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Punk Rock Dad: No Rules, Just Real Life

Jim Lindberg

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Jim Lindberg : Punk Rock Dad: No Rules, Just Real Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Punk Rock Dad: No Rules, Just Real Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Punk Rock Dad By Customer Jim Lindberg is an author; father, husband, and former lead singer of the punk band Pennywise. In Punk Rock Dad the author discusses his struggle with being a punk rocker while yet being a responsible and attentive father in an engaging and humorous manner. This book resonated with me on many levels. I have just entered a new phase in my own life that is similar to the one Jim has been living for some time. Almost nine months ago I began dating and eventually moved in with a beautiful woman

who has two small children. For most of my adult life I have been single and lived as a bachelor. For the past several years I have spent much of my time hanging out with friends; going to shows, writing and partying. Suddenly, after living like a "crazy man" for many years, I find myself living the life of married man with two children. Adjusting to this new lifestyle has been both challenging and rewarding. Jim says that the frustrations of life with children often drive him out of the house where he attends punk shows; moshes, and drinks. I have found myself in a similar position several times. When I've had enough of the irritations of life with children I have left the house to attend shows or to just hang out with my friends playing video games; smoking and cursing. Jim says that it's these times that allow him to recharge his batteries and to cope with life at home without blowing up. His devotion to his children is always evident despite these struggles. He states that, "The active role I'll be able to take in helping boost our kids' self-esteem is never giving up in the search to find something that interests them. I can turn them onto music by buying them a secondhand guitar or drum set, get them involved in sports by taking them to basketball games or skate contests, or go down to the tide pools and try to get them interested in marine biology. If you haven't introduced your child to all these things in an endless search to help them find something they're interested in, you haven't done your job." In one endearing and touching passage Jim describes how his children proclaimed that he no longer played with them. He builds a tent in the backyard, camps out with them, and stays up all night playing games with them. Not all of his efforts at punk rock parenting succeed, but the author seems to understand some very real and sometimes hard truths about being an adult. Truths that would seem at odds with the punk lifestyle but which the author says are important to impart to his children. Jim explains that "At a certain age we begin to realize that, like it or not, there are some rules that will keep you alive. We find out that our happiness—or at least staying out of really sh**** situations—is eventually what becomes most important in life, and it's hard to be happy when you're in jail, on skid row, or dead." Jim was, like me, also middle-aged at the time he wrote this book. Also like me he dresses much like he did when he was fourteen. "Levis 501s, Vans slip-ons, and a surf shop T-shirt and baseball cap." He believes that his own refusal to grow up and dress and behave like other typical middle-aged adults gives him a unique perspective on life and that he can bridge the generation gap with his children, and eventually realize the dream of a better world envisioned by punk rock. Jim declares, "If instead of forcing our religions, dogmas, and short-sighted way of thinking on them, we could encourage to them to think for themselves, and show them how to be gracious and tolerant, rather than selfish, and close-minded, maybe we could in fact make this world a better place, simply by being good parents. Wasn't this supposed to be the underlying goal of punk music in the first place that we were to expose society for the sham it was, in the dim hopes of replacing it with a better one?" Jim's passion for music and for punk ideals is apparent through the entire book. He says that punk, "Is not a fashion or an age, but a way of looking at the world and finding your place in it, and like country, rock 'n' roll, blues and hip hop, it's going to be around a long time, as long as someone isn't willing to settle for the status quo and has an amplifier and guitar to tell the world about it." Whether or not Jim has achieved his goal of balancing punk ideals with the reality of adulthood and responsibility is debatable, his clear love for his family is never hidden. His passion and love for his subjects and his passion for life also come through clearly in the book. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone who struggles with remaining true to their punk rock roots while trying to balance that desire with the one to be a good parent. I would also suggest it to people looking to read something fun but with a good heart and a unique perspective on life.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly touching review
By so so
As someone who is not completely into punk I was unfamiliar with the culture and did not know what to expect from this read. What I got was an unexpectedly honest and touching look into fatherhood, and how it's hard to balance an authoritarian position while being anti-authoritarian. I think the author discusses something that does not affect just punk rock dads, which is how to be better fathers than the ones they had. He discusses the challenges of fatherhood in addition to a job that makes him travel and missing out on key moments such as one of his daughter's first steps, while also discussing being puked or pooped on by a toddler and then performing to a sold out crowd afterwards. It's funny and heart-breaking and completely raw, which is something the author has managed to not let change about himself.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Book, Check out the DVD
By Cindy M
The book was good, the DVD documentary, "The Other F Word", was even better. Poses the question of how to be the authority figure to your kid when you've been ranting against that very person since you WERE a kid. Good behind-the-scenes, day-in-the-life stuff of punk rockers aging into the people they rebelled against, especially on the DVD. Turns out that the edgy punk-rocker Lindberg is a likeable guy and he writes an engaging, very down-to-earth book.

Jim Lindberg is a Punk Rock Dad. When he drives his kids to school in the morning, they listen to the Ramones, the Clash, or the Descendents—and that's it. They can listen to Britney and Justin on their own time. Jim goes to soccer games, dance rehearsals, and piano recitals like all the other dads, but when he feels the need, he also goes to punk shows, runs into the slam pit, and comes home bruised and beaten . . . but somehow feeling strangely better. While the other dads dye their hair brown to cover the gray, Jim occasionally dyes his blue or green. He makes his daughters' lunches, kisses their boo-boos, and tucks them in at night—and then goes into the garage and plays Black Flag and Minor Threat songs at a criminal volume. He pays his taxes, votes in all the presidential and gubernatorial elections,

serves on jury duty, and reserves the right to believe that there is a vast Right Wing Conspiracy—and that the head of the P.T.A. is possibly in on it. He is a Punk Rock Dad.

From Publishers Weekly As lead vocalist and guitarist in the veteran California punk-rock band Pennywise, Lindberg writes and sings songs like "Fuck Authority" and "Fight Till You Die." At home with his wife and three young girls, however, he oversees play dates and washes a lot of dishes. In his first book, Lindberg explores that bizarre dichotomy to its fullest, resulting in a fast read that's part memoir, part parenting manual. Writing with wit, charm and unexpected tenderness, Lindberg plays mix-and-match with life in a punk band and life at home, using punk's DIY ethic to address the challenge of raising well-adjusted children in a world ruled by conformity. Along the way, he shares often-intimate anecdotes about parenting classes, doctors' offices, breastfeeding and sex. Lindberg gains readers' trust early by refusing to sugarcoat parenthood, though he strives a bit too hard to prove he's still a punk rocker at heart. Also distracting-and potentially off-putting-is his odd way of referring to his children-not by name, but by birth order ("Daughter number one," etc.). Despite minor flaws, this colorful, captivating title deserves a large audience of adults looking to raise good kids without losing sight of their youthful passions. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The irony of Jim's early punk rock rebellion makes this book a very funny and revealing read." (Mike McCready, Pearl Jam) "Jim Lindberg is proof positive that childrearing can take the most recalcitrant punk and catapult him in to adulthood. (Dr. Drew) About the Author Over the last 15 years, Jim Lindberg's punk band Pennywise has sold three million albums and headlined America's longest running music festival, the Vans Warped Tour. He lives in southern California with his wife and daughters.