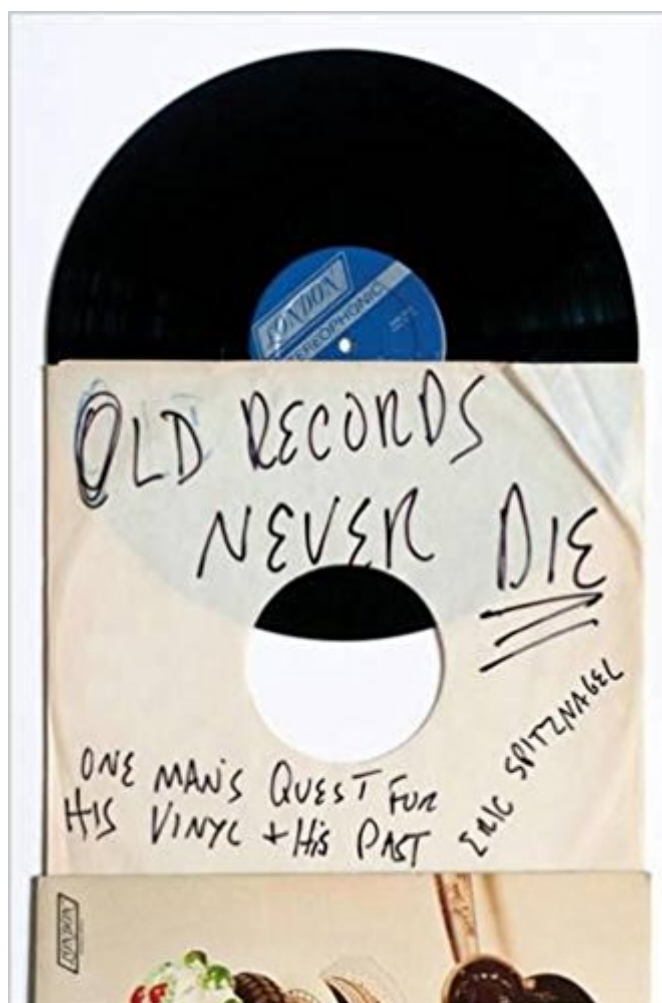


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Old Records Never Die: One Man's Quest For His Vinyl And His Past



Synopsis

A Hudson Booksellers Best Non-Fiction Book of the Year, with foreword by Wilco's Jeff Tweedy

High Fidelity meets *Killing Yourself to Live* when one man searches for his lost record collection. As he finds himself within spitting distance of middle-age, journalist Eric Spitznagel feels acutely the loss of something. Freedom? Maybe. Coolness? Could be. The records he sold in a financial pinch? Definitely. To find out for sure, he sets out on a quest to find the original vinyl artifacts from his past. Not just copies. The exact same records: The Bon Jovi record with his first girlfriend's phone number scrawled on the front sleeve. The Kiss *Alive II* he once shared with his little brother. The Replacements *Let It Be* he's pretty sure, 20 years later, would still smell like weed. As he embarks on his hero's journey, he reminisces about the actual records, the music, and the people he listened to it with—old girlfriends, his high school pals, and, most poignantly, his father and his young son. He explores the magic of music and memory as he interweaves his adventures in record-culture with questions about our connection to our past, the possibility of ever recapturing it, and whether we would want to if we could. "Memories are far more indelible when married to the physical world, and Spitznagel proves the point in this vivid book. We love vinyl records because they combine the tactile, the visual, the seeable effects of age and care and carelessness. When he searches for the records he lost and sold, Spitznagel is trying to return to a tangible past, and he details that process with great sensitivity and impact." —Dave Eggers, New York Times bestselling author of *The Circle*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Calling someone’s work Nick Hornby-like is a bit cliché, but Spitznagel gives high fidelity to Hornby’s feel for music and its relationship to life. •New York Post “In this, *Old Records Never Die* finds its true purpose. It’s a classic, a High Fidelity-esque revelation that has Spitznagel in the midst of a ‘what does it all mean?’ moment wherein he begins exploring what-if situations and finding that things often pan out just as they should. •Pop Matters “Spitznagel knows that a good story can sometimes lead to a greater truth. •KQED “Think of it as an updated version of High Fidelity. •Pause and Play.com “Memories are far more indelible when married to the physical world, and Spitznagel proves the point in this vivid book. We love vinyl records because they combine the tactile, the visual, the seeable effects of age and care and carelessness. When he searches for the records he lost and sold, Spitznagel is trying to return to a tangible past, and he details that process with great sensitivity and impact. •Dave Eggers, author of *The Circle* “Spitznagel’s quest for the actual records of his youth could have been a gimmick. Instead it’s a touching exploration of loss: of opportunities, of loved ones, of the ability to even remotely discern what’s hip. Hilarious and heartfelt, this is a book for anyone who has ever spent entire years of their lives haunting record stores, dissecting the merits of Doolittle, and studying liner notes with the intense focus of a Talmudic scholar. •Jancee Dunn, author of *But Enough About Me* “I’m working on a list of things that make me laugh harder than Eric Spitznagel’s writing. So far, it includes old Albert Brooks movies, videos of animals riding bicycles and, well, that’s about it. What I’m trying to say is: Eric Spitznagel is hilarious. And this book is perfectly Spitznagelian: Funny, smart, even a bit wistful at times. The way he feels about the Pixies is so similar to the way I feel about Spitznagel’s writing. •AJ Jacobs, author of *The Year of Living Biblically* “A funny and heartfelt memoir about music collecting that gives birth to a new branch of social science: Gen-X archaeology. •Neal Pollack, author of *Alternadad* “The perfect combination of a vinyl completist’s dream and nightmare. •Patton Oswalt, author of *Zombie Spaceship Wasteland* “To say *Old Records Never Die* is a book about music is to say *On The Road* is a book about cars. Really, Eric Spitznagel’s energetic and endlessly engaging memoir is a book about the ways we

seek to discover and recover our essential selves. Music lovers will love this book; unrepentant nostalgiacs, like myself, can expect to be absolutely riveted. —Davy Rothbart, creator of Found Magazine and author of *My Heart is an Idiot* —“I can’t remember when a book had me get out my black pen and underline so many wonderful things. Maybe never. Loss and laughter and all those denizens of sonic ghost town record stores willing but often unable to make us all whole again. Something on every page to stoke the geek heart with sad recognition and hope.” —Marc Spitz, author of *Poseur: A Memoir of Downtown New York City in the 90s* —Eric Spitznagel is just like Captain Ahab, if Ahab were chasing Billy Joel albums instead of a white whale. As he recounts in this very funny book, Spitznagel found way more than he bargained for. And just like Ahab, he dies in the end. (Spoiler alert.) —Rob Tannenbaum, co-author of *I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution*

Eric Spitznagel is an Executive Writer at *Men’s Health*. He’s also written for magazines like *Rolling Stone*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *Billboard*, and the *New York Times Magazine*, among many others. He’s the author of six books, one of which was translated into German and features a cat on the cover for no apparent reason. He lives in Chicago with his wife and son, the latter of whom wants to be a “mad scientist” when he grows up. (That’s now in print, so the author intends to hold him to it.)

What can I say, beyond the fact that Eric Spitznagel is a master at his craft, and hysterically funny, to boot. He’s also very skilled at pulling the reader into the moment, making you a willing participant (without being maudlin!) in his wild chase for the things in our youth that we think got away. The book arrived within 48 hours, so order yours now and set aside the third day to dive into a melee of memories which you will, on one level or another, identify with.

Eric’s musical past and mine are quite similar. He writes about the visceral ‘album’ experience with wit and honesty. If you’re around fifty, you will especially enjoy his various recollections of teenage lust and social awkwardness against the backdrop of the 1980s and 90s music world. His decision to track down not just the music of his youth but the actual, physical record ALBUMS leads to several humorous adventures and inevitable self-realizations. Also, the subjects of aging, parenting and marriage are occasionally addressed in context. If you are even casually interested in vintage vinyl and semi-punk ethos, read this book.

The book was a gift for a real 'record buff'. Although the author is younger and wrote about a different time period, the recipient could absolutely relate to his quest to find his lost records.

This book is about so much more than records. I have the same nostalgic memories and stories with my own songs/albums. A great read and so many funny one liners. If you collect records, cd's, or just love music this is an amazing book.

Very, very funny and an easy read. Definitely should be on everyone's list.

Clearly written by a genius...you will not be able to put it down until you have read the entire book from cover to cover.

Only on the first few chapters, I'm digin it so far. Super fast shipping. I'm talking lightning speed. Thanks!

One of the most entertaining books I've read in years. Mr. Spitznagel is hilarious!

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