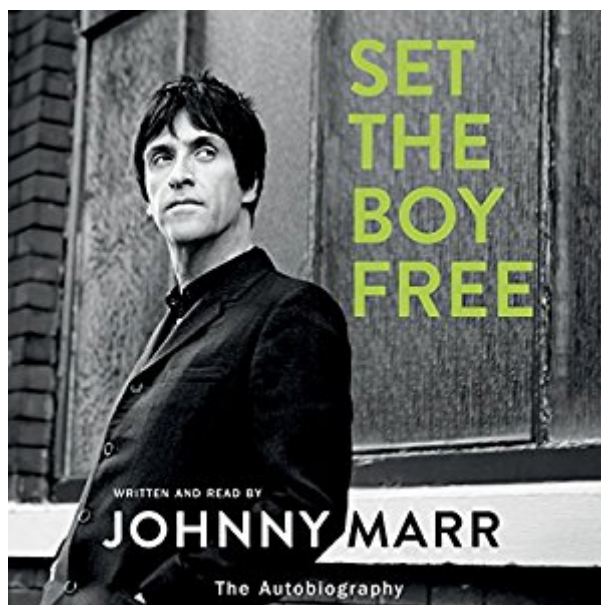


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# Set The Boy Free: The Autobiography



## Synopsis

The long-awaited memoir from the legendary guitarist and cofounder of the seminal British band The Smiths. An artist who helped define a period in popular culture, Johnny Marr tells his story in a memoir as vivid and arresting as his music. The Smiths, the band with the signature sound he cofounded, remains one of the most beloved bands ever and have had a profound influence on a number of acts that followed - from the Stone Roses, Suede, Blur, and Radiohead to Oasis, The Libertines, and Arctic Monkeys. Marr recalls his childhood growing up in the northern working-class city of Manchester, in a house filled with music. He takes us back to the summer of 1982, when, at 18, he sought out one Stephen Morrissey to form a new band they called The Smiths. Marr invites fans onstage, on the road, and in the studio for the five years The Smiths were together and shares how, after a rapid ascent, the working-class teenage rock star enjoyed and battled with the perks of success until ideological differences, combined with his much publicized strained relationships with his bandmates, caused him to leave in 1987. Marr's "escape", as he calls it, ensured the beginning of the end for one of the most influential groups of a generation. But The Smiths' end was only the beginning for Marr. The bona fide guitar hero continues to experiment and evolve in his solo career to this day, playing with Paul McCartney, Pretenders, Modest Mouse, and Oasis and collaborating with today's most creative and renowned artists. Rising above and beyond the personal struggles and bitter feuds, Marr delivers the story of his music and his band, sharing the real insights of a man who has made music his life and finally giving fans what they've truly been waiting for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book with the intention of just reading the chapters about The Smiths, which is less than half of the book. Don't do that. On one hand, yes, Johnny tells about the details how the Smiths was formed, when he met Morrissey, how many of their songs came to life, the tough days at the end, etc. They have been my favorite band for years. On the other hand, as you keep reading, something else emerges: the man himself. Johnny Marr as a deeply humble, grateful, aware, loyal friend, and funny human being. His stories when he met Keith Richards, when he played with Paul McCartney, Electronic, Pet Shop Boys, The The, Pretenders, Modest Mouse... when he met the Gallagher's. And even the Dalai Lama! I couldn't put this book down: I have learned so much about him and his bands, I have discovered new music, and I have laughed out loud many times. And yes, I have ended up loving his music even more.

I'm a guitar player and songwriter so this was a very enjoyable read. No sex, no drug stories, and absolutely not needed. Johnny Marr is in my top 5 guitar players of all-time, so it was great to get his insight on how he wrote some of these great songs. THE THE is my favorite of all the band's he's been in, so those chapters I relished.

About half the book covers his upbringing from the time he got his first guitar to the end of The Smiths. The other half covers all the other bands and projects he's been a part of, including those intersecting points when The Smiths came back into his life eg., talking to Morrissey, reuniting with Andy, the trial, etc. The common thread throughout the book is love of music and family/friends. His passion comes through. It was hard not to love every last word. I'm a huge Smiths and Electronic fan and he is my favorite guitarist, so my opinion is totally subjective. The book is written as well as he plays the guitar. Certainly not as innovative and colorful, but the craftsmanship is there. On a final note, if you're expecting any new revelations about why The Smiths broke up, I'm not sure you'll find it here more so than any other recounting of the breakup. Sadly, it only confirms that Johnny was in a really overwhelming time in his life when too little communication with his band mates spiraled uncontrollably. The boys just didn't have the maturity and experience to deal with it. In that respect, the book is a tragedy, but his life after The Smiths is his ongoing celebration of music.

Marr was 50% of the magic that was The Smiths. Perhaps more? His recent solo work is also very good as well. Either way, I truly enjoyed this book. Gave some great insight of his career and just

had a nice gentle positive vibe through out the book. I couldn't put it down at times, which is a great feeling! I also read Morrissey's book when it came out, who I adore and found that one to just to be negative unfortunately and not too much insight that a music fan wants to know.

this book is hard to put down....so very different from Morrissey ... damn good book and read ... hard to put down because I read it in one night and am still reading it!!

A wonderful journey through Marr's life, both in and outside of music. Thanks for all the great tunes Johnny! Keep on doing what you do.

It's all here, from his influences to what really happened to the Smiths (not what you think) to how he ended up in things like The The and Modest Mouse. Great guitar stories and great personal stories. A quick read--I finished in a day. Very upbeat and inspiring.

After hearing that my guitar idol was releasing an autobiography, I had to buy it. This book is a great read from the mind of one of the greatest guitar legends. From start to finish it covers the important events of his life (his upbringing, his passion of music, the friends he's met along the way, the bands etc.). I give this 5 stars and it's for those who truly admire this guitar great.

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