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**Jon Savage**

**England's Dreaming: Anarchy, Sex Pistols, Punk Rock, and Beyond**

Title: England's Dreaming: Anarchy, Sex Pistols, Punk Rock, and Beyond

Author: Jon Savage

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## Description

From England's Zoot Suit riots of the '40s to the Teddy Boy phenomenon of the '60s and on through the rise and fall of the ill-fated Sex Pistols in the late '70s, Savage presents a valuable historical perspective of class struggle and revolution. Savage dedicates special attention to a social phenomenon and national disgrace--The Sex Pistols. Color insert.

## Insightful reviews

Michael: it's not *Please Kill Me*, but the Sex Pistol weren't the Stooges. Still pretty great.

Moira Russell: It is a REAL question if I will finish this, and it's about one of my favourite periods of musical history! Page 6: "Evocations of the thirties environment characteristic of the babyboomer childhood -- a process which would peak with that palace of fun, Biba's superstore -- went hand in hand with the fine-art codification in 1968 of thirties styles under the term Art Deco." Who the fucking fuck writes like that? Did he program a robot?

(Also, NO, clothing did not 'become' costume in fucking -1968.- Moron.)

Words I never wanted to read in this lifetime right there on page 56: "...another commission, this time for Ken Russell's flamboyant 'Mahler.' Asked to work out something for the climactic dream sequence where the Jewish composer confronts his Aryan anima...." PS Dear Savage: Describing any Ken Russell film anywhere ever as 'flamboyant' is not only bloody redundant it is INADEQUATE. And wtf is up with all the real dodginess about fixating on people as Jewish and attributing various character traits to that and so on? Terribly offputting. No reference (yet) to the bondage scene which I always thought was a big inspiration -- and wasn't Pynchon's *Oedipa Maas* drawn from that whole Nazi/bondage scenario? And that was in 1966....

Still continuing, hundreds of pages later. Now I'm thinking of all the other books I wish I had read instead of this one! A history of women in punk! A history of minorities in punk! Johnny Rotten's/John Lydon's autobiography! (I have that around here somewhere....) Hell I went and reread about a third of *Please Kill Me* the other day in desperation. And here, right here, on page 435 -- I had skipped ahead in despair earlier only to read: 'After the demise of the Ed Sullivan Show, there was no concentrated, nationwide TV exposure of pop until MTV in 1981.'

Seriously this is so wrong, it is staggering. Three words. AMERICAN. FUCKING. BANDSTAND. Or hell, Soul Train. Just a few months before MTV there was Night Flight, and for years I watched Night Flight a lot more regularly than MTV (and the USA network also had Video Concert Hall). And besides that, there was stuff like SNL and a dozen other variety shows bands appeared on including the fucking *Muppets*, for God's sake, and people were certainly making 'music videos' even before there was MTV. And if you looked at what MTV first *showed*, they had something like twenty fucking clips they played over and over, and it wasn't even available in a lot of places -- and it wasn't the *only* thing, there was Friday Night Videos on NBC too and at least a couple of other video shows. It wasn't like MTV sprang up out of a vacuum and it wasn't like it was EVERYWHERE when it first started. At this point the book is just NOT

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EVEN WRONG.

I am sure anyone reading this (not that there's anyone reading this) will have the inevitable question, *But why are you reading this, Moi?* Research partly. I love this era and have read a lot about it. Also -- and this is why I don't actually read books I don't like v often -- I have to compulsively finish a book once I start it, or it *really fucking bugs me*.

But I also wanted something with which to occupy myself during the long holiday (ugh) weekend because I was bored and miserable and going through personal crap. And in the service of that desire, getting frequently annoyed with this book to the extent of writing pissy lengthy pseudo-scholarly annotations all over the margins succeeded admirably in distracting me.

Chewing through the bibliography (yes I am one of those freaks who reads all the footnotes and sits through the end of the film credits) - DEPT OF THINGS I NEVER WANTED TO KNOW, Virgin published a 'Sid Vicious Family Album' in 1980. Good fucking God. OTOH, there are apparently now several books about Vivienne Westwood, who struck me as a far more interesting figure than MM.

You can view my extremely misguided attempt to enter the entire sixty-five-plus-page discography as a streamable last.fm tag station here: [http://www.last.fm/user/the\\_red\\_shoes...](http://www.last.fm/user/the_red_shoes...)

Greg: I really liked this book when I read it. I would probably hate it now and put it in the same league as anything Griel Marcus has written on punk.

Rob: historical past used to be created by way of those that say "no" as Savage claims behind this e-book and through Royal marriage ceremony week within the UK, this turns out extra appropriate than ever - specially in view of the intercourse Pistols' tried hijacking of a prior royal event, the 1977 Silver Jubilee. An exhaustive account of the early days of punk and the increase and fall of the Pistols in particular, this quantity merits its position within the pantheon of vintage rock literature. What astonishes is the power of individuals on the time to chase away obstacles and surprise whilst now, their each pronouncement will be switched over right into a advertising and marketing "angle" - well, possibly no longer the stunts utilizing swastikas. Not that this wasn't pretty well precisely what Malcolm McLaren was once doing of course. the tale turns into ever extra terrible and Sid Vicious specifically emerges as a deeply manipulated determine - in preference to John Lydon, whose next music checklist with Public photo Ltd unearths a guy of genuine creativity. Highlights comprise a few great ultimate sections at the legacy of punk - through New Wave and Post-Punk and an annotated discography that are supposed to be a primary pit cease for a person in any respect attracted to exploring the era's music.

Eugenia Williamson: My favourite rock bio - barely enough psuedo-academic social research to actually excite!

James: this can be the longest factor i've got ever read. this is often nearly a daily account of the intercourse Pistols. i'm particuarly serious about Malcolm McLaren and wish to learn extra approximately him.

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