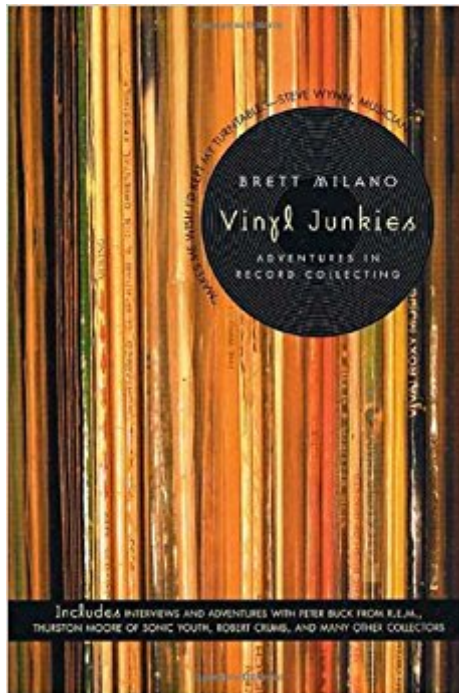


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Vinyl Junkies: Adventures In Record Collecting



Synopsis

Not too far away from the flea markets, dusty attics, cluttered used record stores and Ebay is the world of the vinyl junkies. Brett Milano dives deep into the piles of old vinyl to uncover the subculture of record collecting. A vinyl junkie is not the person who has a few old 45s shoved in the cuboard from their days in high school. Vinyl Junkies are the people who will travel over 3,000 miles to hear a rare b-side by a German band that has only recorded two songs since 1962, vinyl junkies are the people who own every copy of every record produced by the favorite artist from every pressing and printing in existence, vinyl junkies are the people who may just love that black plastic more than anything else in their lives. Brett Milano traveled the U.S. seeking out the most die-hard and fanatical collectors to capture all that it means to be a vinyl junkie. Includes interviews with Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, Peter Buck from R.E.M and Robert Crumb, creator of Fritz the cat and many more underground comics.

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Customer Reviews

Vinyl junkies are special. They hunt down Brazilian pressings of favorite artists, know the difference between vinyl and styrene, and call a 3,000-LP collection "modest." Milano's interviews aim to nail down what vinyl addiction means. Thurston Moore thrives on the renegade, archival nature of collecting. As a teenager, Peter Buck hitchhiked 15 miles to get an LP the night of its release. R. Crumb speaks fondly of rare, flexible 78s. Most of Milano's subjects believe the thrill is in the chase: seeking personal Holy Grails is often more rewarding than playing them, and comfort is knowing a

certain record is finally in one's collection. The book works best when Milano lets his subjects do the obsessing, and if what being a collector means remains as elusive as *Their Satanic Majesties Request* with the original 3-D cover, at least we learn that, as former Cramps drummer Miriam Linna says, "You play someone a great record and they don't react to it, you know it's time to get them out of your house." Carlos Orellana

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Brett Milano is a longtime Boston-based music journalist who once interviewed Joey Ramone and Barry Manilow on the same day. He compiled and annotated the Boston punk history CD *Mass. Ave: The Boston Scene* (on Rhino); and has written liner notes for albums by Todd Rundgren, the Cars, and the Smithereens. He has written for *Billboard*, *Pulse* and the *College Media Journal*; and can now be read weekly in the *Boston Herald* and the *Boston Phoenix*. Aside from a short-lived *Boston Rock Trivia* volume that still turns up on Ebay to this day, *Vinyl Junkies* is his first book.

A light, entertaining read. It isn't a reference book or guide on how to collect records. If that is what you are looking for, this book will be of no use to you and won't help you on your journey. If you are a recent or longtime record collector that would like to read some stories and thoughts of various collectors (some famous musicians, others not) about the procurement of records, then it is a quite enjoyable little book. I found it engrossing enough to finish in a few sittings.

Good book.

I found myself smiling several times while reading this book, recognizing myself in several of the portraits of "obsessive" collectors. Although every collector mentioned here is in some level of denial ("I'm not as bad as _____", or "At least I don't listen to _____"), it's very interesting to hear some of their explanations (rationalizing?) for their collecting. I also discovered a few records I must track down myself (The "Scythian" and "Naughty Rock and Roll"). I have a few suggestions for the author, if there is a second edition - I was thinking that both Lux Interior and Poison Ivy (of The Cramps) would have been excellent subjects for the book, as well as Jello Biafra. I've heard that they have amazing collections, as does the former lead singer of Canned Heat. Also, it would have been awesome for the book's actual cover to have graphics of some of the titles mentioned inside (like the former Searchers lead singer's solo EP, or The Click Kids LP). The Mohammed El-Bakkar LP was a nice touch, but Vol 3 ("Music of the African Arab") is the one you want! (I know, I know...) Finally, one correction --> In *Pulp Fiction*, Uma Thurman plays a reel-to-reel tape of "Girl,

You'll Be A Woman Soon," not a CD. This is a great book about a very interesting topic, and I'd recommend it to any record collector I know, or anybody interested in wild record collections and why people collect them!

Interesting view on record collecting. The zeal exhibited by many of the collectors and their dedication to the media is admirable.

Enjoyed the quirky world of the vinyl obsessed. My world of a buck per album is sanctified by those who give their souls for a truly rare item. Nice bits of trivia throughout. Worth a read.

if you are a collector, this book is an addictive read.

Bought it as a gift to my friend who is a Vinyl junky himself. He loves it!

Everything you wanted to know about those with the urge to collect pre-CD recordings. Lots of fun to read. Don't be surprised if many of the characters in the book hit close to home. Nostalgia abounds. If you are reading this review -- you are already pegged as a collector. Just wear the label, smile, and read the book.

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