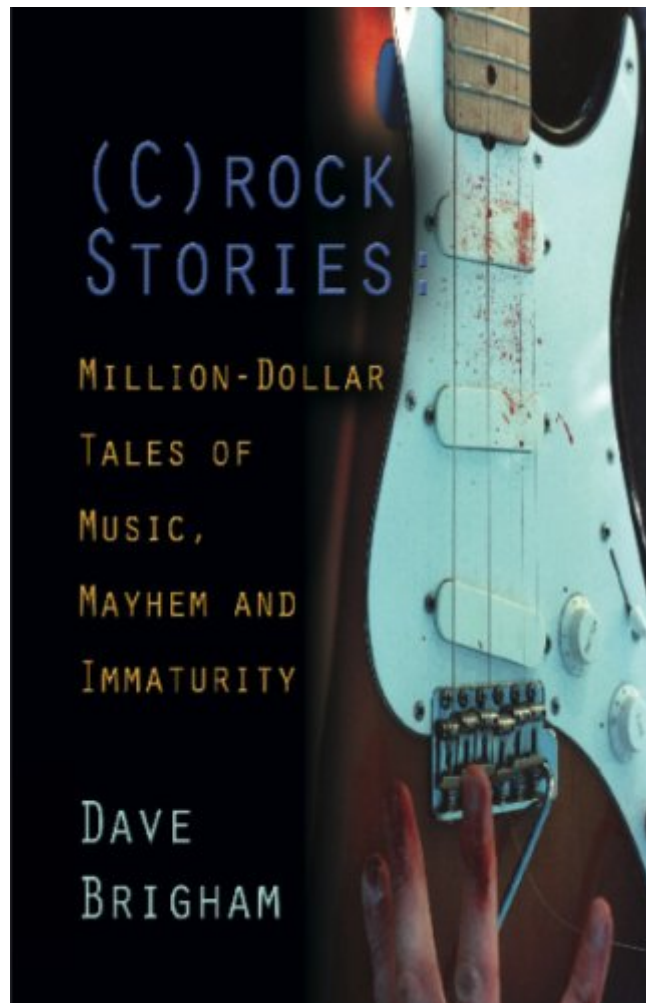


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# (C)rock Stories: Million-Dollar Tales Of Music, Mayhem And Immaturity



## Synopsis

Sometimes punk rock is worth punching your best friend over. Other times punk rock decks you with its righteousness. The narrator and his friends in this collection of connected stories love punk, indie and classic rock. They go to extreme lengths to defend the bands they love. They form bands and play music in uncomfortable and hostile environments. They mix it up in mosh pits. They question religion, the holier-than-thou attitudes of some bands, and the reasons behind a homeless messiah figure's grip on a local rock scene. Is it worth it to slug somebody in order to defend the honor of the Butthole Surfers? Is it wise to tangle with an ex-con in order to reclaim money so you can buy Echo & the Bunnymen tickets? Can a Yankee slacker match wits and fists with a crazed, shotgun-toting Southern punk and her posse? If Fugazi annoys you by stopping their show, and yelling at slam dancers, are you obligated to hate them? Read this book to find out. The stories cover all the rock & roll themes: love, infatuation, heartbreak, class conflict, death, cutting loose from old friends, fighting the hype around pompous rockers, growing up. And the warm feeling of cheese melting on your face.

## Book Information

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Authors

## Customer Reviews

Highly recommended; this is a very innovative book. In the same way that a rock and roll musician plays out their personal issues and fantasies through songs and sounds, Dave Bringham (a music and technology journalist), tells a bunch of stories that span childhood to middle-age, all of which use rock music to play some role. You get the impression, like in many novels or rock records that these stories are mostly real and autobiographical, embellished more to call attention to his point than just for the sake of exaggeration. And that's why this book is such a rare treat. It's like a considerate effort to spare us for a moment from the more typical mega-researched tomes of artists and songs, or the blubbering, post-"High Fidelity" hyper-analytical essays about lost girlfriends and mix tapes. Who wouldn't want instead to spend an evening with some whiskey, a Yo La Tengo bootleg and Dave Bringham's story of New Orleans street musicians feuding over a single, broken guitar?

This book will bring you back to those days of going to shows, and all that could be great, glorious, annoying, sweaty, nearly silent (like sound check problems), drunken (or sober because it was an all-ages show), surprising, or disappointing. What I loved about this book was that it captured all of that. You could be seeing the coolest band in the world and still feel like a loser. You could be expecting greatness and get nothing. Or you could just not be in the mood and get your socks knocked off. A beer could be dumped on you, or bought for you (well, that almost never happened). In all these stories, you see a guy who just wants to see a decent band ... but things get in the way. Sometimes it's him, sometimes his friends, sometimes even the band. Highly recommended if you loved (and still love) live music.

I enjoyed reading the related short stories in *Rock Stories*. I found I could relate to the authors' adventures not because I was into music or that I took an epic road trip but because I also had that post-college pre-"real responsibility" period where my days and nights revolved around cheap beer, dive bars, and hanging out with slackers (making me a slacker by association) and looking for a good time, all the while living in relative poverty. It was a time when I was trying to find myself. The authors' amusing tales prompted me to relive some of the parallel bizarre exploits that I experienced during that time of my life. I also liked and could relate to how the author, over multiple stories, showed how people he thought he knew, either as a friend or adversary, greatly diverged from what

he thought they were as they matured through their late teen years and into what they would eventually become. Also enjoyable was his descriptions of the "characters" that exist everyday in every town across the country. Put simply it was a good read that still has me thinking about his and my own stories from that significant time of my life.

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