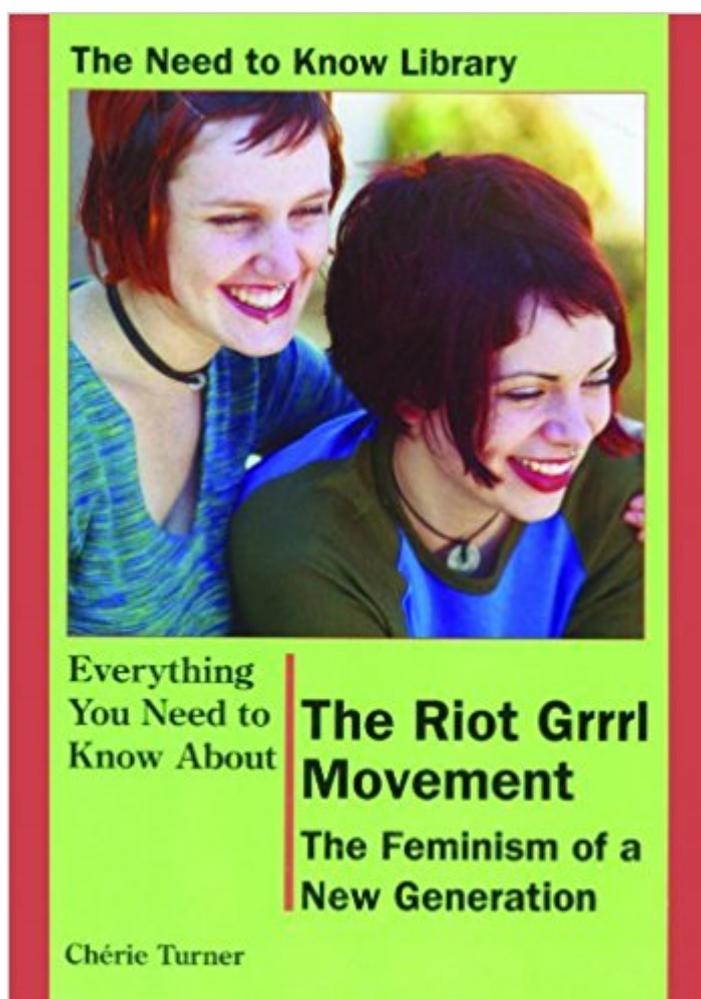


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The Riot Grrrl Movement: The Feminism Of A New Generation (Need To Know Library)



Synopsis

Our new books address health and safety concerns for young adults in a comprehensive and informative context. This book explores the ways in which feminism and punk rock merged in the 1980s and 1990s to create a girl-centered subculture. This book traces the development of this movement into the present day. It also explains the ways in which riot grrrls continue to merge music and feminist politics on the fringes of mainstream culture.

Book Information

Library Binding: 64 pages

Publisher: Rosen Publishing Group; Edition Unstated edition (January 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823934004

ISBN-13: 978-0823934003

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,568,364 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Music > History #448954 in Books > Children's Books

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-This title analyzes an often-neglected aspect of American feminism. The Riot Grrrl Movement had its roots in the 1970s punk scene in which young women were welcomed and encouraged "to be nasty, aggressive, vitriolic, and outraged, to howl and roar and raise a ruckus." By the 1980s, women had been relegated to the margins of punk. Riot Grrrl was an early 1990s offshoot of its revival founded by feminist musicians, writers, and their friends in Olympia, WA. Under the slogan, "Do it yourself," the movement called for building self-confidence and mutual support. Fans formed chapters in the United States and abroad. Turner profiles the movement's leaders as well as figures from the earlier punk era who provided inspiration. Today, Riot Grrrl's legacy survives in music, in the many feminist magazines and comic books that it generated, and in the Web sites of a few chapters. Turner believes that Riot Grrrl represents the "third wave" of feminism after the suffragettes and Women's Liberation. While it may be that she exaggerates the significance of Riot Grrrl, she has written a colorful, spirited account that fills in some blank pages of

women's history. Libby K. White, Jewish Vocational Services, Baltimore, MD Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This book offers a solid primer on the Riot Grrrl Movement. I actually keep it on reserve for my college aged students to use. While the book is written for a younger audience, my students enjoy the book.

"The Riot Grrrl Movement: The Feminization of a New Generation" is a surprisingly sophisticated book, given its audience of adolescent and pre-adolescent girls. At times, it reads like an introductory sociology tract, unflinchingly decrying such advanced as capitalism, marginalization, victimization, and patriarchy. Simultaneously, aware that its audience may be as young as 10 or 11, it can also read like a conventional grade school textbook (!), parenthetically defining terms such as burgeoning "[growing]" and vitriolic "[hostile]." Still, 'Riot Grrrl' respects its readers' intelligence. The book's strength is how it places the movement within a historical and sociological context: The intersection of punk, feminism, and increasingly younger alienated and youth. The book's tone is realistic, informed, and ultimately hopeful, although the conclusion seems to offer an exaggerated and canned optimism: "It may not be too far-fetched to believe that Riot Grrrl will reach its ultimate goal." This vague statement contrasts also with its earlier report that the movement is better conceptualized as a collection of girls promoting "grrl love"-- generating power through mutual support"--who may have disparate and spontaneous goals: "There is no specific leader, no 10-point program," explained "Bratmobile" drummer Molly Neiman in 1992. The book founders on its heavy reliance on other sources, notably the books "Trouble Girls," "Angry Women in Punk," and the wonderfully titled named "Pretty in Punk." While it's unafraid to attack capitalism and its negative effects on self-esteem and grrrl power, as well as ceding the unfortunate mainstream cooptation and commercialism, the book inexplicably fails to mention a single word about sexual orientation, gender identification, or race. (On a minor note, it presents Joan Jett as a grrrl power pioneer, conveniently ignoring very male-oriented image during her most successful commercial phase.) However, in its compact 57 pages, the book traces the roots of the movement, and presents its tangible (bands, `zines, organizations) and intangible products (attitude, self-empowerment, rebellion, and unity). Again, I would have liked to see some exploration of the diversity of the movement, and the influence of concurrent trends such as goth culture, but the author chose a more narrow focus. Fortunately, there's a bibliography (books and `zines) and list of websites for those who wish to follow-up. Despite its absolutely ridiculously high price (is this a collector's item, or something?), it's

an impressive introduction, especially with the narrow age range of its prospective audience, and it genuinely captures the anger, empowerment, mutual support, and "do it yourself" ethos that helped define and propel riot grrrls everywhere.

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