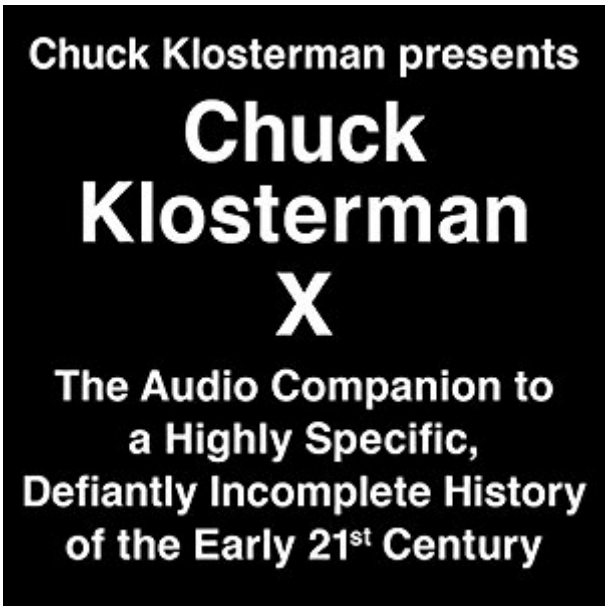
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Chuck Klosterman X: A Highly Specific, Defiantly Incomplete History Of The Early 21st Century



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Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author and cultural critic Chuck Klosterman presents a unique audio companion for Chuck Klosterman X, in which he contextualizes and reads from the collection of his best articles and essays, providing both a fascinating tour of the past decade and an ideal introduction to the mind of one of the sharpest and most prolific observers of our unusual times. Klosterman has created an incomparable body of work in books, magazines, and newspapers and on the Web. His writing spans the realms of culture and sports while also addressing interpersonal issues, social quandaries, and ethical boundaries. Klosterman has written nine previous books, helped found and establish Grantland, served as the New York Times Magazine ethicist, worked on film and television productions, and contributed profiles and essays to outlets such as GQ, Esquire, The A.V. Club, Billboard, and The Guardian. Chuck Klosterman X collects the most intriguing of those pieces, and, for this audio companion, Klosterman offers intimate and exclusive commentary about each piece, telling stories about each one, reading excerpts, and relating unexpected asides and digressions. Subjects include Breaking Bad, Lou Reed, zombies, KISS, Jimmy Page, Stephen Malkmus, steroids, Mountain Dew, Chinese democracy, the Beatles, Jonathan Franzen, Taylor Swift, Tim Tebow, Kobe Bryant, Usain Bolt, Eddie Van Halen, Charlie Brown, the Cleveland Browns, and many more cultural figures and pop phenomena.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 2 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 56 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Penguin Audio
Audible.com Release Date: May 16, 2017
Language: English
ASIN: B06XKCV3YM
Best Sellers Rank: #35 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > World #39 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Collections #269 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General

Customer Reviews

If you devoured a lot of pop culture over the last decade, you might wonder what Chuck Klosterman’s latest volume, Chuck Klosterman X: A Highly Specific, Defiantly Incomplete History of

the Early 21st Century, has to offer. My answer to this: perspective. In this collection of 38 essays culled from his work in publications like Esquire and Grantland, Klosterman analyzes various facets of pop culture ranging from zombies to Miley Cyrus, from Mountain Dew to Lou Reed. He explains, "Consumed in aggregate, this omnibus equates to a short book about music, a short book about sports, and a short book about everything else that could possibly exist." Disconnected as these subjects may seem, they are all filtered through Klosterman's unique voice. He's the anti-critic. He's the guy who goes to both Creed and Nickelback concerts on the same night just to find out why the bands are hated so much.One of the best essays, titled "Three Man Weave," traces the bizarre story of a "...pair of low-profile junior college basketball teams [who] played a forgotten game on a neutral floor in southeast North Dakota" in 1988. Due to a series of random events, the unfavored team won with only 3 players on the floor. The topic sounds boring--so boring, in fact, that many of the subjects interviewed had forgotten details of the event. But then the same thing happens to the exact same teams in 2016! That is one of Klosterman's gifts as a writer: turning a boring tale into something eyebrow-raising. Perspective.His other gift: writing 10,000-word essays about KISS and making you like it.Aside from a few articles on nostalgia and Charlie Brown, the majority of the book is filled with Klosterman's musings on sports or music. His interviews with Jimmy Page, Noel Gallagher, Stephen Malkmus, and Eddie Van Halen are just as excellent as his pieces on Tim Tebow, Kobe Bryant, and Tom Brady.He takes a turn into "grumpy aging cultural writer" territory in his reflection on Harry Potter as a cultural phenomenon:"...I find it astounding that the unifying cultural currency for modern teenagers is five-hundred-page literary works about a wizard...Because I don't understand Harry Potter, am I doomed to misunderstand everything else?"My response to Klosterman: Probably not. Your world view has been shaped by Walter White, Jonathan Franzen, and a love of hair metal, and that is no more or less significant than books about wizards. But if I ever meet you in a bar, I'll get you drunk and we'll figure out your house (I'm guessing Hufflepuff).What does one do after reading the entirety of a Chuck Klosterman book in one sitting? (Ok, two sittings). Somehow, starting a Noel Gallagher cover band seems equally as appealing as joining a fantasy sports league. I can't help but think this is what Klosterman wants: for the voyeurs of pop culture to realize what they are missing by observing but not truly living it; and for those swimming in the thick of it to see pop culture as the voyeurs do.I recommend Chuck Klosterman X: A Highly Specific, Defiantly Incomplete History of the Early 21st Century to fans of music, sports, and everything else that could possibly exist. Most importantly, if you did not know that in 2006, Danger Mouse released an illegal Beatles/Jay-Z mashup called The Grey Album (and it's excellent), then you should read this book strictly for educational purposes.

I enjoy his writing and if you do as well I think this will not disappoint.

Great book by one of my favorite authors!!!

fans of Klosterman will enjoy this book.

Arrived the day it was released! Excellent

I love Chuck Klosterman in ways few could understand. This book is devoted to previously written articles and with a lot of up to date takes on the material. 70% of the articles are about Rock Music and the other 30% about Sports. Since I've read every book he's written I expected some overlap, but that was not the case. Having been a huge fan of Grantland I suspected some of that would show up here as well and I was wrong. The book feels fresh.My favorite interviews included Noel Gallagher and Jimmy Page. I'm not a fan of Kiss but Klosterman's obsessed and I totally get it. His love of the band is my own story about The Cars.His writing is immersive and dense. He is fun and smart just like my other Grantland hero Bill Simmons.Write more Chuck Klosterman please!j

Brilliant writer. I have all his books and only wish I could come close to his level of wordsmithing. This collection is particularly fun because it includes his favorite pop culture reviews and impressions.

Engaging collection of previously published essays from the past ten years, most focused on sports and music. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve been following Klosterman for a while now and I appreciate the way heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s retained his wit and honesty. He writes about what interests him and he has a gift for making it interesting to you (I never would have guessed I would enjoy an essay about a long-ago minor college basketball game). He has something fresh to bring to even the most over-exposed subjects (like Taylor Swift).

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