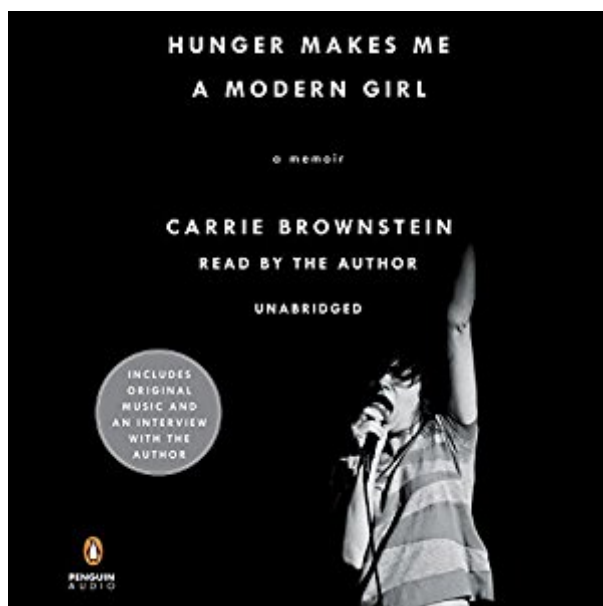


The book was found

Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl: A Memoir



Synopsis

From the guitarist of the pioneering band Sleater-Kinney, a candid, funny, and deeply personal look at making a life - and finding yourself - in music. Before Carrie Brownstein became a music icon, she was a young girl growing up in the Pacific Northwest just as it was becoming the setting for one of the most important movements in rock history. Seeking a sense of home and identity, she would discover both while moving from spectator to creator in experiencing the power and mystery of a live performance. With Sleater-Kinney, Brownstein and her bandmates rose to prominence in the burgeoning underground feminist punk-rock movement that would define music and pop culture in the 1990s. They would be cited as "America's best rock band" by legendary music critic Greil Marcus for their defiant, exuberant brand of punk that resisted labels and limitations and redefined notions of gender in rock. *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl* is an intimate and revealing narrative of her escape from a turbulent family life into a world where music was the means toward self-invention, community, and rescue. Along the way Brownstein chronicles the excitement and contradictions within the era's flourishing and fiercely independent music subculture, including experiences that sowed the seeds for the observational satire of the popular television series *Portlandia* years later. With deft, lucid prose Brownstein proves herself as formidable on the page as on the stage. Accessibly raw, honest, and heartfelt, this audiobook captures the experience of being a young woman, a born performer, and an outsider and ultimately finding one's true calling through hard work, courage, and the intoxicating power of rock and roll.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 4 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 27, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B015WM7CHY

Best Sellers Rank: #14 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Music #22

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians #37

in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rock

Customer Reviews

If you want me to tell you all about Sleater-Kinney, Riot Grrrl, and Portlandia...I can't. I know nothing about any of these topics. I know that S-K were a band (and are, as they've reformed), and I have heard the term "Riot Grrrl" thrown around in books about music in the Nineties. And Portlandia is some show that I've heard of only in passing. So maybe I'm not the ideal audience for this book...but then again, maybe I am. "Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl," by Carrie Brownstein, was the subject of a review on the Onion's AV Club that I came across recently. The review piqued my interest in a book written, admittedly, by a musician whose work was (and still is) unknown to me. In much the same way that I let curiosity steer me towards Questlove's memoir without really knowing much about the Roots, I found myself interested in reading this book even though I was in the dark about Sleater-Kinney or Brownstein's other endeavors. For a non-fan, this is actually a really interesting, enjoyable book. The subject is not so much Brownstein's life (though it is the main thrust of it) as it is creativity, and her search for artistic fulfillment and meaning. Having a voice, having something to say, is the noblest reason to pursue artistic success, and Brownstein shows that she found that voice and that message through her work inside and outside of music. She shines a light on the music scene in the Northwest circa 1992, when Nirvana was hitting big and any band with a Seattle zip code and a wardrobe of flannel could find success (even though S-K, according to her, always remained on the margins of commercial success, they did find a rabid fan base that exists to this day).

It was only by chance I purchased "Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl" by Carrie Brownstein. I was browsing in Amazon's first physical bookstore at University Village in Seattle. I was looking for something new, and something local. I found Ms. Brownstein's Memoir at the same time as "The Bassoon King" by Rainn Wilson. Despite being slightly aware of Sleater-Kinney years ago, and aware also of the long running "The Office" in which Rainn Wilson acted. However, I had not listened to Sleater-Kinney music because it had a word of mouth reputation as being angular, harsh, enervating, loud and the type of music that did not intend to please the ear. All of those qualities, turn out to be true (for me, I should add). Thankfully, Brownstein admits those qualities in her book several times, so that issue is off the table in this review. Likewise, I have never watched an episode of "The Office". I am an outcast from contemporary culture! That's OK, I have excuses, among them my age. I purchased both books intending to give them to my son and daughter as presents. When I did tell my son and daughter what I purchased for them they both smirked and laughed. So I started to read both myself, despite being so skeptical of authors writing memoirs in their 30s or 40s. Seems to me to be premature - and I will hold

onto that judgement in my review and not give any quarter. Both Rainn Wilson and Carrie Brownstein have had a second act that supersedes their initial successes in music and acting. In the case of Brownstein, Portlandia, though it is not a topic in her Sleater Kinney memoir. In the case of Rainn Wilson, the web initiative Soul Pancake. Let's leave it at this I expect to hear so many more good things from the art and craft of Carrie Brownstein.

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