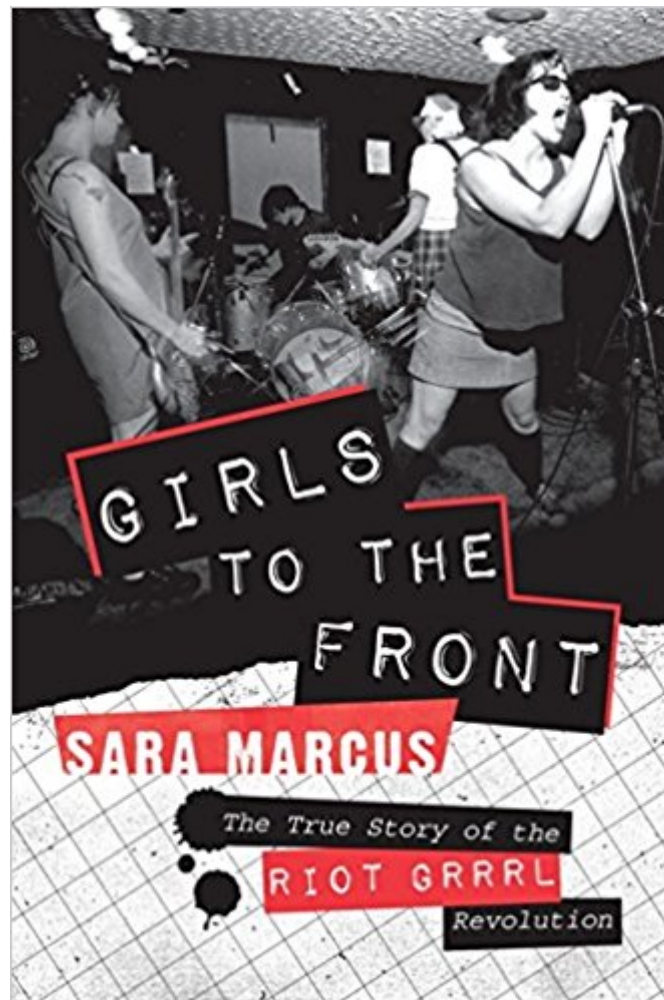


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Girls To The Front: The True Story Of The Riot Grrrl Revolution



Synopsis

“For a Second Wave feminist like myself, *Girls to the Front* evokes wonderfully the way the generation after mine soaked up the promise and the punishment of feminist consciousness....A richly moving story.”

•Village Voice writer Vivian Gornick*Girls to the Front* is the epic, definitive history of the Riot Grrrl movement—the radical feminist punk uprising that exploded into the public eye in the 1990s, altering America’s gender landscape forever.

Author Sara Marcus, a music and politics writer for *Time Out New York*, *Slate.com*, *Pos*, and *Heeb* magazine, interweaves research, interviews, and her own memories as a Riot Grrrl front-liner. Her passionate, sophisticated narrative brilliantly conveys the story of punk bands like Bikini Kill, Bratmobile, Heavens to Betsy—as well as successors like Sleater-Kinney, Partyline, and Kathleen Hanna—and their effect on today’s culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Brooklyn-based journalist gives a brash, gutsy chronicle of the empowering music and feminist movement of the early 1990s led by young women rock groups like Bikini Kill and Bratmobile.

Politicized by such national events as the backlash against feminism in the press, the first Iraq War, and the Supreme Court’s gearing up to review *Roe v. Wade*, young women were incensed.

Kathleen Hanna, a college student from Olympia, Wash., was spurred to action after interviewing writer Kathy Acker and working for a domestic violence shelter, and she decided to start a band.

Hanna, along with Tobi Vail, a fanzine writer (Jigsaw) and former punk rocker who was dating

Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, were on a mission to spread female rebellion via their band, Bikini Kill. Meanwhile, Allison Wolfe and Molly Neuman, who had met at the University of Oregon, were in Washington, D.C., cobbling together their own band, Bratmobile. Thus, writes Marcus in this compelling account, the Grrrl Revolution was sparked. Marcus enthusiastically tracks the "scattered cartographies of rebellion" and captures the combustible excitement of this significant if short-lived moment. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review Marcus's compelling history covers a specific time period, 1989–1994, and a particular type of music that turned into a larger social movement. The riot grrrl movement was a potent form of female empowerment as well as a postfeminist reaction to sexism and the rising number of sexual assaults against women when expectations for equality were high. A writer and musician, Marcus describes some of the major players on the scene, including individuals (Kathleen Hanna, Tobi Vail) and bands (Bikini Kill, Heavens to Betsy)—all set against the backdrop of the so-called postfeminist period. She tells colorful anecdotes (such as the origin of the title of Nirvana's breakthrough single "Smells like Teen Spirit"). She describes the music scene in such important riot grrrl locations as the Pacific Northwest and Washington, D.C., and chronicles the rise of riot grrrl zines and riot grrrl conventions. In all, Marcus has done a commendable job of telling the little-known history of an important social and cultural movement. --June Sawyers

Marcus writes in *Girls to the Front* of a cultural moment and movement close to her heart, but miraculously, that doesn't inhibit her journalistic perspective. With a sharp eye, her clear and often lyrical prose, and a masterfully constructed narrative, she gives the first steady view of the Third Wave feminist movement. The book is compelling as any novel, though just a few pages in, the depth and breadth of her research becomes breathtakingly clear. The publication of this book is a momentous moment in the archiving of this country's grassroots political history, and Marcus's burgeoning career. Brava!

This is a powerful rendering of some crucial years, a time that still resonates today in phenomenon like Pussy Riot and Girls Rock! I was part of this moment, and it still matters immensely to me... this book is a worthy document, and the result of painstaking research... check it out if you can!

It seems like Sara Marcus went above and beyond to get all of the different voices that made up the Riot Grrrl revolution. It wasn't about what music they listened, what they wore or how they fashioned their hair, it shows the movements purpose. She clarified a few points (I always wondered how Courtney Love ended up being linked to it) and she makes it a point to not single out Kathleen Hanna as the leader, though it seems natural to want to do so. It was direct and informative.

Caveat: I was way into Riot Grrrl in the early 90s, so i am not remotely an objective reader of this book. That said, i loved the s*** out of it in a grand, passionate, angry, weepy, wall-punching, boot-stomping way. Perhaps it's partly nostalgia, and perhaps it's partly directionless frustration at a lot of present-day misogyny, but even though this book is far from perfect, i am thanking every last star that Marcus wrote it, and that i read it.

well-paced writing -- nonfiction can be a tough read but this one's gripping. i loved it! only complaint would be the lack of trans* representation.

LOVE THIS BOOK...A DEFINITE READ FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE RIOT GRRL MOVEMENT OR GIRLS IN PUNK ROCK.

Not very well written, but mildly entertaining, pretty informative. Less inspiring than expected. Very comprehensive!

This is an extremely detailed account of the riot Grrrl movement which I found very satisfying bar none...buy this book if you are interested

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