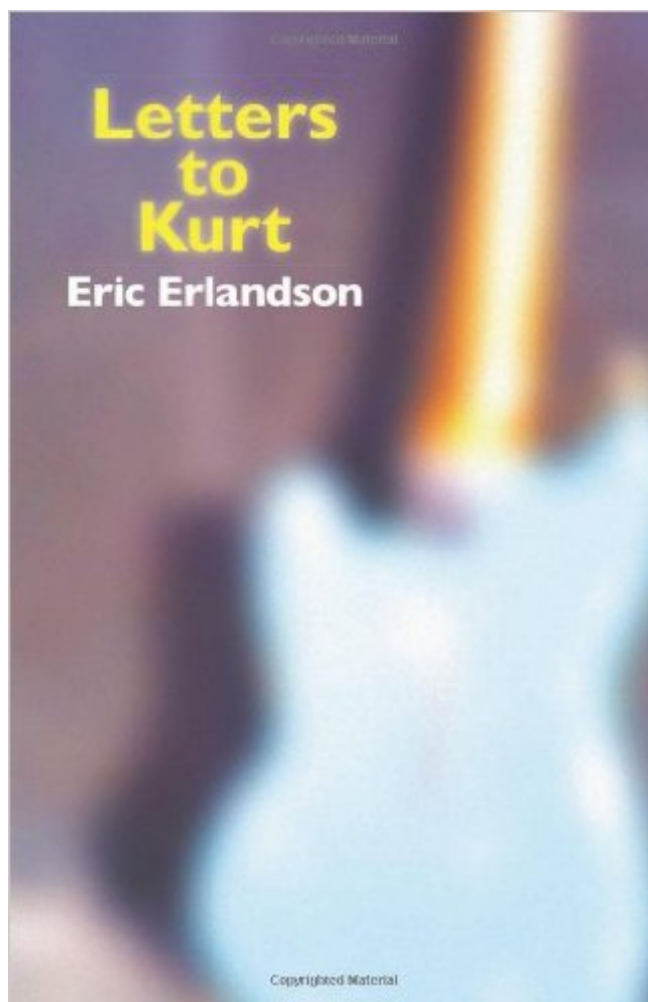


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Letters To Kurt



Synopsis

"Nearly two decades after the death of Kurt Cobain, a friend and fellow musician not only continues to mourn his suicide, but also rages against the culture that he holds responsible. These 52 'letters' . . . combine the subject matter of the Byrds' 'So You Wanna Be a Rock and Roll Star' with the fury of Allen Ginsberg's Howl . . . A catharsis for the writer and perhaps for the reader as well."--Kirkus Reviews

"A touching and enlightening collection of prose poems addressed to [Erlandson's] departed friend."--The San Francisco Bay Guardian

"Erlandson finally comes to terms with his loss in 52 prose-poem letters ostensibly addressed to Cobain in which he straightforwardly confronts his inner demons while offering personal reflections on food, drug abuse, death, and self-sabotage."--Booklist

"The reverberations of Kurt's suicide last to this day, and have touched the lives of many. Dozens of people could have written their own version of this bracingly candid book; Eric Erlandson has written one, filled with rage and love, landmined with detail, that can stand for them all."--Michael Azerrad, author of Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana

"Eric was the spirit-boy in the Nirvana/Hole dynamic. Quiet, bemused, intelligent, and curiously intuitive to the power of hugging the devil, to say we will all be okay . . . Eric expresses how enchanting Kurt was, how the whole scene was, with his thoughtful, radical adult/prose love. Bring on the future, darling."--Thurston Moore, musician

"Eric. He was always there: supportive, observing, in the thick of it. Hidden in plain sight . . . Without him, I can't imagine Seattle or L.A. or a dozen other places. This book is beautiful, brutal, brief. Happy-sad eloquence. Boy Scouts playing with the complimentary cologne in the heart of the ghost town. Listen to the man. He knows."--Everett True, author of Nirvana: The Biography

Letters to Kurt is an anguished, angry, and tender meditation on the octane and ether of rock and roll and its many moons: sex, drugs, suicide, fame, and rage. It's part Dream Songs, part Bukowski, Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg, and the Clash. Rants, reflections, and gunshot fill these fifty-two prose poems. They are raw, funny, sad, and searching. This will make a beautiful book for anyone who loved Nirvana and Hole and the time and place when their music changed everything. Ultimately, it's an elegy for Kurt and the "suicide idols" who tragically fail to find salvation in their amazing music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Hole and really admire anyone who could cowrite all of those great songs, especially from the pissed-off punk of Live Through This & the lighter but maybe even angrier Celebrity Skin. So, Bravo Eric Erlandson the songwriter/guitarist. Sadly, this book is by the less talented Eric Erlandson the prose writer, a person who seems to have a lot of ideas but no strong guide to give them form. Akashic, the publisher, did him no favors by allowing this book into print at this stage. There are things here that should never have made it into an adult's final draft of anything. For instance, raw yogurt upsets Erlandson's stomach, seitan makes him constipated (as do a long list of other foods), and Erlandson has hugged someone hard enough to be "at the risk of pooping" (111). Fascinating as all this might be to Erlandson's gastroenterologist, as his reader I'm not just uninterested but left wondering at the poverty of a mind that goes on and on about such things. Oh, also, he lets us in on ejaculating on some woman's stomach and giving another woman (the same woman?) three orgasms in one morning "by accident" (45). Yeah, I don't get that last one either. The more interesting parts of Letters to Kurt are just uncomfortable. He trashes Courtney Love almost obsessively. She's too easy a target and the things he says seem more in place in a Kitty Kelley biography. Some of his musings on Kurt are interesting, many unintelligible. Once he verges on beautiful: "I found a picture of you back when your saddest days were the happy days of my life" (122). Unfortunately much of the rest of the book is written like this: "My definite chief aim in life is to give a lecture at Harvard on the female anatomy as it relates to the benefits of adding nicotine to ice cream" (33).

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