



Human Punk

John King , Alain Defossé (Translator)

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Qui n'a pas connu l'été 1977 à Slough n'a pas connu la douceur de vivre. C'était l'époque des premières Doc Martens, du punk rock et du reggae, des bastons avec les Teds et des nuits électriques au pub, quand toutes les filles s'appelaient Debbie Harry. Pour Joe, quinze ans, tout s'est terminé une nuit, lorsque Welles et sa bande l'ont jeté dans Grand Union Canal après avoir tabassé Smiles, son meilleur ami. 1988. Joe a vingt-six ans. Il traverse la Mandchourie à bord du Transsibérien, de retour de Hong-Kong où il a travaillé dans un bar pendant trois ans. Il fait l'amour avec une Russe, il rêve à sa jeunesse, au pauvre Smiles, au principal du collège que tout le monde appelait Staline. Et à Gary, qui s'est suicidé. 2000. Joe est DJ et la vie est douce à nouveau. Jusqu'au jour où, dans un cimetière, il croit reconnaître Gary. (Mais Gary est mort.) A moins qu'il ne s'agisse... de son fils ? Dur et mélancolique, réaliste et lyrique, Human punk - dédié à George Orwell - est le meilleur livre de John King. Il éclaire de manière crue " les règles qui gouvernent le comportement masculin et la genèse de la violence mâle " (The New Stateman) dans une des villes-satellites proches de Londres. Mais c'est aussi un roman universel, dont l'écriture s'envole dans des riffs époustouflants.

Human Punk Details

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From Reader Review Human Punk for online ebook

Michelle says

Brilliant book, great story. John King is a fantastic author :)

Benedict Reid says

Reads like an autobiography. Teenager in the late 70s in a rough part of England. It definitely did not make me wish I'd been there then.

Jared Dubinski says

one of those dialectic stream of conscience brit books. he's an aged punker scarred by a tragedy in his past. bit of philosophy but mostly the driving narrative of a non-halfassed sort of man, a respectable chap, as it were. reads like you've been shot out of a cannon. great fiction and good writing

Bhekinjinga says

I read this and really felt like a slough resident. King's one of my favourites - for his simplicity.

Gerry LaFemina says

Strong novel with a very likable protagonist--it captures the fragmentation of memory, the real life struggles of growing up, and the changing landscape of England from the 1970s through the early 2000s. In prose driven by long, musical sentences and a plot filled with complex characters struggling with their relationships with each other and with themselves, Human Punk is a worthwhile read for any body interested in punk or coming of age literature.

Yves Antigny says

ebook

Hanna says

Ihan hyvä, mutta ei voi sanoa miksikään tajunnanräjäyttäväksi. Kirjailija haki kenties jotain hengästyttävää jopa kolmen sivun(!) pituisilla järjettömän pitkillä lauseilla, jotka enemmän uuvuttivat kuin ihastuttivat.

Doug Richman says

Another Anglocentric masterpiece by John King, *Human Punk* follows his motif of British culture, from his works regarding soccer and skinhead culture to this project on early punk rock and its impact on British youth. Told in three parts and stretching over thirty years, it's King's epic, his experiment in telling the story of a life.

The first act of the book takes place in 1977, right as the early Punk Movement is hitting Britain, and Joe, a kid from blue-collar Slough, is wrapped up in the music, along with his friends. Spending his days picking cherries for pocket change, he and his friends key a car into the city for their first real concert, leading to a late-night altercation that changes Joe's life, and the life of his best friend, Smiles, forever. The second act finds Joe as an adult, traveling back from his bartending job in Hong Kong, hopping trains across the breadth of Asia, headed home. Drawn back to England by the news of a life-shaking death, he spends his long days on the Trans-Siberian Railroad contemplating the memories of his youth, dashing through Moscow in the days of Gorbachev and sliding past the Berlin Wall to make it home. The final act takes place just after the turn of the millennium, as Joe finds a stable, happy life, only to have it upended by a face from the past (sort-of) that draws him back to a long-unsettled debt, closing the cycle opened two and a half decades previous.

It's an excellent book, written in King's trademark wall-of-text, stream of consciousness prose, making it far from the easiest read, but well worth the commitment. Abounding with joyous musical references that'll make any old punk weep, King provides a soundtrack for his novel that displays not only a knowledge of the history of the subculture, but a deep love for the bands and songs that defined the youth of that generation. In fact, I think this book, while quite capable of causing anyone an amount of enjoyment, it may very well have a targeted audience of those kids who lived it, a nostalgia-ridden love letter to a time, a place, and a sound. It's a truly brilliant read, if you can commit the time it takes to wade into it fully.

Ardi says

Fuckin' brilliant. Took me so long to read, but that's because of personal reasons.

Anyway, reading this was great, I've always been an Anglophile, the music most especially and the culture. I could say that half of the slangs used I could properly understand, but the others are just way too Brit for me. Nonetheless, this is such a great read. Very interesting, actually.

I never had any proper introduction to punk. I have listened to The Clash's *London Calling* and other singles, but not a real proper one. This gave me a boost of listening to the Sex Pistols (tho I have a before just few singles) and the Buzzcocks. GREAAAT FUCKIN' BANDS. So, reading this was a very eye-opening thing, I never knew what Punks stood for and this book gave me an idea. ALSO, it was written purely out of thought, not much dialogue scenes, all from the brain and it felt very intimate. Like, I was actually being told of things first hand, which I liked a lot.

It's very easy to stereotype people, from the films, music, books and other material that are fed to us by the media / people. So, yes, punk was something I associated to with no-care-in-the-world type of people, which is partly true, but in a more deeper sense. That's something I learned from *Human Punk*. Labels are just labels, we tend to forget that underneath all that we are all still people, no matter what "type" of person you are.

Ed Wagemann says

Why Everything You Think You Know About Punk Is Completely Wrong:
<http://generation-add.blogspot.com/20...>

GloriaGloom says

Vi ricordate la Banda dei Brocchi di Johnatan Coe? questo è il fratello cattivo. A fine lettura viene voglia di tingersi i capelli di arancione, sniffare un po' di colla e rubare la pensione alle vecchiette. Invece mi tocca restare a casa a impiasticciarmi di Lasonil contro i reumatismi. Da rubare.

Chriss says

One of my absolutely favorite books. I've owned it twice now, as the first copy I borrowed out and never saw it again! A great read, John King's talent shows through. The story spans several years, from a bunch of high school punkers and their eventual growing up and spreading out... and the unfortunately circumstances of their eventual reunion. Very vivid and realistic. Easy to transport yourself in the middle of the story. If I could hug stories, this one I would.

Ville says

It's a pretty good book. Entertaining. Must know something about punk, dub etc. to fully enjoy :)

Aletha says

Good book, the main character has a bit of an existentialist attitude.

Thevioletmaniac says

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