a casual fan without a Hatchet Man Tat. As I am. BUT I am a massive Phish fan seeing some 70 odd shows. Many of which were the same shows the author was at. Miami being a great run and great 1st show for Nathan. Mine being 12/6/96 look it up epic show. My only complaint is the very extensive drug references. Both bands do not need anymore of that kind of negative stereotypes. Even though I'm looking for the "stereotypes just save time" t-shirt. LOL. I have been to far more shows without "party supplies" then with. And the lot is not some free for all as he makes it sound. That's the only thing that kept me from giving it 5 stars. But if u like books about music and bands and "tour" it's a good easy read. And the stories are right on and makes me yearn to be paid to go to shows and write a book. I am glad Nat found love of a good woman, and beyond the drugs really loves Phish for their music! Good read.

This book caught my interest when I read about it in the back of a Rolling Stone magazine. Being a Phish fan I naturally wanted to check it out as anything about my favorite band sparks my interest. However, the thought of mashing ICP with Phish seemed appalling. I have to admit I've had zero interest in ICP - if anything I've been snobby and judgmental towards them. My knowledge of them has been the tidbits I've heard in the media.After reading this book I have respect for ICP and realized that I'm simply guilty of judging a book by its cover. Judging ICP and their fans is like judging Phish heads for what they do w/o fully understanding why they do what they do. Fact is when music touches you and you find your 'people' it truly is the gift of a lifetime and no one has the right to judge that.I think the line that really hit me hard was when the author and his girlfriend were standing in line to see ICP and a man with a scar on his face turned around and mentioned that this is the only place where he doesn't feel like a freak. That really hit me because even free thinking people can become jaded and judgmental. Though I don't consider myself a juggalo and probably won't go see ICP my eyes are open and I have respect for them and their tribe.The Phish portions were great as I feel like the author maintained a presence in the audience/crowd vs. got in the inside. I've been seeing Phish for almost 20 years now and during that time I've bumped into them in the lot, hotels, etc... Each time I found myself with nothing to say. There's something mystique

about Phish and sometimes I wonder if meeting the band would ruin it. That's what I found cool about this book is it kind of maintained that aspect and kept it real.Anyhow - I rec'd picking this one up its a good one.P.S. As messed up as your life was during the course of events while writing this book - it seems fitting much like a Phish song. Perhaps like Antelope - starts out normal, gets crazy, then finds itself again to land everyone home peacefully. ;-)

I read this awhile ago, but for anyone who enjoys a memoir-ish ramble through ups and downs while simultaneously engaging with and digging into seriously unique subcultures, I highly recommend this. It's a fun, quick read about Nathan's longer-than-planned and very strange trip(s).

Nathan Rabin follows the throngs of Phish and Insane Clown Posse so you don't have to. He starts out a skeptic and an ironic participant but by the end comes to appreciate the music of both these bands. Whether that's because he gains insight into the music by submersing himself in it or whether he's suffering from Stockholm syndrome is up for debate. Nonetheless, It's a fun if somewhat harrowing journey into two distinctly misunderstood groups.

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