



Heavy Metal And You

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If Nick Hornby had a metalhead little brother, he'd write a book as clever, music-drenched, and observationally direct as this, Christopher Krovatin's rock-solid PUSH debut, now in paperback.

Boy listens to lots of loud music and hangs with his friends. Boy meets girl. Boy falls dippy-happy-scared-as-hell in love with girl. Friends meet girl -- and aren't impressed. Girl meets friends -- and isn't impressed. Boy meets big dilemma. Boy plays music even louder. Big dilemma meets big, complicated resolution.

With humor and heartfelt observations, debut author Christopher Krovatin strikes some very loud chords about life, love, sex, and friendship.

Heavy Metal And You Details

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From Reader Review Heavy Metal And You for online ebook

James Hoch says

This book was crazy. The book had three themes; Heavy metal, Love, and friends. Samuel tries to fit all of these things into his life at once, but he runs into problems along the way, like dealing with Melisa's friends and quitting drugs. The book had a lot of raw language and drug use throughout it, but it drew an accurate picture of what it's like to deal with these things. I'd recommend this book to teenagers who like rock music and even people who like romance books.

Trevor says

Personal Response

The book, *Heavy Metal and You*, are easily relatable. There are a few things that I could not relate to at all such as: Sam's use of drugs and him having a girlfriend.

My general reaction to the book is shock of how there are a lot of similarities between me and the author such as: a strong passion for metal, the kinds of friends we have, and our opinion on the public.

Plot summary

In the book, *Heavy Metal and You*, the main character, Samuel Markus, finds love in Melissa Andrews. Throughout the story, Melissa tries to change Sam while Sam tries to retain his passion for heavy metal music. Near the end of the book, Sam and Melissa have a fight and Sam thinks Melissa is cheating on him.

Characterization

Sam is a broody, teenage, metalhead with a kind personality but quick to anger. Melissa is a teenage girl who has a few friends and is new to the school. Irish is one of Sam's closer friends who is an alcoholic and drinks until he throws up. Brady is one of Sam's first friends when he first came to the new school.

Impact of setting

The setting of the book is in New York City in the 1950s. This affects the story with new styles becoming more popular, such as metalheads wearing spikes. Another thing that happened during the 1950s, was the amount of nightclubs that were in effect in a larger city.

Recommendation

I rate this book a four because it lacks content to make it more interesting. I would recommend this to young adults 14 and older because of content that involves excessive alcohol consumption and suggestive themes.

Caitlin Hoffer says

Wow. I love this book. I want to recommend it to all of my heavy metal friends. I want to recommend it to every high school boy that walks into the library. I want to recommend it to everyone who was once a high school boy.

For all that, the writing can be hard. Not because it's bad, but because it sounds so genuinely like how a high-schooler with too much emotion and not quite enough outlet sounds. It's written in emotions and lyrics and pangs. It's delicious. It is one of the few things that has ever made me miss high school, wishing I was a better friend, wishing I had known who I was just a little me. It makes me wish I knew who I was now, just a little bit more.

And it makes me want to rock the fuck out.

Caroline Åsgård says

I usually don't review books I haven't recently read, but this book's kind of means a lot to me, so I'll make an exception.

I was around 13 or 14, where I found this in a bookstore in the Philippines (I'm actually there now, and I am now almost 19, and I even remember which shelf I found it in in the store!), assuming it was some kind of non-fiction guide book, and I think I bought it right away without even caring.

So it was about a young boy who loves music, who falls in love with a girl. I could relate to him a lot, and I enjoyed the story - And I would read it again and again for years to come.

I like Krovatin's writing style, a little autobiographical, and the little play, stop, rewind buttons to indicate when events occurred in Sam's life.

This book also got my young mind into the very music I love today! I was particularly excited to read about the Norwegian bands Sam explained to his girlfriend, the very genre I love the most today.

I'm also going to tattoo something similar to the cover art, maybe even within the next two weeks, while I'm still in the Philippines!

John Jorgensen says

characterization Sam is the main character in the book whose life is being told. Melissa is Sam's girlfriend. Irish, Brent, Pudgy, and Jamie were all of Sam's friends who he hung out with.

plot In the beginning of the story, Sam is introduced to heavy metal. Once Sam meets Melissa, He tries to get her to enjoy heavy metal with him. Throughout the story, Sam and Melissa enjoy heavy metal together and enjoy each other's company.

setting and impact This story takes place in Manhattan, NY during the late 90's. In this book it talks about Central Park, which is in Manhattan, so to make the story true it had to be in this location and time frame.

who and why I would recommend this book to any High Schooler who is interested in heavy metal. This story is great for a person who can see similarities between their life and the story. If someone can relate their life to the story, it makes the story more interesting.

Myss-Syckness says

OMG.

First of all,

This is definately on my top 5 favourite books.

Ever.

I loved the allusion in this novel,

and when I read it I could really relate to the characters.

I need to own a copy of this.

I really want to read Venomous,

if Krovatin made it as good as Heavy Metal And You.

Unfortunately, my library sucksss. :'(

Desiree Roe says

This book was a great, but pretty predictable read. I recommend this book to the high school reading level because it contains a lot of detail in the drug and alcohol departments. It deals with love and hate, a lot of hate. In a book about sex, drugs, and violence there is a nice balance of friendship, honesty and realization. I was impressed with this book because I didn't expect I'd like it.

Kathryn says

The front flap of the book says "if Nick Hornby had a metalhead little brother, he'd write a book as clever, music-drenched, and observationally direct as this." And a more true statement could not be made about this book.

Enter the world of grunge, death metal and hard-core alternative music. Sam Markus comes from a good family, goes to the right school and has all the privileges of his favorite literary hero Holden Caulfield, but he also has a harsh past that turned his life upside-down. Luckily, he found an outlet for his anger through heavy metal.

After Melissa, the straightedge girl of his dreams, walks into his life, Sammy knows he is in love. But Melissa, his friends and his music seem to clash, and Sammy doesn't know who he is or even who he wants to be anymore. Heavy Metal helped him overcome his past, yet he isn't sure if the music is enough to help him figure out his present.

With an intelligence that is astounding for such a young author (Krovatin was only 20 years-old when the book was published), this book hits home with themes of acceptance, sex, drugs and self-perception. I loved reading this book. Even with its dark and sometimes violent overtones, I found myself wanting to understand

Sammy and his music as well as make some mixes of my own.

Susan Gottfried says

I'd told myself I wasn't going to do it. I wasn't going to grab any books I saw in the library, no matter how tempting they were.

Which, of course, explains why I walked out of there with a copy of *Heavy Metal and You*, a 2005 novel written by Christopher Krovatin while he was a student at Wesleyan University.

His age shows, and not in a bad way. *Heavy Metal and You* rings with the authentic voice of a teenaged boy, trying to figure out who he is and what it's all about.

That's pretty much the entire plot. Sam meets Melissa, asks her out, and falls head over heels, only to find out she doesn't like his friends, he doesn't like hers, and she's trying to change him in ways that, fundamentally, he's not thrilled about. He likes going out and getting drunk and stoned and stupid with his friends. And okay, he realizes cigarettes don't taste that great, but darn it, it should be his choice if he wants to smoke or not, not hers.

If anything, this book reminded me a bit too much in tone and voice of Nick and Norah's *Infinite Adventure*, a book I loved the first time around. Not so much when it feels like I'm reading a rehash, which is really unfair to this particular book. It should be able to stand on its own. An interesting note is that Nick and Norah co-author David Levithan is thanked for being an editor and friend. Coincidence? No way!

As a work of Rock Fiction, this stands up – and so does what, for me, was the penultimate scene. It is so achingly real, it transported me back to my own youth.

Melissa, wanting to experience Sam's world, had joined him at a general admission Deicide concert. This probably wouldn't have been my first choice to expose a newbie to the scene, but Sam was so over the moon with his woman that it's easy to forgive him this slight – and the one that comes next.

Hyped on the music, the adrenaline, the possibilities, and the scene, Sam grabs Melissa's hand and pulls her into a very rough mosh pit. They are separated and by the time Sam finds Melissa again, she has been thoroughly traumatized.

Anyone who's been in a situation where someone is a willing participant in a world that is ridiculed by most will relate to Sam and his headlong enthusiasm.

It's the best part of the book.

Heavy Metal and You. Recommended, just for that one scene.

Brittanie says

This book was just as amazing as I expected. It's the story of a boy who listens to heavy metal but still has all

the hopes, fears, and dream of any other teenage boy. This kid has heart and uses it to express his love for Slayer, Children of Bodom, Satyricon and any other black metal act you can think of.

This book is great for fan of these bands because you can really relate to the character and what he thinks about his music and his life. It's great to read a book that looks at the normalcy of this type of person's life, where so many books give "metalheads" a negative feel.

Mattie says

This book is a reminder to not judge people so much based on appearance, but to really get to know who they are. In relationships all too often we try to change each other instead of loving that person flaws and all. It's sad really. But you have to be yourself no matter who tries to make you into something else. It's an empowering inspirational message.

Alissa says

Metalhead Sam meets Mary-Sue Melissa and it's love. Things go well at first. Then things begin to fall apart. Small things at first: Melissa wants Sam to give up drinking and smoking and join her in the "straightedge" lifestyle. Fine, he does it. Then it's Sam's friends she doesn't like. She tells him they're a negative influence and flips out when he spends time with them (she feels he is choosing his friends over her). Then it's the way Sam dresses. And finally it's the Heavy Metal music Sam loves so much... Soon Melissa shows Sam a completely different side to her personality than the one he fell in love with. Sam has a tough decision to make. Even if it means ending things with Melissa.

The verdict? This book rocks! And a rare and decidedly unusual romance written from the point of view of the guy. Sam and his friends are realistic, flawed, well-developed characters (I know from the first-hand experience of being the girl who is one of the guys that guys really DO speak and act like that). Also, I like how the story doesn't just present teenage love (or love in general) in a the rosy, warm-and-fuzzy, one-sided way many of the more girly books do. Rather, it shows the dark and messy side of this emotion. It shows how it can make the afflicted crazy enough to compromise their values. It screams a warning as loud as Slayer song played at top volume what can happen if those compromises go too far. And, what's more, it speaks of the importance of being true to yourself. All in a humorous way, of course.

You'll also learn quite a bit about the genre of metal. Always a plus to a music buff.

I'd recommend this one to both guys and girls.

Martinet says

Nothing spectacular, but quite enjoyable. The voice of the main character is very appealing and I got fond of him quickly. Seems pretty clearly autobiographical, but that's OK.

I don't think I went into this book with the realization that it was a YA novel (was expecting something more like Steve Almond's work, I think) but I do like YA so it didn't bother me. (I may pass it along to my stepdaughter once she gets to the point where she's interested in novels about relationships.) I also hadn't

realized until I was finished that the author is the son of Anna Quindlen, whose work I've enjoyed for years. Looks like he inherited some good genes.

Beth says

The jacket looks like a classic metal CD - black with blood red heart ensnared in barbed wire, lettered in a combination of gothic looking font and italic script. I agree with Alissa's summary and assessment -a self-defined metalhead that identifies himself through his favorite music he falls for a straightlaced preppie girl who falls right back. Familiarity breeds contempt and Melissa naively thinks she can change the things she doesn't like about her man. Who is Sam if he isn't a metalhead with all the trappings the self-imposed label entails?

Strong characterization makes standard teen stereotypes into real people. I loved the brief length, energetic voice and allusions to many metal songs and bands. Knowing exactly what the author is talking about adds to the story, but a teen reader can substitute his or her own fanatic obsessions (rap, fashion, a favorite television series) to understand how Sam finds himself through this genre of music. The mix CDs Sam creates as works of art for his girl would serve as a great introduction to this often misunderstood genre; it's too bad a CD wasn't included with the book!

The most brilliant thing about the book (and I am not sure whether to credit the college student author, the art designer, or a smart editor) is the incorporation of symbols for "play," "rewind," "pause " and "fast forward" into the narrative to indicate present situation, a flashback, and a aside. The reader can immediately tell from the graphic when in the story he is. It's a clever and dramatic clue that completely fits the plot and character.

Language, an applaudable discussion of whether the couple is ready for an intimate physical relationship, and recreational drug use are laced through the pages but serve to further the plot and develop the characters, as do the occasional lewd and crude off-color remarks that are laugh out loud funny. The identity-defining theme and issues of support and abstinence meet teen development needs - magic words to keep this title in your library collectionHEavy Metal and You will be popular because of the young author, graphic cover and msot of all for it's authenticity: this is what the adolescent male voice sounds like.

A fantastic debut novel and quite possibly the best effort to date birthed from Scholastic's edgy PUSH imprint, Krovatin is one to watch.

Maria says

"Heavy Metal and You " by Christopher Krovatin started out as a very good book . This book is about a boy named Sam and what happens to him over the course of a few months. Sam falls in love with a girl who is nothing like him , her name is Melissa. Sam does many things for Melissa , like quitting drinking and smoking . He even stops hanging out with his best friends . Sam introduces Melissa to his world of heavy metal and she introduces him to her world of preppy , which brings out a side of him she never seen or likes . Many unexpected things happen at the end of this book . This book got me a little annoyed because i didn't like how Melissa was trying to change Sam into a different person , but if you like clingy love stories this book's for you .

