



Bad Reputation: The Unauthorized Biography of Joan Jett

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(Book). Bad Reputation is the unexpurgated story of Joan Jett, the single most exciting rocker of the American 1980s, one of the biggest-selling acts of the age, and one of punk rock's most valued elder statespeeps. Through its pages, a welter of exclusive interviews and observations paint what might well be the last great tale of rock hedonism, but one that comes with a twist in its tail. The rockers are women, the groupies are guys. It could have been the plot line for a movie or even a sitcom, but the Runaways, Jett's first band, made it happen, and Jett made it last. The first serious female rocker of the 1980s, Jett became the template for everyone that followed. But unlike so many of her peers and counterparts, she never lost her credibility, never sold out, and never gave up. And she has backed her reputation up with genuine star power, following the chart-topping "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" one of the most played '80s anthems of all time with "Crimson and Clover," "Do You Wanna Touch Me," and "I Hate Myself for Loving You" before the decade ended. And, while the 1990s saw Jett purposefully step away from the spotlight, she remained, and remains, America's number one Queen of Noise.

Bad Reputation: The Unauthorized Biography of Joan Jett Details

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Lori says

As much as I like Joan Jett, I was disappointed with the writing style of this book, I found that it dragged and was like pulling teeth getting through it. General good information on Joan and her life but not written well.

Stephanie Whittaker says

i must agree with everyone else...this was a so so book it wasn't terrible but i don't know anymore about joan now then before i read the book!

Mad Giles (Giles A. Madding) says

2.75 Stars

As a lifelong Jetthead I really wanted to love this book, but alas it didn't really work out that way. It was okay. Had a few snippets from articles I hadn't actually read yet.

Armand says

Great book. I read it in one sitting.

Stacy Holmstedt says

After enjoying Patti Smith's "Just Kids" (and years ago, Grace Slick's "Someone to Love"), I'm reminded of the canyon-like gulf in intrigue between memoirs that women write about themselves and "unauthorized" biographies that men write about women to sell books. "Bad Reputation" is less biography and more of an extended but tedious essay on the rock industry from the '70s through the Riot Grrl scene. If you didn't know much about Joan before reading it, you won't know much afterward. Tiny compelling morsels of her life are padded with a sea of irrelevant information on her managers, collaborators and bandmates. Skip this and read Jett's Wikipedia page instead.

Bjorn218 says

The book was fair to good compared to other rocker biographies I have read. I think it was a little hung up on that Joan is a lesbian and was driving that point home at least once a chapter. Once stated is enough unless

the person changes their viewpoint which obviously Jett hasn't since the Runaways. The good stuff was superfluous at best and relied way too much on data from previously public releases such as fan club news and magazine interviews.

Overall it wasn't a bad read, just nothing remotely close to The Dirt or anywhere near that caliber.

Jeri Lane says

I was really excited to see this book in my husbands hand as he turned it over to me at the library, thinking it would be something I would enjoy. (He knows my tastes pretty well). However, what I got from this book was very little actual biography of Joan; a little more glimpse into the Runaways, and a lot of strange trailings-off on the histories of places, glam rock/punk culture, and the stories of every other person Joan happened to come in contact with...as well as some people she never did (but they frequented her same locales). Just when I thought he was gunna get into the meat of the subject or touch on something symbolic, he goes on a 5 page detailed journey that takes us someplace else entirely. I was bummed. He certainly knows his stuff. His research is strong in every other aspect...He just didnt have enough information on this rock super star to carry an entire book alone. Which makes me sad. Somebody please write her story minus the garbage? Thanks...

Randall says

Part of my Woman in Rock series - I have always been a huge Joan Jett and Runaways Fan.

Emma says

It's really hard for me to rate biographies, because no matter how good or bad an author is, most life stories are either really interesting, or dull, and nothing can change that. However, with Bad Reputation, I thought the author did a great job. Because a good part of the book takes place 20 years before I was born, I really didn't know much about Los Angeles in the 1970's. The author did a great job filling in the blanks, explaining the music and the youth culture that was so important to Joan Jett's story.

Sandra says

Meh, boring. No dirt.

Susan says

More of an anthology of a music category than a bio of JJ. Every recording, most concerts, all the other artists she influenced and/or was influenced by.

James Workman says

A few good tidbits. A good job of compiling years of existing info to make a bio. Nothing deep. But an OK fan read. Some weird typos though.

Kiss' Stutter? Thats bad.

Erica says

Maybe I already have a decent knowledge of Joan Jett's career, but this book was kinda disappointing. Nothing new or super in depth, no reason to buy it if you're looking for greater detail or any interesting tour stories.

Dixie Diamond says

Wow, was this book boring. I'm not sure I knew it was even possible to write a boring book about rock stars, especially when it's also trying so hard to make everything sound amazing and kissing backside right and left.

It's two hundred repetitive pages listing all the awesome things Joan Jett has done and how awesome she is and all the awesome versions she recorded of other peoples' hits and did it mention that Joan Jett is awesome? Well, she's awesome! It would have worked better as two pages in a teen magazine in 1981. (Unauthorized? Unlikely. Nothing this shoe-licking could possibly have been unauthorized.)

Matt O'Neil says

I think the book was mis-titled. Thompson gives the reader very little about Joan's childhood, no clue as to what drove her to be wise beyond her youth and hard driven to be respected as a legitimate guitar sligin' rocker, no more, no less. The book gives sort of a capsulated- mostly from qoutes out of other publications- history of the Runaways. Thompson does give us a closer but all to brief look at Jett's personal side during the transistion from The Runaways to Blackhearts. It's an almost fluffy ride through what Joan Jett did with too little of why she did it.

I find that the best biographies- both celebratory and factual- of rock performers, are often long time fans of the artist who are able to turn a phrase. Thompson's done better. Ironically, by default, this may the best Joan Jett biography in print.
