



Totally Awesome 80s: A Lexicon of the Music, Videos, Movies, TV Shows, Stars, and Trends of that Decadent Decade, Matthew Rettenmund, St. Martin's Press, 1996, 0312144369, 9780312144364, 159 pages. The 80s revival starts here! The 80s ended only a few years ago, but already the days of Dynasty, skinny ties, and Valley Girls beckon. In Totally Awesome 80s, Matthew Rettenmund drops the touchy-feely 90s and dredges up the garish, glorious 80s. He's captured it all, from Culture Club to Men at Work, parachute pants to Members Only jackets, E.T. to Porky's, Moonlighting to The Cosby Show, and much more. Deliciously wicked and unnervingly hip, Totally Awesome 80s holds a mirror up to that indulgent decade and lets us laugh at the all-too-familiar reflection..

The Rolling Stone Review , Ira A. Robbins, 1985, , 256 pages. .

Hilary Duff all access, Matthew Rettenmund, Keith Munyan, Jul 5, 2005, Biography & Autobiography, 177 pages. Highlighted by one hundred full-color photographs, a detailed portrait of the popular young actress chronicles her early life and her rise to success in the world of

Slumdog Millionaire The Shooting Script, Simon Beaufoy, Dec 9, 2008, , 168 pages. Today is the biggest day in Jamal Malik's life. A penniless, eighteen-year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, he's one question away from winning a staggering 20 million

Rock on the illustrated encyclopedia of rock n' roll : the video revolution, 1978-present, Norm N. Nite, Sep 1, 1985, Music, 444 pages. A comprehensive analysis of rock video from 1979 through 1984. Preceded by Rock On: The Solid Gold Years-Volume I (1978) and Rock On: The Years of Change-Volume II (1984)..

Rock she wrote , Evelyn McDonnell, Ann Powers, Oct 1, 1995, Music, 477 pages. Brings together music criticism, fan experience, and performers' first person accounts from more than 60 women writers for 1960s to the 1990s..

The Immediate Experience Movies, Comics, Theatre & Other Aspects of Popular Culture, Robert Warshaw, 2001, Performing Arts, 302 pages. This collection of essays, which originally appeared as a book in 1962, is virtually the complete works of an editor of Commentary magazine who died, at age 37, in 1955. Long

The 80s a look back at the tumultuous decade, 1980-1989, Tony Hendra, Christopher Cerf, Peter Elbling, 1979, Social Science, 263 pages. .

Who Can It Be Now? The Lyrics Game That Takes You Back to the '80s... One Line at a Time, Peter Thomas Fornatale, 1998, Music, 224 pages. Gathers more than three hundred and fifty 1980s song lyrics, trivia, themes, and jokes.

Playboy The Complete Centerfolds, Chronicle Books, Oct 4, 2008, Photography, 736 pages. Organized chronologically to reveal the world's changing perceptions of feminine beauty, a complete collection of centerfolds ranges from the first issue of Playboy through

Can Rock & Roll Save the World? An Illustrated History of Music and Comics, Ian Shirley, 2005, Art, 288 pages. Rock journalist and comic fan Ian Shirley presents a fascinating exploration into the myriad of rockers, punks, jazzers, rappers and teen popsters who over the years have been

The 80s ended only a few years ago, but already the days of Dynasty, skinny ties, and Valley Girls beckon. In *Totally Awesome 80s*, Matthew Rettenmund drops the touchy-feely 90s and dredges up the garish, glorious 80s. He's captured it all, from Culture Club to Men at Work, parachute pants to Members Only jackets, E.T. to Porky's, Moonlighting to The Cosby Show, and much more.

Who could forget the decade that brought us AIDS, Milli Vanilli, teen slasher movies, and a sitting U.S. president with an advanced case of Alzheimer's disease? Well, I guess that question answers itself, but for those who wish to remember, no finer source can be found than *Totally Awesome 80s*, by Matthew Rettenmund, the man who brought us *Encyclopedia Madonnica*. This loving but ironic catalog of the most important cultural events of the 80s is fittingly slim, flashy, and shallow, covering mostly the poppiest movies, songs, and political actions of the era that told us "greed is good."

I was six years old going into the 80's and sixteen coming out of them and I swear I remember how glad I was when that decade finally ended. Now I find myself gripped by nostalgia (gasp!) and I'm buying books like this. Go figure. I wonder, though, will the opposite be true? Will I eventually HATE the 90's, a decade I thought was pretty great? Maybe, but I digress...

Rettenmund does a tremendous job of categorizing the culture, music, movies, and tv shows of the 80's, placing them into neat little lists like "Ten Albums You Threw Out In Embarrassment in 1990 That You'd Give Anything To Have Back" or "Ten Big Action Flicks Of The 80's." He also adds a nice set of appendices at the end in case you'd like to see who won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 1982 (Men At Work) or the Emmy for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series in 1986 (John Larroquette). Very thorough.

I do have a few complaints, though. The greatest complaint being the absence of an index, for those of us who want to know where all of the Tears For Fears references are RIGHT AWAY. And I suppose the lists were the easiest way Rettenmund could present an overview of ten years of pop culture, but lists of this nature are always subjective in nature, aren't they? I mean, he calls Madonna's "Into The Groove" The ULTIMATE 80's Song (a great song but the ultimate one? I'm not sure...) and says "Rain Man" was one of the most overrated movies of the decade ("Out of Africa" being at the top of his list). Still, I doubt anyone is going to throw the book down in anger because Rettenmund thinks "Out Of Africa" was the most overrated movie of the decade (except for Meryl Streep maybe).[Read more ›](#)

If you are looking for a book that will take you back to to the decade of Flashdance, Miami Vice, etc, this is it! The book certainly hits all the highlights (and lowlights) of the 80's; covering movies, music, and tv in separate sections and starting it all off with an overview of people and events.

However the commentary of the author all but ruined it for me. As a fan of snark, I am all for poking some fun at a decade filled with targets. But few of the comments are fun. They are either not funny, barbed, or just plain out of line and wrong! For those who want to remember a decade teeming with quirks fondly, to have the author taking rude potshots at everything and everyone in a patronizing way just sucks the fun right out of it.

Also there were glaring errors to be found even in a casual read through. Add that to the authors very annoying tendency to make assumptions about things such as a bands motivation for writing a song or naming themselves something without any basis for his observations takes all credibility out of the information. This book must have taken a lot of time, too bad the research was done on the bias, and so is the final product.

Do you love the 80's like I do? This will bring it all back to you in one book. The topics covered are

current events, fashion, music, TV, and movies. Special attention is paid to the last three especially. I think fans of 80's music will love this the most. It covers everything from Lionele Richie, to Madonna, to Depehe Mode. As for movies, don't forget E.T., The Breakfast Club, and Back to the Future. In the realm of TV, The A Team comes on strong, the Dukes of Hazard wreck their car, and Arnold says "Whatchootalkinabout Willis?"

Ever wanted to re-vist the 80s and relive all the wonderful memories? Or perhaps learn about that time you might be too young to remember? Matthew Rettenmund's "Totally Awsome 80s" is the best place to start. At just over 160 pages, it gives you loads of trivia in such areas as important world events, pop music, movies, TV shows, scandals, and other items of interest.

The entire book is an easy read, since most areas are broken down into top 10-20 lists, with brief and often humorous commentary from the author. The most amusing section bar none is the "80sSpeak: The Idioms and Idiocias of 80s speech", which is an alphabetical dictionary of sorts outlining various 80s slang that was all the rage back then. From the teen slang ("Rad", "Gnarly", "Tubular"), to the annoying valley girl slang ("Fer Shur", "Gag me with a spoon", "Spazzing"), to the sexual innuendos ("Do The Wild Thing", "Get Horizontal", "Do The Nasty"). The list goes on. The book also covered more serious topics, like the greatest historical events (collapse of the Berlin Wall), and the biggest disasters (the AIDS epidemic). Also, for your reading pleasure, there is a look at the trends in fashion and art, which will either have you saying "Oh, fond memories" or "What the @\$% were we thinking?"

The most useful sections are the music and movie chapters. The music chapter has a great list entitled "The 80 Quintessentially 80s songs", which has a list of some of the best tracks from the decade - great for people looking to get into the music and who don't know where to start. The movies chapter outlines the best in action, drama, comedy, horror, and the best and worst of the decade. Each is broken down into a top 20 list for easy reference. [Read more ’](#)

The first pop reference book to capture the spirit of the 80s experience, Totally Awesome 80s chronicles not only pop music but also the faces, places, fads, fashions, movies, television shows, toys, and videos that defined the "Greed Decade". From skinny ties to Valspeak to the birth of MTV, no 80s cultural trend is overlooked in this comprehensive tribute to all things 80s. 300 photos.

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"Matthew Rettenmund, with his sharp eye and his knowing prose, sounds like one of the freshest voices on the block."--The New York Times Book Review "Matthew Rettenmund not only gets it all down, he gets it all right."--Kurt Loder, MTV News, on Encyclopedia Madonnica "Matthew Rettenmund is a clever and witty new writer."--Greg Johnson, author of Pagan Babies

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Tubular! Just kidding -- The '80s really was the coolest decade that has existed on this planet, and this book's purpose is to prove that! The following quote: "We are the most diverse generation in recent history, with a fully integrated pantheon of gods and goddesses and with so much trivial knowledge that it puts to shame our forebears with their simplistic reminiscences of poodle skirts

and Elvis' pelvis," says it all about this book! It is mostly written in a list format from most famous moments in American History during the '80s (which would make it an excellent resource for kids studying '80s history) to music, tv, movies, and other pop culture events. I give it four stars because this book could be a great reference for kids studying the '80s, but clearly is not written for kids because of the colorful language integrated within the descriptions and explanations written throughout the book. However the language does add to the '80s feeling of the book, but is also very "PG," if not "R" in some places. Overall, I greatly appreciate the work that was put into this work -- very nostalgic and thoroughly done.

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