



# Ramones: An American Band

*By Jim Bessman*

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The authorized story of an American band who shaped the history of music for generations. Today's new music-makers are looking back at the bands that broke the ground, and the Ramones are it: the original high priests of punk, the stars of rock 'n roll high school, the royal avatars of rock, raunch, and rebellion. 60 photographs and illustrations.

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## **Ramones: An American Band** By Jim Bessman Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Music journalist Bessman's closeness to his subject--he is a good friend of the members of the Ramones--has both positive and negative effects on his authorized history of this seminal American band, famous for knowing only three chords and for playing everything as fast as possible. Bessman has great access to details such as the Ramones's mistrust of the Talking Heads--"a bunch of intellectuals"--with whom they toured Europe. But it also means that he sometimes misses the ironies and inconsistencies in their behavior, like the fact that members of a band whose lyrics include the infamous line "Well I'm a Nazi, schatzi, you know, I fight for the fatherland" claimed that their work had no political content. The "four guys from Queens" who formed the original group in 1974 seem to have been truly without pretensions, which makes Bessman's overheated interpretation of their achingly simple lyrics just silly. Bessman's theory is that the Ramones were always poised on the brink of stardom but missed out due to the mistakes of others, i.e., the release of one of their best-known songs, Rockaway Beach, during the winter and the poor distribution of their only film, Rock 'n' Roll High School. Photos.

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From Library Journal

This journal of the "Grateful Dead of punk rock" is well paced, streamlined, and tautly built. It pulses home its main point with fierce precision: that the durable yet quirky band has earned a place in the annals of rock'n'roll history. The book chronicles the lives of the band members with a cold eye, depicting everything from the tragic flaws (drug addiction, personality disorders) to their dedication to their style of music: three-chord punk rock songs that so viscerally capture the teenage angst of suburban youth. The author argues that the Ramones symbolize the breakout from the stranglehold of disco music and the salvation from the self-congratulatory babbling of progressive rock (e.g., bands like Emerson, Lake, and Palmer and YES). The Ramones recaptured the essence of rock'n'roll, and their rewards included a feature film (Rock'n'Roll High School, 1979). Inspiring and often hilarious, this book is appropriate for libraries with extensive music or rock history collections. --Mike Tierno, New York

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## Review

"Before the Ramones, there was nothing" ?*A rock critic*

"The Ramones were the only outside band that everyone looked up to." ?*Chrissie Hynde*

"They've remained true to their vision of rock'n' roll as fast, fun music." ?*Kurt Loder*

"They speak up for outcasts and disturbed individuals." ?*Jon Pareles, the New York Times*

"People say that your music is loud and destructive and lethal to mice, but I think you're the Beethovens of our time." ?*from Rock 'n' Roll High School*

"Virtually every current commercial guideline in rock is broken somewhere in the Ramones." ?*Robert Hillburn*

"We're not trying to compete with Bruce Springsteen." ?*Tommy Ramone*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Barbara Palmer:**

What do you consider book? It is just for students because they're still students or it for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book Ramones: An American Band. All type of book are you able to see on many options. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

#### **Fred Polak:**

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one having theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The Ramones: An American Band is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

#### **Carolyn Lutz:**

The book untitled Ramones: An American Band contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

#### **Cassandra Harvey:**

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