

We Got the Neutron Bomb : The Untold Story of L.A. Punk

By Marc Spitz, Brendan Mullen

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Taking us back to late '70s and early '80s Hollywood—pre-crack, pre-AIDS, pre-Reagan—**We Got the Neutron Bomb** re-creates word for word the rage, intensity, and anarchic glory of the Los Angeles punk scene, straight from the mouths of the scenesters, zinesters, groupies, filmmakers, and musicians who were there.

“California was wide-open sex—no condoms, no birth control, no morality, no guilt.” —Kim Fowley

“The Runaways were rebels, all of us were. And a lot of people looked up to us. It helped a lot of kids who had very mediocre, uneventful, unhappy lives. It gave them something to hold on to.” —Cherie Currie

“The objective was to create something for our own personal satisfaction, because everything in our youthful and limited opinion sucked, and we knew better.” —John Doe

“The Masque was like Heaven and Hell all rolled into one. It was a bomb shelter, a basement. It was so amazing, such a dive ... but it was our dive.” —Hellin Killer

“At least fifty punks were living at the Canterbury. You'd walk into the courtyard and there'd be a dozen different punk songs all playing at the same time. It was an incredible environment.” —Belinda Carlisle

Assembled from exhaustive interviews, **We Got the Neutron Bomb** tells the authentically gritty stories of bands like the Runaways, the Germs, X, the Screamers, Black Flag, and the Circle Jerks—their rise, their fall, and their undeniable influence on the rock 'n' roll of today.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

For years, West Coast punks have been ardently arguing for some much-deserved respect. Though the L.A. punk scene had a late start, it has turned out more relevant bands in the last two decades than the communities in New York and London combined. There's only been one roadblock in L.A.'s way until now, there hasn't been a book. Spitz, senior contributing writer at SPIN magazine, and Mullen, founder of the seminal Masque club that fostered many of the bands covered here, have fashioned a long-overdue oral history along the lines of Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain's *Please Kill Me*, Gotham punk's definitive history. Starting in 1971 with Jim Morrison and the glitter rock invasion and ending in 1981 with the Go-Go's commercial success, this book presents raw quotations from vital scenesters, promoters, and musicians. Readers will get glimpses into the formation and demise of acts like the Runaways, X, and the Circle Jerks. Much more thorough than *Forming: The Early Days of L.A. Punk* (LJ 11/1/99), this book not only titillates with insights and anecdotes that are alternately hilarious and grisly but also fills a gap in popular music history. Highly recommended for all libraries, especially those in the Golden State. Robert Morast, "Argus Daily Leader," Sioux Falls, SD
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From [Booklist](#)

Spitz and Mullen give the L.A. punk-rock scene the same treatment that Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain gave the New York scene in *Please Kill Me* (1996). Out of interviews with dozens of club owners, promoters, musicians, journalists, and groupies they shape an evocative oral history of the mid-seventies L.A. punk subculture, before bands like the Go-Go's made it to the cover of *Rolling Stone*. They show the small number of those who dug the New York Dolls and Iggy Pop transforming a stagnant West Coast scene dominated by the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, and their cronies into a chaotic, culturally vibrant synthesis of art school, rockabilly, surf music, and hard rock. Producer-promoter Kim Fowley put together an all-jailbait girl band, the Runaways, which prompted others. X, the Germs, and Black Flag soon followed, offering a mixture of raw energy, aggression, and real, honest-to-goodness talent. Heroin, AIDS, and self-destructive behavior played a tragic but not unsurprising role in it all. An eminently colorful account. *Benjamin Segedin*
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Review

"When Gillian McCain and I wrote **Please Kill Me**, a number of people asked us, 'What about the L.A. punk scene?' We said 'That's another book.' And now Marc Spitz and Brendan Mullen have finally written it. It's about time."

—Legs McNeil

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kim Townsend:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And

you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They should answer that question due to the fact just their can do which. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on guardería until university need this specific We Got the Neutron Bomb : The Untold Story of L.A. Punk to read.

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Terry Klatt:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled We Got the Neutron Bomb : The Untold Story of L.A. Punk can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Martha Dixon:

Many people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the actual book We Got the Neutron Bomb : The Untold Story of L.A. Punk to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open up a book and learn it. Beside that the reserve We Got the Neutron Bomb : The Untold Story of L.A. Punk can to be your new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of the time.

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