



Let's Start A Riot: How A Young Drunk Punk became A Hollywood Dad

Bruce McCulloch

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A biting, funny, always revealing collection of personal stories from the legendary Kid in the Hall, comedian, writer and director, Bruce McCulloch

Comedian, writer, director and legendary Kid in the Hall Bruce McCulloch chronicles his journey from wild early days as a 'young punk' in 80's Alberta, to his flannel plaid days and futon nights in 90's Toronto, to becoming a 'pajama-clad dad' living in the Hollywood Hills. From scowling teenager to father of two, this biting, funny collection of personal stories, peppered with moments of surprising poignancy, proves that although this infamous Kid may be all grown up, his singular brand of humor and signature wit remain firmly intact.

Let's Start A Riot: How A Young Drunk Punk became A Hollywood Dad Details

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From Reader Review Let's Start A Riot: How A Young Drunk Punk became A Hollywood Dad for online ebook

Sonia says

What to make of the fact that I know now what two out of five KITH think about women's pubic grooming? Bruce in here and Dave in some stand-up I watched on youtube or something.

I am not sure why "Vigil" is included almost verbatim here, but reading it with the spoken word version in mind made me think that this whole thing would be better as an audiobook.

Kim says

An absolute must read for any fans of Bruce and Kids in the Hall. I was surprised by how sweet it was (but don't worry, there's plenty of cynical bad-boy Bruce, too). It not only gives insight into one of the funniest writer/performers of his generation but also illuminates the often overlooked beauty of even the saddest and most frustrating moments in dating, work, and family life. One of the few books where the hoary cliche "You'll laugh, you'll cry," truly applies.

Hope Smash says

I would like to give this 4.5 stars but unfortunately that's not an option. This book was a unique read. Having been a KITH fan number of years I knew it was going to be a bit odd going in. There was a good mix of anecdotes, poetry, and biography. It was like reading a lot of the skits written by Bruce for the TV show. The writing was insightful, funny, and heartwarming. A definite must for anyone who is a fan of Bruce and the Kids.

Katrina says

It's been a long while since I read a book in one afternoon but I couldn't put this down.

Granted, this book is short (under 200 pages) and the kindle edition doesn't feature the wonderful pictures that I hear the hardback/paperback versions do. I wanted it to be another hundred or two hundred pages! That doesn't detract at all though. This is a warm book that shows life as it is without any of the soppy "oh but they were family" feelings that some memoirs have. Families aren't perfect, his wasn't and he tells it like it is. We see Bruce as a dad, as a son, as a KITH member and as someone searching for love. I would buy this if only for the pages about family and Bruce's thoughts about what family is and means. Fans of Supernatural would most likely heartily agree with it.

I was a little disappointed that there weren't more references to KITH (Kids in the Hall) but we do get a few stories. This also doesn't detract because they are told in a way that gives them the gravitas that they deserve.

This isn't a KITH memoir by any stretch. The only way I'd like a full of "KITH tells us" book is if it was written by all five guys and this'll cure that itch until that (if it ever) happens.

Fans of Young Drunk Punk who may not know much about Bruce's childhood/teenage years will enjoy the little references that are mirrored in the show and the book (working at a building site, wearing two ties, most of his dress sense). I also enjoyed the mentions of punk bands he was listening to at the time and some great early Canadian punk bands.

All in all this book was everything I expected from Bruce McCulloch, sweet but with some edge; serious with comedy pretending its not serious and that wonderful can't-quite-place-my-finger-on-it wonderful we expect from him and his work. **READ THIS.**

Jayme says

I was so psyched for this book because I grew up watching Kids in the Hall... this book had so much potential!!!! It hopped all over the place and didn't really follow much of a timeline, which I hate. I wanted to know more about his days doing KITH but it fell short on that. And I didn't really get the poems... I wish I could have found this on audiobook, it probably would have been funnier that way.

Beth says

Loved this! Actually laughed out loud a few times. One of my favorite comedy books ever (not a huge surprise, maybe, given my huge love of Kids in the Hall). He actually pulls off simultaneously being pleasantly cynical and sweet. I'd love more from him, and some books from his fellow KITH members.

Andrew Korell says

Of course, I was one of those Canadian kids that spent his formative years staying up late to watch Kids in the Hall. I'd definitely read a detailed history of KITH that thick enough to correct a dislocated shoulder. This book is anything but that. Bruce presents his biography as a series of humorous vignettes, reflections and life defining moments. His stories are very relatable for anyone who has dated, struggled as a teen, or had young children. If I wanted anything different from this novel it wouldn't be more KITH details, it would be Bruce's own Ham On Rye style retelling of his childhood.

Teena in Toronto says

I was a fan of Kids in the Hall and watched their show in the late 80s/early 90s ... I went to their 2015 tour in April at the Danforth Music Hall.

Bruce McCulloch is one of the five Kids and that's why this book caught my eye. This is his high level story of growing up in Edmonton, trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life, moving to Toronto and forming Kids in the Hall, meeting and marrying his wife, having kids, and his life in Hollywood.

I liked the writing style ... I found it amusing. I could hear Bruce's voice when he was telling his stories. Obviously his funny stories are funny but he also tells his more serious stories (like his relationships with his parents, suspecting he has liver cancer, Scott Thompson's cancer, etc.) in a funny and sarcastic yet at times caring way. As a head's up, there is swearing and adult activity.

I have Bruce's album "Shame-Based Man" on my ipod and occasionally listen to it (I bought it originally on cassette when it came out in 1995). In the book there are references to "Daves I Know" and "The Vigil" (What are you going to wear to the vigil? Black, of course!).

If you are a Kids in the Hall fan, you'll enjoy this book.

Blog review post: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2015/09...>

Helen says

One of those books that you begin at night intending to read just one chapter, and the next thing you know it's 4:30 a.m. and your cat is pushing the book out of your hands and glaring at you, demanding an early breakfast.

For those of you who did not get to see Comedy Central's "The Kids in the Hall" in the early 1990s — too many of you — the author was a writer and performer on that hilariously twisted sketch comedy show, which one reviewer described as "Monty Python on a migraine." (If you don't know Monty Python, put this down and go look them up. Right now. Then go find old "Kids in the Hall" episodes and watch them.) To those of us who did see the show and miss it every day, he, or his public persona anyway, is a friend. Whether you watched the show or not, this book, about growing up in Alberta, Canada, becoming a father in Hollywood, California, and everything in between, is full of laugh-out-loud humor, observations on life, the author's trademark quirkiness, and heart-rending insight.

McCulloch himself comes across as quite the contradiction. On one hand, he freely admits to various kinds of macho misbehavior in his youth, yet elsewhere he says this about Hollywood women: "In Hollywood, women get 'the surgery.' You know what I'm talking about, I'm sure...They get the surgery so the tears they cry will flow beneath their faces. A silent river of tears. You can't see it, but you can hear it."

We miss you, Brucio. Write more. Please.

Chris Hearn says

Excellent...:) Bruce McCulloch is darn funny.

Jessrawk says

You think it will be all laughs. & then it starts punching you in the heart.

Bob Bradshaw says

Bruce McCulloch is, paradoxically, a master of cynicism and humanity. Case in point... this book literally made me laugh and made me cry. My wife can back me up on the laughter part, as I awoke her from an otherwise peaceful slumber with my ill-timed laughter on a numerous occasions. The crying part? Not so much. Because I did it behind her back. She has enough on her mind. But holy crap, did some of these chapters get to me. In particular "Jean Jacket Love" and "Dad as a Dog". Try to read these and not cry. If you can, you are not human. We've all been through situations like this. But Bruce brings them to life with humor but a tragic poignancy. But he also brings to life those lost years of teenage idealism. When we were gonna change the world. And failed. But still searching for something to give our lives meaning that will make us happy at the same time. Uplifting and depressing at the same time.

And it's a pretty quick read.

Christine says

- ****/ - 4.5 stars -

As a long-time fan of Bruce McCulloch's and KITH, this was a wonderful read. The first pages and chapters had me giggling and laughing out loud constantly (which rarely happens for me when reading). It was a bit heartbreaking to learn of his not-so-great family life growing up, and on reflection one is able to see that some of the funniest KITH skits might not be so funny after all when based on a very sad reality. Even so, it was a little treat to find that some of Bruce's writing from the show and his albums was lightly peppered throughout the book (Daddy Drank, The Vigil and so on). I loved reading about his upbringing, his families, his perspectives.... Would have, in a completely self-admitted voyeuristic fashion, liked to have read more of his troupmates and their time together, but perhaps that is an idea for a collaborative book they can work on together. All in all, a great, quick read which I'd highly recommend to any Bruce McCulloch / KITH fan.

Abby says

I've read lots of comic's autobiographies and this one is easily in the top 2. Don't miss it. It's touching, but also tear-jerkingly hilarious. McCulloch's humor is deliciously funny and strange.

Tavie says

This book just joined "Catcher in the Rye" to become the second book I've ever read in one sitting.

It elicited all of the emotions-- mostly high hilarity and out-loud laughing, but a few chapters near the end made my eyes soppy as well. As I tend to love books that make me cry even more than I love books that make me laugh, this was good.

For KITH fans, it's obviously a must. It gives a brief overview of his time with the troupe and just a few behind-the-scenes stories, but they pack punches. Even better are just his pithy Brucelike observations, his way with words. It's Bruce at his writerly best.

Quick, utterly fun read.
