



Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl: A Memoir

By Carrie Brownstein

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From the guitarist of the pioneering band Sleater-Kinney, the book Kim Gordon says "everyone has been waiting for" and a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2015-- a candid, funny, and deeply personal look at making a life-- and finding yourself--in music.

Before Carrie Brownstein became a music icon, she was a young girl growing up in the Pacific Northwest just as it was becoming the setting for one the most important movements in rock history. Seeking a sense of home and identity, she would discover both while moving from spectator to creator in experiencing the power and mystery of a live performance. With Sleater-Kinney, Brownstein and her bandmates rose to prominence in the burgeoning underground feminist punk-rock movement that would define music and pop culture in the 1990s. They would be cited as “America’s best rock band” by legendary music critic Greil Marcus for their defiant, exuberant brand of punk that resisted labels and limitations, and redefined notions of gender in rock.

HUNGER MAKES ME A MODERN GIRL is an intimate and revealing narrative of her escape from a turbulent family life into a world where music was the means toward self-invention, community, and rescue. Along the way, Brownstein chronicles the excitement and contradictions within the era’s flourishing and fiercely independent music subculture, including experiences that sowed the seeds for the observational satire of the popular television series *Portlandia* years later.

With deft, lucid prose Brownstein proves herself as formidable on the page as on the stage. Accessibly raw, honest and heartfelt, this book captures the experience of being a young woman, a born performer and an outsider, and ultimately finding one’s true calling through hard work, courage and the intoxicating power of rock and roll.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl: A Memoir By Carrie Brownstein Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of November 2015: *Hunger Made Me a Modern Girl* isn't the stately, studio-oriented music memoir that we've seen in the wake of Keith Richards's epic *Life*--Townshend, Costello, and others--but perhaps most closely resembles Chrissie Hynde's *Reckless*, at least in spirit, if not content: both are relatively short, intensely personal, and less concerned with chord progressions than personal progression (Hynde's being particularly gritty). Moving through her childhood in the Seattle suburbs, we see the proto-performer searching for her personal stage while navigating tumultuous family dynamics. And when she finds her voice with the pioneering punk band, Sleater-Kinney, we're in the van and on stage with her, lugging amps and filthy mattresses until road-stress compels her to end it (the first time, anyway; they're back). It's not a tell-all; Brownstein is selective about what she shares, but what she does give us hits hard. Her memoir resembles her songs: taut, thoughtful, and honest. —*Jon Foro*

Review

"In the vast library of recent rock memoirs... Ms. Brownstein's may be the one that most nakedly exposes its author's personality."—**The New York Times**

"Carrie Brownstein writes the way she plays guitar, with raw honesty, passion, and great humor in *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*."—**Vanity Fair**

"A memoir that's both candid and brave, and a powerful tribute to the power of music to heal, to connect, to break you down and then make you whole again.....Brownstein's music has always helped people feel like they really do belong somewhere, and her wonderful memoir does the same thing." - **NPR**

"Meet your fierce and funny new comrade-in-arms. [Brownstein] takes us on a backstage tour of her life, from quirky kid-dom to angsty teen-dom to the feminist subculture of the riot grrl scene to not quite superstardom... Chronicling Sleater-Kinney's tumultuous history and her own volatility – the tours that electrified fans, one brutal, ballsy concert at a time; the anxiety that often plagued her—Brownstein illuminates the euphoric highs and crushing lows of a life spent both on the fringes and in the spotlight."—**O, The Oprah Magazine**

"[*Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*] is earnest, endearing, at times angry, critical, confessional, raw... [it's] the compelling chronicle of a born performer, from fandom to stardom... The richness of the writing ensures that *Hunger* will satisfy die-hard Sleater-Kinney fans as well as those who've never heard a note." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"Brownstein is as nimble, articulate, and honest a writer of literary nonfiction as she is a musician, actress, and cultural critic."—**Vogue.com**

"A sharp, emotionally intimate new memoir."—**People**

"[Brownstein's] honesty is disarming, and buoyed by the same dry wit that makes her scenester-lacerating IFC series *Portlandia* so good. That's how she artfully manages to transcend the backstage tropes of the rock-bio genre, and why *Hunger* should become the new handbook for every modern girl (and yes, boys,

too) looking for the courage to pursue a life less ordinary.” —**Entertainment Weekly**

“A stand out memoir... A journey to self-possession and a portrait of an era.” —**Vogue**

“She can play, but man, can Carrie Brownstein write... Her blazing memoir is lit by the same flair for adventure, fearless inquiry, and honesty that mark her gritty licks and trenchant vocals.” —**ELLE**

“*Hunger* doesn’t try to enumerate every hat she’s ever worn, only what emboldened her to keep experimenting.” —**TIME Magazine**

“Solid musings from the Portlandia star/feminist punk hero.” —**Cosmopolitan**

“Brownstein in an American indy culture avatar — funny, smart and always on point.” —**Los Angeles Times**

“Brownstein’s writing is strongest when she describes the passion and sheer joy she experiences connecting with music.” —**BUST Magazine**

“(Brownstein) peels away any residual glamor and mythology of the Riot Grrrl movement and tells her tale of suburban upbringing and liberation.” —**Newsweek**

“*Modern Girl* offers a stark look at the strain that touring life took on Brownstein; she talks openly about her battles with depression and anxiety, including a difficult-to-read account of her nervous breakdown, which ultimately ended the band.” —**Paper Magazine**

“Life on tour isn’t all rock ’n’ roll fantasy, as Sleater-Kinney icon and Portlandia cocreator Carrie Brownstein attests in her corrosively honest, impossible-to-put-down memoir, *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*—both a journey to self-possession and a portrait of an era, as indelible as one of her songs.” —**Vogue.com**

“In her new memoir, [Brownstein] tells the story of how she found salvation in music.” —**Out Magazine**

“To find her calling, Carrie is going to experience hard work, sacrifice, and independence that makes her thrive.” —**Buzzfeed**

“Revealing and raw.” —**The Daily Beast**

“Few reign power and femininity like Brownstein whose haunting vocals and soul punching lyrics leave listeners rattled, in a good way, the way only truly great music can — something *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl* is bound to do as well.” —**Bustle**

“[Brownstein] is an incredible observer, with a gift for phrases and imagery and making sense of memory... it’s not hard to predict that Brownstein’s book will go beyond the usual rock-star victory-lap and turn out to be one of the wisest and most poignant memoirs in quite a while.” —**Salon**

“[A] moving story about Brownstein’s life before, during, and after the rise of America’s greatest rock band.” —**Flavorwire**

“Brownstein writes with an impressive level of self-awareness and wry humor, even when she’s tackling

difficult moments in her life." —**Refinery29**

"The Sleater-Kinney guitarist, writer, and Portlandia and Transparent actress has always been curiously eloquent. That quality has become obvious over the course of eight albums with bandmates Corin Tucker and Janet Weiss... and now in her refreshingly forthright new memoir, *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*."—**SPIN**

"Brownstein's *Modern Girl* offers a lot of value for a wide range of readers. Music historians get a first-hand POV of one of punk rock's most interesting scenes, aspiring artists will take away Brownstein's mandatory perspective and casual readers get a damn fine read."—**Paste Magazine**

"Sleater-Kinney guitarist Carrie Brownstein debunks the nostalgic clichés of rock-star life on the road. Instead, she candidly recounts the panic attacks and stress-induced shingles she experienced on tour." —**The Cut**

"*Hunger* is a testament to the fact that the transient and permanent are, in fact, intertwined."—**The Jewish Daily Forward**

"Sleater-Kinney's Carrie Brownstein will make you laugh and cry in *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*...A hunger to be noticed, a hunger to perform and a hunger to be loved are clear motivators for Brownstein as she looks back on her childhood at the start of her entirely self-written and often funny book." —**NY Daily News**

"Engrossing... For fans of Sleater-Kinney, it's immensely compelling, particularly because Brownstein writes crisply, insightfully, and without vanity... Brownstein's memoir shows that she can keep a secret. More important, it shows how compelling she is when she opens up."—**The A.V. Club**

"[Brownstein's] writing is sharp, erudite, and witty, and it makes *Hunger* my favorite music memoir since *Just Kids*... [it] arrives at a moment of unprecedented reverence for the feminist rock memoir." —**Pitchfork**

"Carrie Brownstein is the legendary guitarist in Sleater-Kinney, one-half of the comedic genius team responsible for "Portlandia" and, now, in a move that surprises no one, a brilliant memoirist." —**Spectrum**

"Sleater-Kinney guitarist and 'Portlandia' co-creator Carrie Brownstein's reflections on performance and community will move and shake you." —**Huffington Post**

"Brownstein's a great writer and *Hunger* is a smooth, electric read. She carries a lot of humor and gentle self-deprecation throughout the work."—**Consequence of Sound**

"Honest and irreverent, Brownstein shows herself to be a talented rock journalist and memoirist without losing the intelligence and humor her fans have come to expect."—**Nordstrom Blog The Thread**

"Sometimes it's nice to love a band just for their songs, without concern for their backstory, but when you get a chance to know where one of your all-time favorites comes from, and written in such a way where it feels like you've dived into a pool and like a cartoon, the whole world changes around you, it would be a crime not to indulge. Spend some time with Carrie, it'll be totally worth your while."—**Lenny Letter**

"Carrie strikes a great balance of fond reminiscing and truthful (sometimes regretful) memories spent on the road, in the recording studio and moments of humility in her youth."—**AfterEllen**

“[Brownstein’s] memoir, looking back on those formative years with the band, offers the kind of intimacy and insight fans and enthusiasts will eagerly devour.”—**Biographile**

“This portrait of a life lived above the realm of daily concern may be accurate if you’re a Rolling Stone or Beyonce, but the truth, for most moderately successful musicians, is that rock ‘n’ roll is mostly about hard work, uncomfortable sleeping arrangements, and a lot of carrying your own instruments. Which is why Carrie Brownstein’s new memoir, about her years with the band Sleater-Kinney, is so welcome.”—**Biographile**

“What would it be like if all your dreams come true? For Carrie Brownstein, who grew up in the Riot Grrrl movement in the Pacific Northwest, they did: She started out playing in countless punk bands until settling on one with her BFF and romantic partner, Corin Tucker, which they eventually turned into the best rock band of all time, Sleater-Kinney. In *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*, Brownstein recounts her time before worldwide fame, what Riot Grrrl meant to her as a young woman searching for her voice, and how rock ‘n’ roll saved her life.”—**Cosmopolitan.com**

“In this dynamic memoir, Sleater-Kinney’s Carrie Brownstein tells her story of coming up through the 1990s feminist punk scene of the Pacific Northwest. Her portrait is vivid, transporting readers back to the intimate moments that sowed her own roots, and made her the cool-girl icon she is today. Brownstein is honest, funny, and, well, everything you want her to be.” —**Bustle**

“Carrie Brownstein is brilliant and hilarious in Portlandia, and iconic as the singer for punk-rock band Sleater-Kinney, but her memoir *Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl* reveals a more raw and vulnerable side to her.” —**Bustle**

“From her rocky childhood to becoming part of the feminist punk-rock movement to her days as a comedic writer and actor, Brownstein brings us into the most intimate moments of her life.”—**First Slice**

“For decades, the guitarist for the legendary Sleater-Kinney has been celebrated for her unapologetic queer politics and general bad-assery. When she became the co-creator and star of the IFC comedy series “Portlandia,” we were introduced to her slippery wit as well. Her new memoir unveils a third Brownstein: a melancholy, intellectually rigorous introvert who’s been musically unpacking the concept of family ever since her suburban Washington childhood fell apart.” —**WordandFilm.com**

“Brownstein has written an absolute love letter to music, a gift to Sleater Kinney fans, and above all, an expertly crafted memoir.”—**Lambda Literary**

“Brownstein has insightful things to say about growing up with a closeted gay dad and an anorexic mom, about how the creative process works, about the ‘performance’ of the audience at a concert, about the punk aesthetic.”—**Newsday**

“A performer through and through, she translates her story to the page with characteristically blunt humor and observational prowess.” —**Village Voice**

“Brownstein is both an icon of pop culture and an astute observer of it.” —**The Boston Globe**

“Carrie Brownstein’s local history as part of Sleater-Kinney is, for many of us, our own—and she has long been an articulate and funny and intelligent voice behind piercing guitar that left tatters

behind.”—**Willamette Week**

“Brownstein has a story to tell, and it doesn't include satirical sketches about a certain element of local culture... What Brownstein does instead is open a window into her turbulent, creative Northwest life.”—**The Oregonian**

“For Sleater-Kinney fans, [*Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*] is an absolute must... The author writes focused and uncluttered prose, choosing the best, most telling details, as she recounts stories that show what it means to perform for the first time and what it means for a woman to be both a fan and a star in a staunchly male-dominated world. ...It's revealing and riveting. On the page as in her songs, Brownstein finds the right words to give shape to experience.”—**Kirkus starred review**

“A candid look at life in rock and roll in a deeply personal and revealing narrative of her life in music, as ardent fan, pioneering female guitarist, comedic performer on TV's *Portlandia*, and luminary in the independent rock world.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“[Brownstein's] memoir delivers on all counts, offering a sharp-eyed tale of a singular time in music and culture... A strong, engaging pop culture memoir: personal detail, a little dish, and a well-written look at what made the music, and the culture that spawned it, matter.” —**Library Journal starred review**

“Brownstein flips easily from brainy ruminations on nostalgia, fandom, and record labels to trenchant stories about sexism, music journalism, and how a soy allergy—not drugs or alcohol—brought her to her knees on tour... her vivid Sleater-Kinney stories and descriptions of their albums are downright irresistible. Sleater-Kinney fans went nuts late last year when the trio broke their years-long hiatus, and Brownstein's memoir will give them more to salivate over.”—**Booklist**

“[Brownstein] looks back with a healthy balance of romanticism, critique, and humor... she has talent... Her writing is super solid, at times even gripping... You don't need to be a superfan to appreciate someone's well-told story about the inherent joy and strife that comes with being in a band; a person's story about finding, then losing, then re-finding her destiny.”—**Electric Literature**

“Brownstein has a gift for describing how collaboration works. She's got a clear critical grasp of how the push and pull between her and vocalist-guitarist Corin Tucker and the essential talents of drummer Janet Weiss made the powerful, abrasive, addictive music of Sleater-Kinney. And to that she adds an important personal perspective.”—**Los Angeles Times**

"Deftly woven narrative....A brisk and fascinating work." —**Flavorwire**

"A document of self-actualization... [Brownstein's] writing is measured, dispassionate, and well considered; it's engaging for exactly those reasons. Her insight is some of the best on that era and subset of punk that's been written." —**Jezebel**

"Deeply felt and smartly unpacked...Essential reading...One of the best rock memoirs anyone is going to read in quite some time."—**Austin American Statesman**

*"Her honesty is disarming, and buoyed by the same dry wit that makes her scenester-lacerating IFC series *Portlandia* so good. That's how she artfully manages to transcend the backstage tropes of the rock-bio genre, and why *Hunger* should become the new handbook for every modern girl (and yes, boys, too) looking for the courage to pursue a life less ordinary."*—**Entertainment Monthly**

"On the page, Brownstein comes across as funny, charming, self-deprecating and self-aware." —**Williamette Week**

"It's Brownstein's ability to recount her decorous punk life that blazes through. It's as if she's sitting across from the reader sharing a friendly cup of coffee, bringing you up to speed on her latest musical adventures." —**Slug Magazine**

"Is there anything [Brownstein] can't do and do brilliantly?" —**Cuepoint**

About the Author

Carrie Brownstein is a musician, writer and actor who first became widely known as the guitarist and vocalist of the band Sleater-Kinney and later as a creator, writer and co-star of the Emmy-nominated, Peabody Award winning television show *Portlandia*. Brownstein's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *Slate*, and numerous anthologies on music and culture. She lives in Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edith Stewart:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want experience happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl: A Memoir is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Tyler Emery:

The book Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl: A Memoir has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research prior to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after scanning this book.

Sheila Davis:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl: A Memoir this publication consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular

writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

Gertrude Ponder:

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