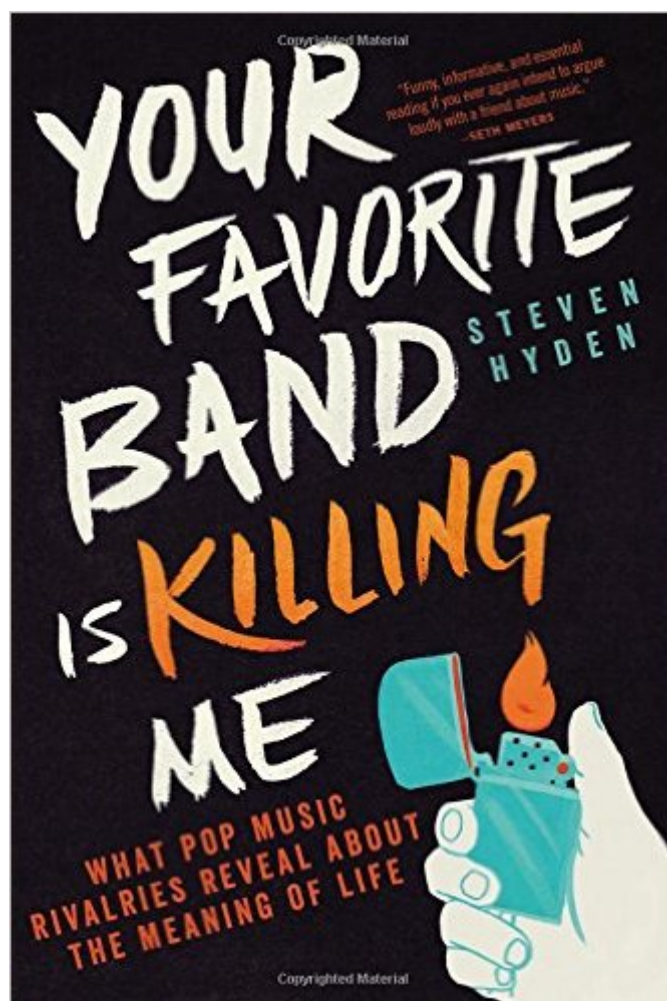


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# Your Favorite Band Is Killing Me: What Pop Music Rivalries Reveal About The Meaning Of Life



## Synopsis

One of 's Best Books of 2016 So Far Music critic Steven Hyden explores nineteen music rivalries and what they say about life Beatles vs. Stones. Biggie vs. Tupac. Kanye vs. Taylor. Who do you choose? And what does that say about you? Actually--what do these endlessly argued-about pop music rivalries say about us? Music opinions bring out passionate debate in people, and Steven Hyden knows that firsthand. Each chapter in YOUR FAVORITE BAND IS KILLING ME focuses on a pop music rivalry, from the classic to the very recent, and draws connections to the larger forces surrounding the pairing. Through Hendrix vs. Clapton, Hyden explores burning out and fading away, while his take on Miley vs. Sinéad gives readers a glimpse into the perennial battle between old and young. Funny and accessible, Hyden's writing combines cultural criticism, personal anecdotes, and music history--and just may prompt you to give your least favorite band another chance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Your Favorite Band is Killing Me" does a remarkable job combining both pop music criticism and history with personal memoir. Hyden's writing is both insightful and hilarious. So many times while reading this book, I found myself thinking about my own life -- my childhood, those terrible middle school years, awkward days in high school and then the early years of adulthood -- and relating to his stories. Often, too, the main point of a chapter on a rivalry would have me reflecting on what it meant about what side I was on. If you're a fan of the work of Chuck Klosterman, you'll absolutely dig this. And if you're not, go read some of his work ... after you read "Your Favorite Band is Killing

Me."

Without going chapter by chapter, I think Steven Hyden did a good job of using musical and cultural comparisons as an entry point to discuss how we behave in so many other ways. For example, Oasis and Blur he uses to say that when he was growing up, you couldn't like both - if you liked Oasis, you must not like Blur. I think that's fair, especially when we're young and we're trying to create our "identity." This is equally applicable to real life - it seems like you can't "like" open carry gun laws and also "like" pro-choice - even though the two have nothing to do with each other, the beliefs are mutually exclusive. Our identities are restricted to a certain beliefs and we behave like they can't overlap. When he talks about the "culture wars" of songs, he used "Southern Man" and "Sweet Home Alabama" as a good example - he claims (and I'm not sure I buy this) that "Alabama" was written as a joke, almost, not a serious pro-south anthem. But that was in 1975 - in 2016, there's no irony to that song and it's as straightforward as it comes. The culture decided that the song represented a simple statement, regardless of what the artist did or didn't intend. There's a lot of relevant examples, and cogent analysis. I want to try and use this in a college classroom setting as examples of how our relationship with music speaks to and mimics our real-life personalities. It is very 1990s specific, however, and most college students would only be vaguely familiar with many of these artists. So it's a potentially good resource, but maybe not ideal for audiences younger than about 30.

I bought this book from Audible the minute it appeared in my Recommended feed. I read/listen to music journalism with enthusiasm, so this was an obvious purchase choice for me. This book does not disappoint! The topic is musical rivalries and features Oasis vs Blur, Beatles vs Stones, Nirvana vs Pearl Jam, Nirvana vs Guns and Roses, and the list goes on. One of my favorites so far (I'm still reading this) is Springsteen vs Chris Christie. If you love music, buy this book - it's great.

This sort of book hits all my music-reading checklists and then some. Steven Hyden explores various "rivalries" (manufactured by the press, by the bands, or genuine loathing) and deconstructs what it means to be on one side or the other in Beatles V. Stones, Biggie V. Tupac, or Axl Rose V. Kurt Cobain. Heartfelt and hilarious throughout, this is a must-read for music snobs and music lovers alike.

Steven Hyden is a little younger than me and has a lot of the same music tastes so, yeah, I'm in the

target demographic for this book. That being said, I thought this book was great. Not so much about music rivalries as much as what music rivalries mean to fans, *Your Favorite Band is Killing Me* ends up explaining more about who we are because of what we love than about what we love.

For music fans, this book is a must. Hyden expertly explores not only the rivalries but the personal parallels associated with them. His anecdotes are consistently hilarious and insightful. This is a must for any music fan; it's fascinating and well-written.

I enjoyed this book. It is a good beach read. You can pick it up, read a few chapters, and not read it again for a week, and not miss a beat. I like Steven's comparisons and insight into some high profile feuds.

When Grantland shut down last year... I immediately went out of my way to find out what a handful of former staffers were going to do. Steven Hyden was atop that list and couldn't have been more thrilled to hear that he was going to write a book about music rivalries. Beyond that, Steven thoughtfully constructs a lifetime of internal heartfelt debate on a subject he genuinely loves.

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