



We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The True, Tough Story of Women in Rock

By Gerri Hirshey

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Rock and roll has traditionally been a boys' game. It has forced female artists to work twice as hard, usually for half the recognition -- but without their contributions, American music would be radically impoverished. Called "a kind of female Cameron Crowe" by the Chicago Tribune, Gerri Hirshey has been writing about music for two decades. Now, in a narrative based on frank original interviews and a wise grasp of American cultural history, she serves up a tasty platter of girl groups and soul queens, acoustic goddesses and priestesses of the avant-garde, punk grrrls, glamazons, and innovators of hip-hop and neo-soul. We Gotta Get Out of This Place is the passionate history of a century of women in rock that is deft, authoritative, and a sheer delight to read. "A literary soul queen, an Aretha of the page ..." -- Karen Schoemer, Elle "We Gotta Get Out of This Place ... helps set the record straight." -- Dan Gilgoff, U.S. News & World Report "Hirshey doesn't write about rock and roll. She writes rock and roll." -- L. D. Meagher, CNN.com "Vivid, impassioned, [and] lively." -- Francine Prose, O Magazine

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It was the "chick" that came before the "women in rock" tag; and it was the women rockers' need to break out that made them fly the coop. So argues Rolling Stone road warrior Hirshey (*Nowhere to Run: The Story of Soul Music*) in this unabashedly subjective history lite. That's not to say that this study doesn't serve a purpose. With its rapid-fire alliteration ("Punk poetics were determinedly pustular"), jump-cut transitions and discussion of fashion, this could act as a hip primer for readers new to the field. To her credit, Hirshey also emphasizes deserving hip-hop up-and-comers like Lauryn Hill and Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott. Coverage, however, often favors those whom Hirshey has previously interviewed for Rolling Stone and other publications. Although Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, Cher, Madonna and Whitney Houston get their due, on the flip side, people from blues heavyweights (Ma Rainey) to riot grrrls (Kathleen Hannah) get short shrift. Some of Hirshey's commentary, e.g., her profile of Blondie singer/songwriter Deborah Harry, appeared in Rolling Stone's 1997 "Women in Rock" issue. Though definitiveness was never her goal, Hirshey's stab at "women in rock" is neither tough nor substantive enough to satisfy those whose rock reading has moved beyond the pages of glossy mags. Agent, Philippa Brophy at Sterling Lord Literistic. (Apr.) Forecast: While this volume will find its way into the hands of college-age women, it's unlikely to reach a much wider readership.

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From Library Journal

Rolling Stone veteran journalist Hirshey (*Nowhere To Run: The Story of Soul Music*) tries to pack the history of women in rock into 288 pages; it doesn't work, and not solely because of the page crunch. To her credit, Hirshey starts with rock's foremother the blues but she continues down an uneven path. Her lineage of female foundation-layers is scant and scattered. Few pages sometimes just paragraphs are allocated to ground-breakers like Bessie Smith and Janis Joplin. She relies too heavily on her vault of rock interviews to fill pages (some of the information previously appeared in Rolling Stone's special "Women in Rock" issue in 1997). As a result, those artists she has never met are often slighted. All in all, this effort reads like an informal diary of her relationship with her rock gal pals. Not recommended; instead, public libraries should invest in Gillian G. Gaar's *She's a Rebel* (Seal Pr., 1992) and Barbara O'Dair's *The Rolling Stone Book of Women in Rock: Trouble Girls* (LJ 1/97). Robert Morast, "Argus Leader Daily," Sioux Falls, SD
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From [Booklist](#)

Hirshey's survey of women in rock proves better than most, because it is current enough to cover the '90s, when the pop music marketplace, always seeking something "different," decided that "that something was female voices." So the longtime *Rolling Stone* reporter recounts the stories of Liz Phair, Polly Jean Harvey, and Bikini Kill, among others; quotes Andrea Juno; calls the Spice Girls "the Village People of our time"; and lets Courtney Love rear her ugly head. She rehearses the history of earlier rockin' women, too, including especially nice bits on the Ronettes and the importance of physical appearance in many stars' careers, even before Britney Spears. Hirshey's writing is vintage *RS* stuff, full of sprawling perspectives, really long evocative sentences, and a certain jejuneness that makes its thesaurus-mongering wordiness work in a Kerouacish or maybe Hunter Thompsonesque manner. Well-researched and entertainingly edgy, this is pretty much prime stuff for gender-unbiased readin' rockers. *Mike Tribby*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Morales:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education books but if you want experience happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The True, Tough Story of Women in Rock* is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Luis Herrick:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the time or they will get wide range of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read is actually *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The True, Tough Story of Women in Rock*.

Barbra Poole:

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, along with soon. The *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The True, Tough Story of Women in Rock* provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

Edward Sullivan:

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