

Sarah Wilson

2/17/20

Book Collecting Contest

You Are Home: Books and Music

Books and music were always present in my childhood, and my family taught me that these are valuable because they make life more beautiful. My father and uncle were always in bands, my mother and grandmother were always reading, and weekends were (and still are) for listening to the radio. I remember moments of my life based on what music I was listening to or what book I was reading. As soon as I could write sentences I was writing stories and songs. It does not surprise me that my love for reading and my love for books have come together in this collection.

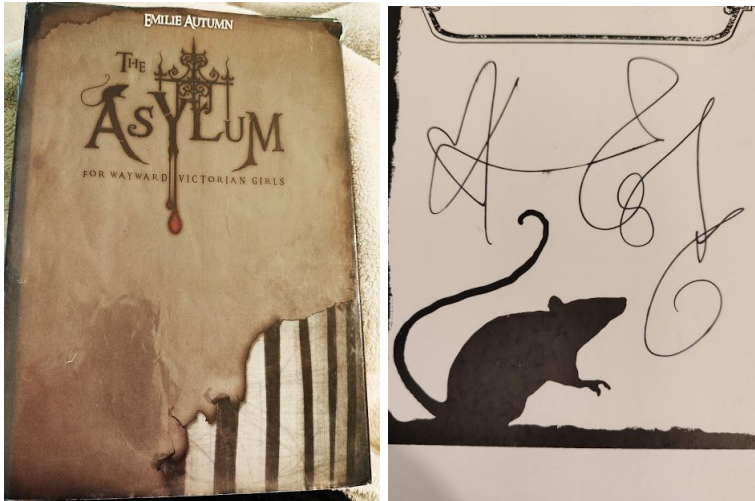
When I was thirteen I began playing guitar. I made new friends that introduced me to new genres of music. Finding new bands to listen to was a major hobby, and I wanted to learn as much as I could. My eagerness to learn has not stopped. During my time at Goucher I have done projects on violence against women in music spaces, representations of women in music videos, and my senior capstone is on the connections between music and social movements. I feel strongly that music should be inclusive, and I try to reflect the importance of gender inclusion in music in this collection. Growing up I often heard boys say things to me “I’ve never heard a girl talk about music like you do” and it took me a long time to get the courage to say that maybe they just had not been listening. The intersection between gender and music will always be a topic close to my heart that I will continue to both study and experience in my own life.

This collection contains books written by musicians, books written about musicians, memoirs, novels, histories and criticism. While I had originally planned on focusing this collection on books about women and music, I felt that I needed to show the range of my collection in order for others to see just how far music reaches into my other interests and the rest of my life. The books in this collection come from a variety of places. Many were found at bookstores in my hometown, Syracuse, NY or in Baltimore. A few of these books were given to me by my grandmother, who passed away last year. Those books are especially meaningful to me, because although my grandmother was always buying books, it felt special when she would finish one and give it to me because she knew I would enjoy it. The title of this collection comes from a scene in Cameron Crowe's film *Almost Famous*, a movie that celebrates music and how it brings people together, to a place where they belong, where they feel at home. Music has definitely given me a place where I belong, and I hope it will always continue to do the same for others. Hans Christian Anderson has been quoted as saying "where words fail, music speaks." I hope that this collection shows that words can make the power of music even stronger.

Annotated Bibliography

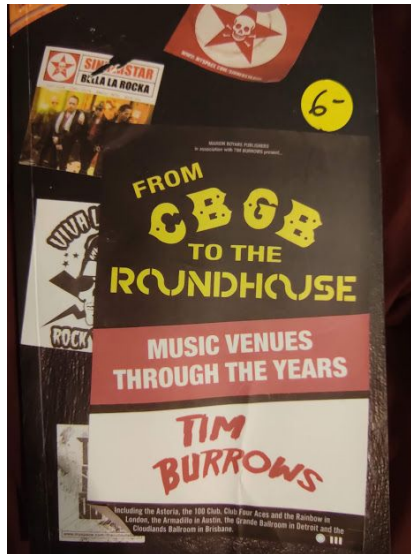
1. Autumn, Emilie. *The Asylum for Wayward Victorian Girls*. 2nd ed., The Asylum Emporium, 2011.

Written by singer-songwriter and violinist Emilie Autumn, this is a signed copy that my parents bought for my sister and I when we were in high school. Autumn's book is part autobiography and part fantasy, and includes real journal entries from the author's stay in a psychiatric hospital along with illustrations and photographs. This second edition is now out of print, and the original story has been significantly altered in newer editions.



2. Burrows, Tim. *From CBGB to the Roundhouse: Music Venues through the Years*. Boyars, 2009.

An impulse buy, found on sale at Red Emma's bookstore in Baltimore, this book looks at music history from the lens of music venues. Burrows highlights the importance of space and place in music.



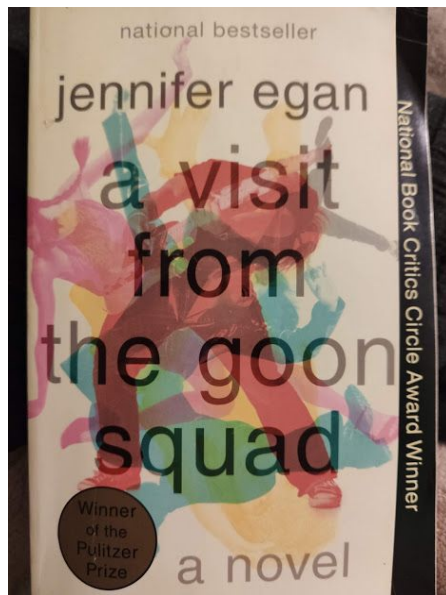
3. Cooper, Sarah. *Girls! Girls! Girls!: Critical Essays on Women and Music*. New York University Press, 1996.

Bought at a used bookstore in Syracuse, these essays are not only excellent, but they feature music across a variety of genres and cultures. Most interesting to me are the essays on women working in the music industry, as I feel that it is important to recognize the contributions of women offstage and behind the scenes.



4. Egan, Jennifer. *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. First Anchor Books ed., Anchor Books, 2011.

Each chapter in this book is in a different character's perspective. While many of the characters are connected through work, family, or relationships, music is what unites them all, across countries and decades. This book was given to me by my grandmother.



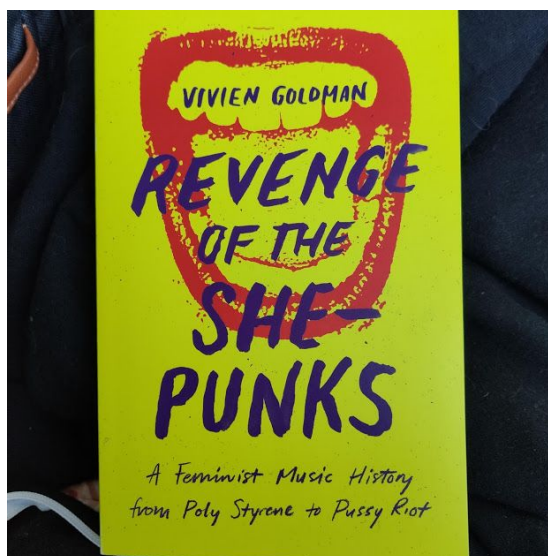
5. Fitch, Janet. *Paint It Black : A Novel*. 1st Back Bay trade paperback ed., Back Bay Books, 2007.

Another book that is special to me because it belonged to my grandmother. Fitch combines life in the 1980s LA punk scene with a memorable story about grief.



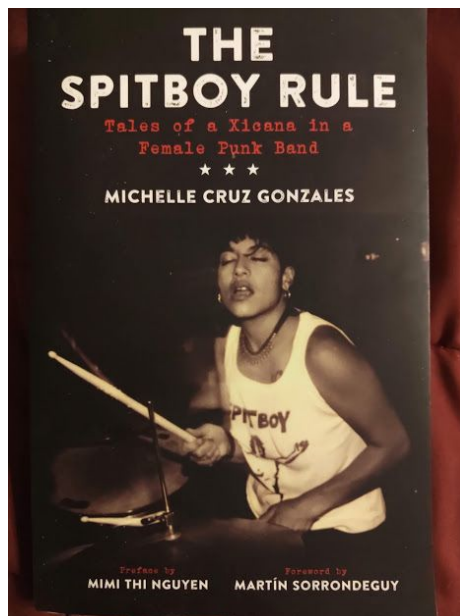
6. Goldman, Vivien. *Revenge of the She-Punks: a Feminist Music History from Poly Styrene to Pussy Riot*. University of Texas Press, 2019.

Revenge of the She-Punks is a recent addition to my collection, but one that was much needed. Goldman has held the roles of musician, music journalist, and professor, so while her book is smaller than other books on feminist music history, it provides a unique, in-depth insight into the topic.



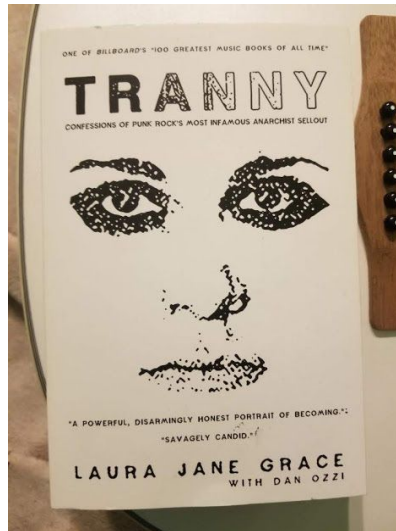
7. Gonzales, Michelle Cruz, et al. *The Spitboy Rule: Tales of a Xicana in a Female Punk Band*. PM Press, 2016.

In *The Spitboy Rule*, Gonzales shares her experiences as a Xicana woman in a music scene that is predominantly white and male. Gonzales also highlights the importance of Spitboy being a feminist band that did not identify with the riot grrrl movement.



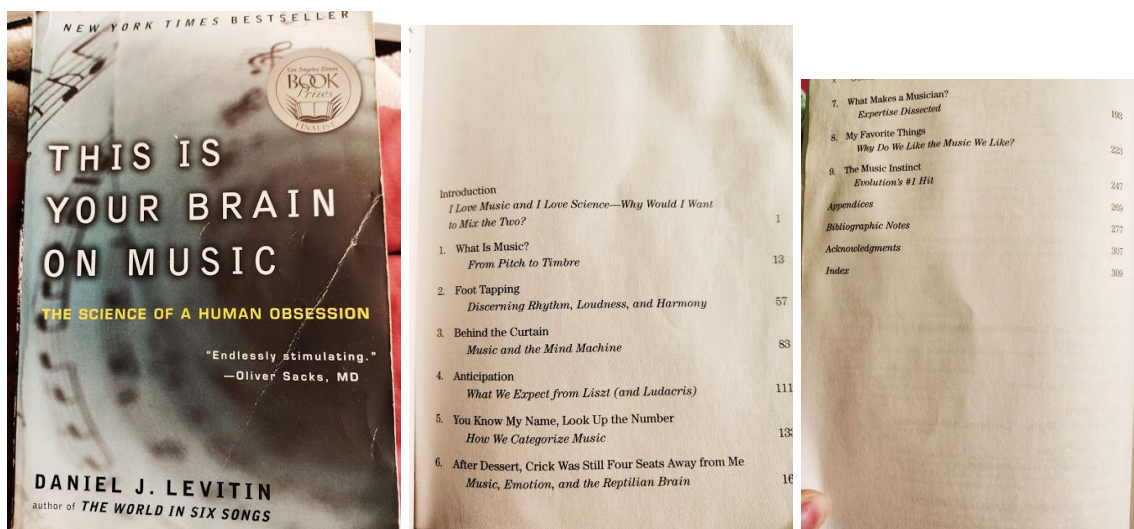
8. Grace, Laura Jane, and Dan Ozzi. *Tranny: Confessions of Punk Rock's Most Infamous Anarchist Sellout*. Hachette Books, 2017.

I bought this book after hearing Grace speak at the University of Maryland in College Park. Not only is Grace one of my favorite singers, but her experience as a transgender woman has made this book a unique and essential part of my collection.



9. Levitin, Daniel J. *This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*. Dutton, 2006.

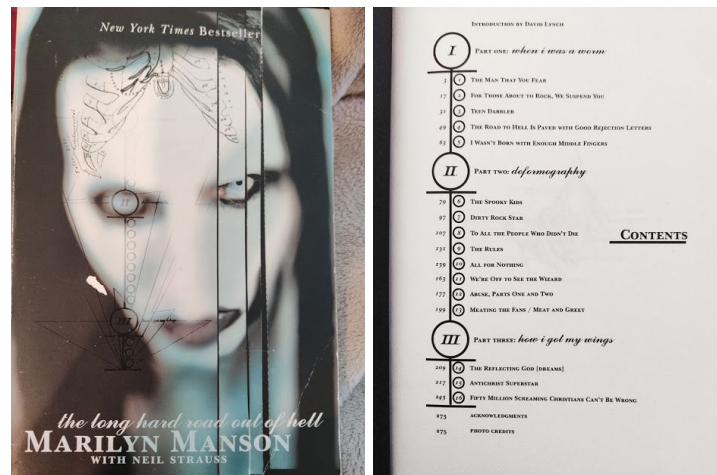
Levitin is able to connect music and science in ways that are captivating, while also examining the ways we think about and talk about music. I admire Levitin's attempt to make music theory and science accessible to readers who may not have previous background knowledge of these subjects.



10. Manson, Marilyn, and Neil Strauss. *Marilyn Manson: the Long Hard Road out of Hell*.

Harper Perennial, 1999.

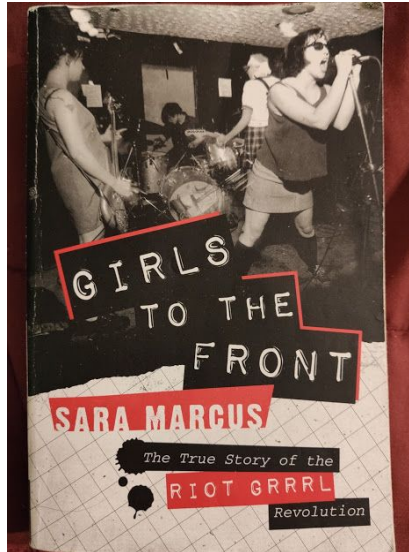
I'm a really big Marilyn Manson fan, and I found his book absolutely fascinating. There are a lot of connotations to Marilyn Manson's name, and in many ways he is a cultural symbol as much as he is a person, and reading about his experiences from his own point of view was refreshing.



11. Marcus, Sara. *Girls to the Front: the True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*. Harper

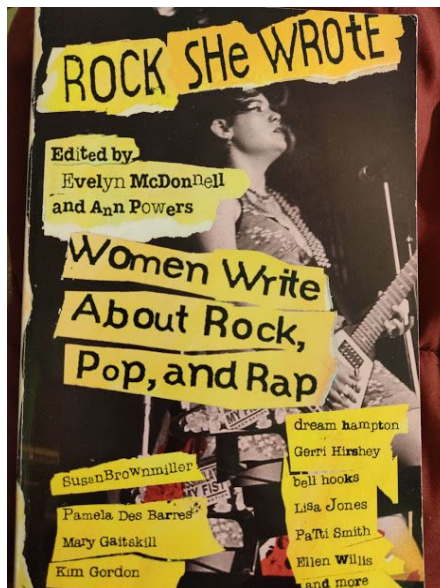
Perennial, 2010.

I bought this book after watching *The Punk Singer*, a documentary about Kathleen Hanna, singer of riot grrrl band Bikini Kill. I feel a deep connection to the ideas behind the riot grrrl movement, and this book has helped me learn more about the movement and the people who were a part of it.



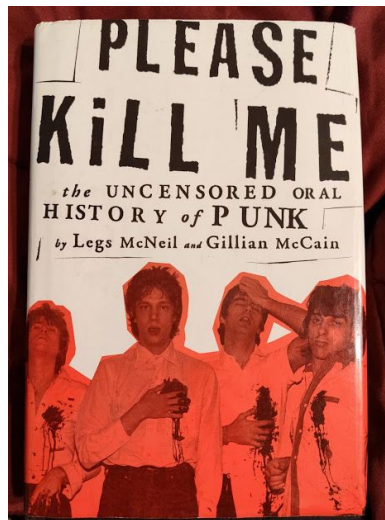
12. McDonnell, Evelyn, and Ann Powers. *Rock She Wrote*. Delta, 1995.

A collection of pieces about music written by women, this book was on my wishlist for a long time before I found a copy in a used bookstore last year. *Rock She Wrote* includes the perspectives of musicians, critics, writers and fans. This book is essential for anyone interested in music and feminism.



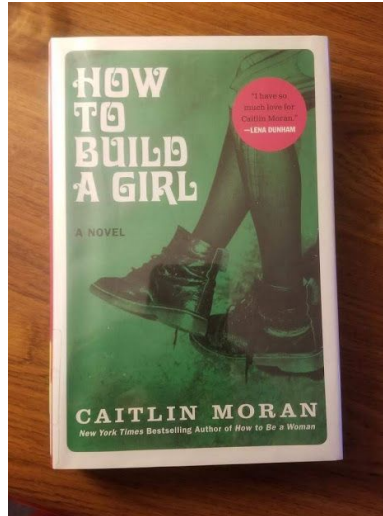
13. McNeil, Legs, and McCain, Gillian. *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk*. United States, Grove Press, 1996.

Found while helping my parents clean out the basement when I was in high school, this book introduced me to Andy Warhol, Iggy Pop, and other important figures in music and art.



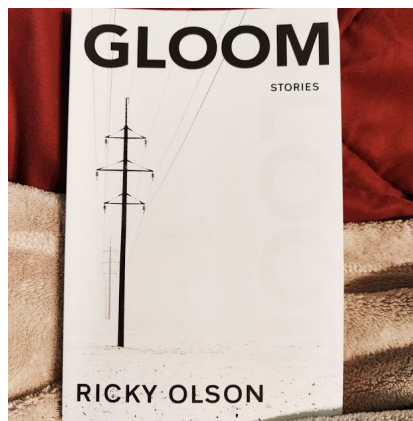
14. Moran, Caitlin. *How to Build a Girl*. Random House, 2014.

I found this book on the free bookshelf in the Goucher College Library, but I wish I had known about this book when I was in high school. The story of a teenage girl becoming a music journalist, it would be easy to describe this book as a girl version of Cameron Crowe's *Almost Famous*, but that would not be enough to describe how great this book is.



15. Olson, Ricky. *Gloom: Stories*. North Lake Press, 2018.

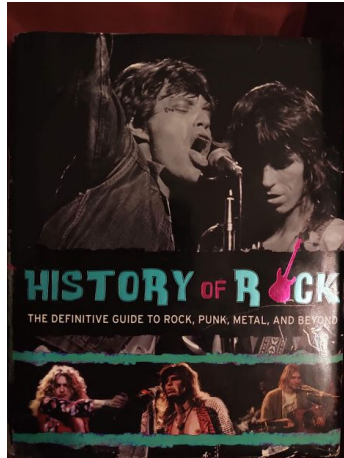
Ricky Olson plays guitar in my favorite band, Motionless in White. I first read Olson's writing in the short stories he would post on Tumblr. I was so excited when I heard he would be publishing a short story collection that I bought it as soon as I could.



16. Paytress, Mark. *History of Rock : The Definitive Guide to Rock, Punk, Metal and Beyond*.

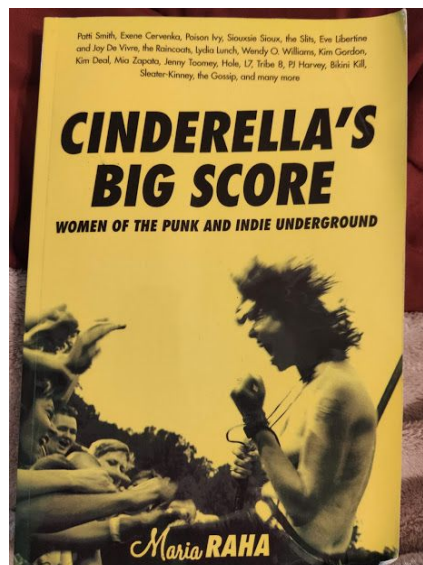
Parragon, 2011.

I bought this book at Five Below in my quest to learn as much about music as possible. While it doesn't go as in depth as other music histories, it provides what many consider the highlights in rock history along with plenty of visuals.



17. Raha, Maria. *Cinderella's Big Score: Women of the Punk and Indie Underground*. Seal Press, 2005.

Another Red Emma's find, I find myself looking back at this book quite often. Raha brilliantly unveils the often unacknowledged sexism and heterosexism in underground music scenes while celebrating the women who have succeeded and made important contributions to underground music scenes.

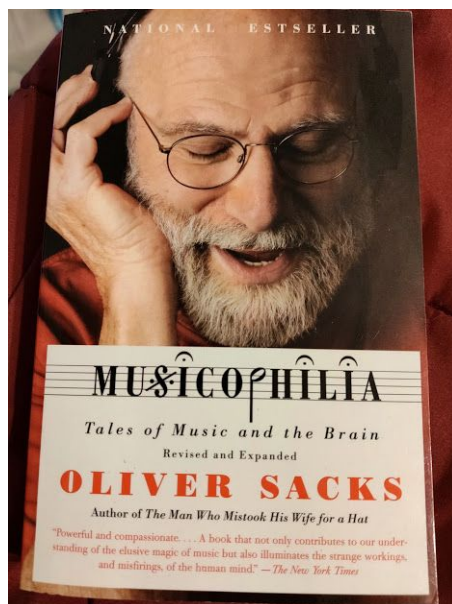


18. Riley, Tim. *Fever: How Rock & Roll Transformed Gender in America*. St. Martins Press, 2004.

Riley examines the progressive sexual politics of rock music, making a compelling argument about rock music's influence on narratives about gender, romance and sexuality. This book provides interesting examinations on how rock musicians have shaped and changed masculine ideals.

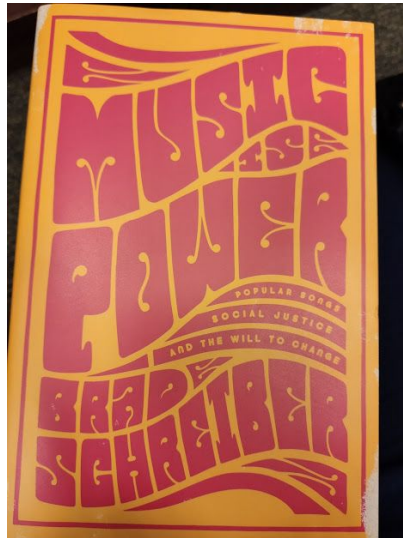
19. Sacks, Oliver. *Musicophilia : Tales of Music and the Brain*. 1st ed., Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.

While this book as a whole is intriguing, I was most interested in the chapter on music and tourette syndrome. As someone with tourette's, I knew from personal experience that people with tourette syndrome often have special relationships to music, but it is still pretty cool to have these experiences confirmed by a neurologist.



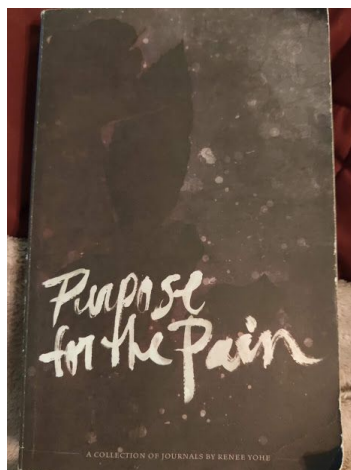
20. Schreiber, Brad. *Music Is Power: Popular Songs, Social Justice and the Will to Change*. Rutgers University Press, 2020.

I bought this book for my senior capstone research. Schreiber looks at a variety of genres while examining the role of music in social justice.



21. Yohe, Renee. *Purpose for the Pain: a Collection of Journals*. Bonded Books, 2008.

Renee Yohe inspired the nonprofit To Write Love On Her Arms. A story of recovery from addiction and self-harm that is filled with poetry and detailed experiences, Yohe documents the concerts she attends throughout the pages of her journals. Because of Yohe's love of music, music has been an important part of To Write Love on Her Arms' message of hope and healing.



Wish List

1. Albertine, Viv. *Clothes, Clothes, Clothes : Music, Music, Music : Boys, Boys, Boys : A*

Memoir. First U.S. ed., Thomas Dunne Books, 2014.

A feminist punk memoir by Viv Albertine of the Slits.

2. Bag, Alice. *Violence Girl : East L.A. Rage to Hollywood Stage : A Chicana Punk Story*. Feral House, 2011.

Like *The Spitboy Rule*, Bag's memoir shows the intersections between race, gender, and punk.

3. Bangs, Lester, and Greil Marcus. *Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung*. First Anchor ed., Anchor Books, a Division of Random House, 2003.

A collection of essays by Lester Bangs, an important figure in music criticism.

4. Blush, Steven. *American Hardcore : A Tribal History*. Edited by George Petros, Feral House, 2001.

I have a deep appreciation for hardcore music, and *American Hardcore* has been considered one of the most important books on the genre.

5. Des Barres, Pamela. *I'm with the Band : Confessions of a Groupie*. Updated ed., Omnibus Press, 2018.

While groupies have often been viewed negatively in music scenes, many of these women have been valuable participants in music culture. I feel that including the voices of women like Pamela Des Barres who have identified as groupies is necessary to my collection.

6. Goodman, Elizabeth. *Meet Me in the Bathroom: Rebirth and Rock and Roll in New York City 2001-2011*. Faber & Faber, 2019.

An oral history written and compiled by a woman music critic, the focus on the 21st century is also unique.

7. Heesch, Florian, and Niall Scott, editors. *Heavy Metal, Gender and Sexuality*. Routledge, 2016.

Gender in heavy metal music has been a particular research interest of mine, and this book would help with this research.

8. Hill, Rosemary Lucy. *Gender, Metal and the Media : Women Fans and the Gendered Experience of Music*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Another book on gender and metal music, this book looks at media representations of music fans and how being a music fan is shaped by gender.

9. Raphael, Amy. *Grrrls : Viva Rock Divas*. 1st St. Martin's Griffin ed., St. Martin's Griffin, 1996.

Raphael's book has been recommended by Caitlin Moran, author of *How to Build a Girl*.

10. Reid, Taylor Jenkins. *Daisy Jones & the Six*. First ed., Ballantine Books, 2019.

A fictional oral history that won the 2019 Goodreads Choice Award for Historical Fiction.