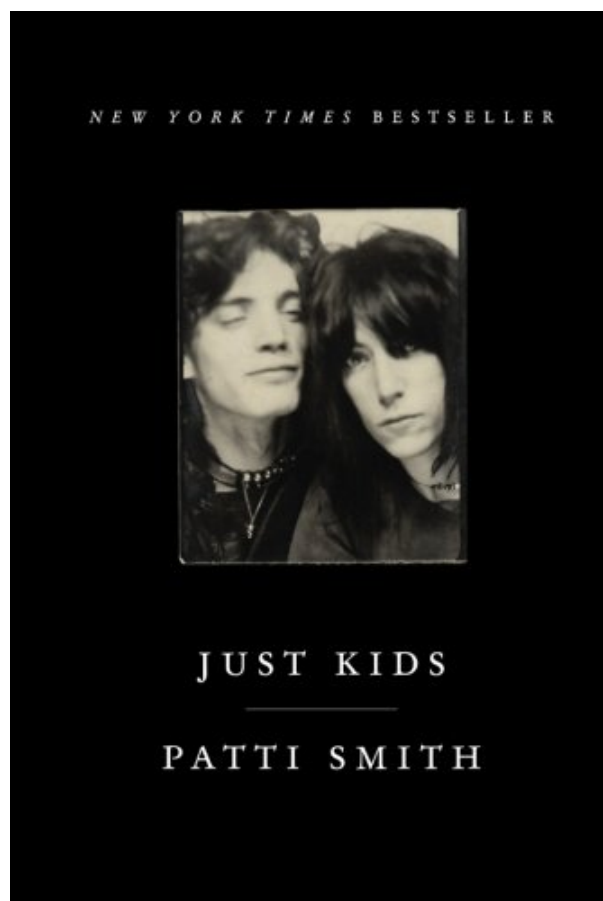


# JUST KIDS BY PATTI SMITH



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In *Just Kids*, Patti Smith's first book of prose, the legendary American artist offers a never-before-seen glimpse of her remarkable relationship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in the epochal days of New York City and the Chelsea Hotel in the late sixties and seventies. An honest and moving story of youth and friendship, Smith brings the same unique, lyrical quality to *Just Kids* as she has to the rest of her formidable body of work—from her influential 1975 album *Horses* to her visual art and poetry.

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Didn't leave me with a positive feeling toward Patti Smith

By Randee Baty

I was required to read this for a class on writing memoirs. It's interesting and well-written. Maybe if I had been a fan of Patti Smith I would have enjoyed it more. Not really having any knowledge of her before this book, she came off as arrogant and condescending. It felt like a lot of "hey, look how great I am." She spends a lot of time name-dropping. She also spends a lot of time telling her readers how fabulous she and her friends are. If you are into punk music and want a lot of behind the scenes stories and history, then this book has what you want. If you're not a fan, I'm not sure you will enjoy this book very much.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

So entertaining!

By Nicole Del Sesto

I didn't even know who Patti Smith was. I know I got her confused with Patty Smyth. I definitely didn't know who Robert Mapplethorpe was. Turns out, I did know who Patti Smith was, but I had to google "Patti Smith most popular song" and got "Because the Night" and it was all clear.

The point is, this book was on my radar because I'd heard great things about the book, not because I knew who anybody was. What a tale! I'm not even sure something like this could ever happen again. It was the late

'60's early '70's (my favorite time period musically, incidentally) and Patti was a literal starving artist on the streets of New York. No job, no direction, no place to live. A creative being wanting to create but not knowing how it should manifest.

She meets Robert Maplethorpe and they embark on a lifelong friendship/love affair. They lived in the time and place of Jimi, Janis, and Andy Warhol. Just Kids, literally starving. It was a great adventure.

Patti was lucky enough to have a couple breaks musically, and Robert not long behind her with his art. I can't say I'm a fan of either of their work. I looked at Robert's art after reading the book and thought no wonder he struggled.

I thought a lot about making a living, and what artists have to do to survive. These tortured people who literally must create, have to get day jobs at bookstores. Barely scraping enough money together to share a hot dog with a friend. It's sad. Behind every Jimi there are thousands of other Jimis.

Anyway, I was engrossed in this tale of friendship and life in the summer of love and beyond. The audio was read by Patti and that itself was an experience. Beautifully written passages spoken in a strong New Jersey accent. Drawing was Drawling. Piano was piana. Laughing was laughin'. Sunday was Sundee. It was a little weird at first, but ultimately gave an intimacy to the story. Her story. I couldn't put it down, and I sobbed at the end.

This would be a great audio for people who don't normally do audio because if you wander off it's easy to find your way back in. Loved it!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful!

By Caroline

This is hands down my favorite memoir that I have read up to this point. Reading this as a young adult who is transitioning into the job world and trying to find my "purpose", Patti Smith sings to that hunt that I and so many others are on. From living in a backwoods town, moving to the Big City and trying to find a dream, this book encompasses the journey of a free spirit just on the hunt for anything that can work. She experiences love, struggle, indecision - all the elements of growing up that can either make or break your view on the world, and it's obvious that she used these experiences to help her grow.

I read this book last year and I've been giving copies of it as a gift for almost every occasion this year. It truly is a wonderful read and I know I'm going to read it again soon!

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