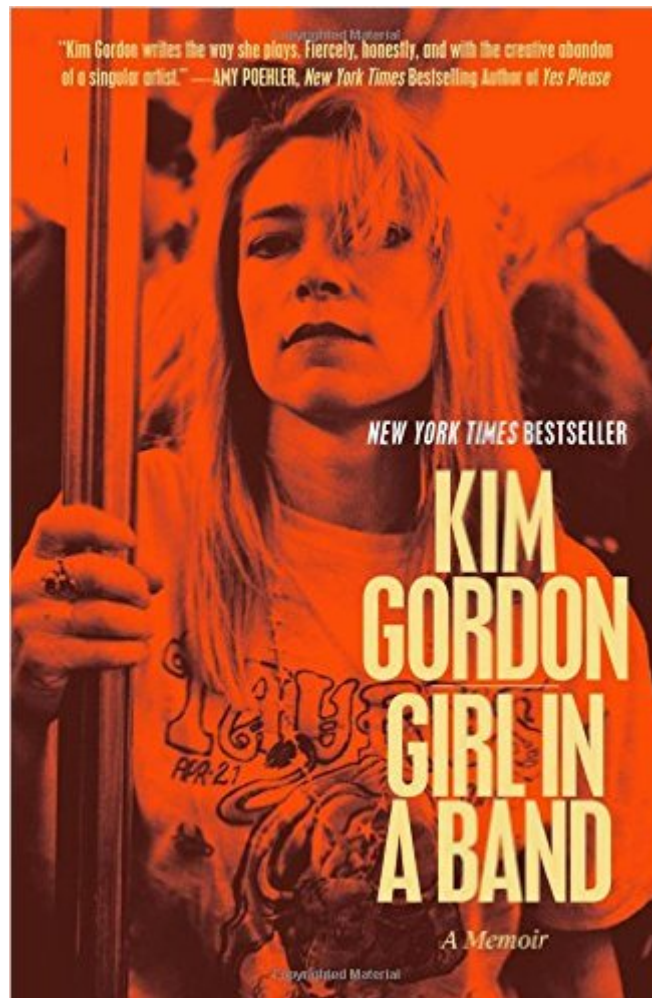


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# Girl In A Band: A Memoir



## Synopsis

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** Kim Gordon, founding member of Sonic Youth, fashion icon, and role model for a generation of women, now tells her story—a memoir of life as an artist, of music, marriage, motherhood, independence, and as one of the first women of rock and roll, written with the lyricism and haunting beauty of Patti Smith's *Just Kids*. Often described as aloof, Kim Gordon opens up as never before in *Girl in a Band*. Telling the story of her family, growing up in California in the '60s and '70s, her life in visual art, her move to New York City, the men in her life, her marriage, her relationship with her daughter, her music, and her band, *Girl in a Band* is a rich and beautifully written memoir. Gordon takes us back to the lost New York of the 1980s and '90s that gave rise to Sonic Youth, and the Alternative revolution in popular music. The band helped build a vocabulary of music—paving the way for Nirvana, Hole, Smashing Pumpkins and many other acts. But at its core, *Girl in a Band* examines the route from girl to woman in uncharted territory, music, art career, what partnership means—and what happens when that identity dissolves. Evocative and edgy, filled with the sights and sounds of a changing world and a transformative life, *Girl in a Band* is the fascinating chronicle of a remarkable journey and an extraordinary artist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I wanted so badly to LOVE "Girl in a Band." A lot had been written on the internet regarding this book; a scathing excerpt here concerning Courtney Love, another about Thurston Moore, etc. By the time the book came out, I bought into the hype. I couldn't wait for equal parts Sonic Youth history from the source, '80s NYC life, behind-the-scenes '90s alternative s\*\*\* talking, and scenes

from a failed marriage. In reality, "Girl in a Band" manages to offer all of that, just never fully. We get an interesting background about her upbringing, her childhood, moving around the world at a young age. From there, Kim Gordon focuses on growing up in the '60s, her budding love of the art, and her travels around the country, offering up interesting, albeit brief tidbits and interesting namedropping along the way. Upon explaining her arrival in New York, Gordon tackles the Sonic Youth sections by focusing on each album. At first, I was excited when she presented the history so concisely. However, Kim Gordon speeds through each album so quickly, it's sometimes disappointing. She tends to focus on certain sections of lyrics rather than the dynamics of the band at the time, or their travels, recording, etc. (for an easily enjoyable book on the history of Sonic Youth, check out "Goodbye 20th Century" by David Browne). While many sections offer a fresh perspective, I can't help but wish she would have expanded on certain areas. The book is a quick read, at times very well constructed, and page turning. However, certain sections are written as if it managed to dodge an editor, suddenly taking on a sloppy casual tone following a well-crafted previous chapter. All in all, Kim Gordon's memoir is a welcomed addition from a strong female voice and true artist.

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