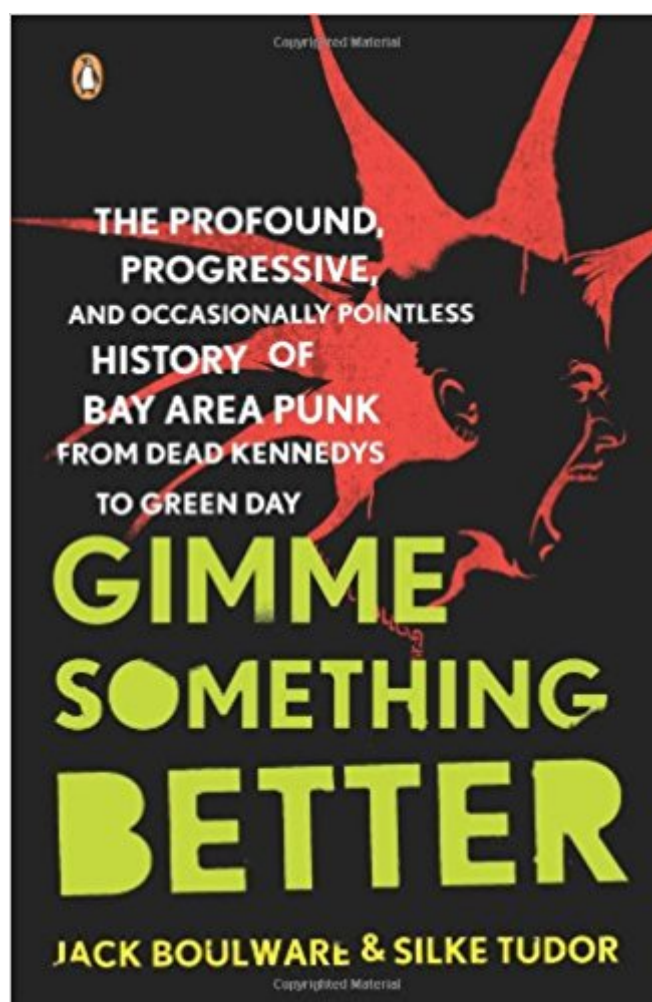


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Gimme Something Better: The Profound, Progressive, And Occasionally Pointless History Of Bay Area Punk From Dead Kennedys To Green Day





Synopsis

An oral history of the modern punk-revival's West Coast Birthplace Outside of New York and London, California's Bay Area claims the oldest continuous punk-rock scene in the world. Gimme Something Better brings this outrageous and influential punk scene to life, from the notorious final performance of the Sex Pistols, to Jello Biafra's bid for mayor, the rise of Maximum RocknRoll magazine, and the East Bay pop-punk sound that sold millions around the globe. Throngs of punks, including members of the Dead Kennedys, Avengers, Flipper, MDC, Green Day, Rancid, NOFX, and AFI, tell their own stories in this definitive account, from the innovative art-damage of San Francisco's Fab Mab in North Beach, to the still vibrant all-ages DIY ethos of Berkeley's Gilman Street. Compiled by longtime Bay Area journalists Jack Boulware and Silke Tudor, Gimme Something Better chronicles more than two decades of punk music, progressive politics, social consciousness, and divine decadence, told by the people who made it happen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack Boulware is the author of San Francisco Bizarro, and was a columnist at SF Weekly throughout the 1990s. His writing has appeared in many publications including The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, Playboy, Mojo and on Salon.com. Silke Tudor was born in the Bay Area and reared on punk. She was a columnist at SF Weekly and the Village Voice.

Kinda interesting, but to be honest, as someone who was right in the middle of punk in SF

throughout the 80's, and in the Haight when some of the events in one chapter were kinda/sorta mentioned, this book left me kind of disappointed. If you were one of the two dozen or less people repeatedly mentioned in the book, I am sure it was great, but to give a feel of what the City was like in those years and in that mix...eh, really was a bunch of name dropping...and let's admit it...Green Day?? 1990's? Not really the heyday of the punk era. Would really have liked more about the entire vibe of the scene, more venues, and interviews with more people.

Great book, I really enjoyed it. The first half is great, but when they began talking about stuff like Rancid, who to me are such derivative, cliché sell outs, and Gilman street, where you have to read and follow their little punk rock rule book to be down...Clearly the early days, with incredible bands like Crime, Avengers, Flipper and Negative Trend, were of a totally different vibe and mind set... In a nutshell, the early bands were amazing, then it all got regimented and lame. Still, this book is totally worth picking up!

Great book! The oral history style lends itself well for punk rock scene stories. This one's better than others because it continues through the years & into the current century. You experience how violence & factionalism nearly killed punk but celebrate how it bounced back with a vengeance. My main complaint is they don't even mention my favorite band J Church. I don't understand how a band with hundreds of releases (really!) could somehow be overlooked. Anyway the rest is good...

I really enjoy reading punk rock related oral histories- my favorite is *Our Band Could Be Your Life* by Michael Azerrad. *Gimme Something Better* starts at the very beginning of the SF punk scene and takes you up to about 2007. There is a fair amount on the very early SF punk bands which I was less familiar with. I was hoping for more history on Op Ivy and other Lookout! bands but you get a good amount of Green Day history. If you are at all interested in punk history, then this is worth a read. I would recommend not purchasing the Kindle edition. The formatting in the Kindle edition is a bit weird- there are a lot of places where the name of the speaker is not bolded or offset and so you have to read twice to see who is speaking. Also, there is one image that is not rendered at all, it's just a target mark with a caption. For a book with very few images, you'd think they could have made sure all 4 or 5 of them made it into the Kindle edition especially for the \$14.99 price.

Not the best version of an oral history on punk, but it does pertain to the San Fran Bay Area and that is not easy to come by. As per most books of this type, it is random in spots and moves quickly

(adding confusion to the experience of reading it). All in all, it is an important aspect of history and the result is a treasure trove of quotables and one-liners.

This does not come off as filtered through the perceptions of the editors. On the contrary, if I recall correctly they make no contributions at all, they only quote interviewees. Fantastic read, can't recommend it enough. I've seen a person or two put it down, I think they are silly. You won't go wrong with this.

Pretty good. Too bad they focused so much on Rancid and Green Day and never talked about Hickey, arguably one of the best punk bands out of San Francisco in the 1990s.

Speedy delivery, GREAT book, more please!!!! A+++++

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