

# The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs

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## **The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs** Martin Popoff

Formed in London in 1976 by Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, and Paul Simonon at the outset of that city's punk rock boom, The Clash went on to outlast their peers and create some of the most influential albums in rock 'n' roll—not just punk—even breaching the mainstream in 1982 and earning the title “The Only Band That Matters” along the way. In their eight-year career, The Clash offered six CBS Records studio releases, including one double and one triple LP, and increasingly melded influences ranging from rockabilly to ska, reggae, and even hip-hop into their sound.

Veteran music journalist Martin Popoff dissects each of the 103 tracks, including the circumstances that led to their creation, the recording processes, the historical contexts, and more. In addition, an introductory essay sets the scene for each album, while sidebar features explore influences on the band, album art, non-LP singles, the band's staunch political stance, and song details, such as running time, instruments played, engineers, and studios.

## **The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs Details**


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# From Reader Review The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs for online ebook

## Vanessa says

Must have overview of The Clash in all their glory peppered with some fantastic photographs and ephemera; some of the "rock writing" style used here gets under my damn skin in that hyperbolic, overly-serious yet painfully hip way, so watch out if you have a low tolerance for comparing guitar riffs to mortar fire, for example. A strong recommend, if parsed out in bits and pieces.

I received an ecopy from the publishers and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## Jay Gabler says

Exactly what it promises. I reviewed *The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs* for The Current.

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## Kirsty &#x1f4da;&#x1f4d6;♥? says

This is a stunning book with a breakdown song by song with accompanying photos, art work and much more.

It's comprehensive and just full of information. A must have for fans

free arc from netgalley

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## Mim Inkling says

The Clash are a British institution. A little before my time, but everybody knows the hits: London Calling, Rock the Kasbah. They're part of our history. A generation too late, nevertheless I grew up on them. We all do. And, the author, Martin Popoff, is a heavyweight in the world of rock and metal stories. He wrote *Agents of Fortune: The Blue Oyster Cult Story*, books about Ozzy Osbourne and Whitesnake. The man knows his music, and I was delighted to receive a copy of the book from the publisher.

They're also not a band I know a huge amount about, besides the names of the band members, a few songs, and that they were part of the punk movement. I felt I could stand a little education in this area.

First things first: *The Clash: All the Albums, All the Songs* is a book for the fans. If you don't know anything about the band, start with Wikipedia or something. This is not a history lesson. I didn't come away with a vast amount more knowledge about who they were as people, how the band formed, or why they quit. What was interesting in particular though, was Popoff's thoughts on how The Clash related to mainstream culture, and vice versa, and their role and relationship to the wider movements happening within music at that time.

That being said, bear in mind that this book is a song by song exploration of The Clash's music. This is more a literary documentary than coffee table fluff. If you weren't a fan, if the band didn't mean anything to you, you'd probably find it a bit much. It's really detailed, for one, and written in the language of musicians; phrases like "musical architecture" and discussion of bass lines and rhythm. It doesn't necessarily make for light reading. But if you like the band, and know the songs, it's fascinating.

The layout and images are colourful, bright, eye-catching, and interesting in and of themselves. They tell the story of an era, as much as of one band. They were clearly chosen thoughtfully, as there was a good mixture of memorabilia, flyers, album covers, and the like. If you're interested in British musical history, this book is good value for the images alone.

I enjoyed the book, though perhaps didn't know enough about the band and their songs in the first place to make the most of Popoff's intelligent and considered commentary. I would recommend it for die-hard Clash fans, or anyone with a general interest in rock and metal musical history.

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## **Literary Soirée says**

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THE CLASH gives you an insider's look at this iconic punk band by veteran music journalist Martin Popoff. Includes elegant descriptions of the group's 100+ tracks, with photos, posters, album art, and more of interest to the rabid fan, of which there are legion. Terrific bio! 5/5

Grateful to the Quarto Publishing Group - Voyageur Press and NetGalley for the early copy, in exchange for my true review.

#TheClash #NetGalley

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## **Beth says**

Through short but descriptive essays on - you guessed it - each album and each song, the evolution of The Clash unfolds, as does the state of music and the world during the time (both in England and all over the globe, thanks to Joe and The Clash's willingness to "be political"). These are accompanied by tons of great photos, record artwork, posters, fliers and ticket stubs. A really great look at "the only band that matters."

\*Thanks to NetGalley for the ARC, provided by the author and/or the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Perry says**

I didn't know much about this band, but appreciated the way they incorporated various musical styles and current films. I liked the format of this book more than the Pink Floyd book, even if I generally prefer Floyd's music.

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## Keith Chawgo says

The book is an interesting take and although it lacks the history of the group, we do get centred information around their albums and songs in full details. The interesting thing is that Popoff is able to delve deep into his understanding and background history of the songs and recordings as a whole. It is very seldom that the average punter gets an in-depth look at the output more than what you will find in this publications.

Beautifully presented with album cover art, photographs and single art work, this is a masterclass on how to put a book together. If you are not a fan of this classic group, this book may leave you a little cold or it may open your mind to check it out and dive into the phenomena which is The Clash.

The only downfall would be the lack of some more background on the group itself, dynamics and overall group but again, this information is pretty easy to source through internet and other books about this group as a whole. The back catalogue of information is really where this book is focussed and it does shine in this respect.

This is a definite for any fan of The Clash and those with a mild interest in performance, song writing and musical architecture of song and recording building. It may not be for everyone but those who decide to bask in the glory of the music, album and songs will not be disappointed.

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## Aaron Badgley says

Excellent resource about The Clash and their studio output.

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## Dave says

London calling to the zombies of death  
Quit holding out and draw another breath  
London calling and I don't want to shout  
But when we were talking I saw you nodding out  
London calling,...

Popoff is one of the most knowledgeable rock critics out there. Here, he gives us song by song and album by album the Clash, one of the most amazing rock-punk bands ever. Filled with bright popping photos, this book is your one-stop sourcebook on the Clash. Read it through once and then return to it as you listen to the different tracks. Somehow I always thought their catalog was bigger. And at any rate, all these songs are required to be played at maximum volume.

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## Nestor Rychtyckyj says

The importance of the Clash cannot be overstated even though they haven't been a band since 1983 (I don't count the "Cut the Crap" version of the Clash). The latest entry in my Clash library is by noted rock writer

Martin Popoff (he also wrote “Ramones at 40”) and discusses all 91 of the Clash songs that appeared on their albums (including “Cut the Crap”). The title is slightly misleading as “All the Songs” does not include the singles that were not included on the albums (example “1977”). Nevertheless, the book should be valuable to anybody that still worships the “only band that matters”, as I obviously do.

The book is filled with color pictures of the band, flyers, record covers from releases that I had never seen and all sorts of cool Clash memorabilia. Each album is introduced with a discussion of the recording process and then Martin Popoff analyzes the album song by song. He is hindered by the same constraints that any writer has with the Clash: Joe is long gone and neither Mick, Paul or Topper seems interested in talking about the band or their songs. Therefore, the only input about the motivation behind a song is based on old interviews or the author’s own opinion. This generally works well but trying to decipher what Joe or Mick were thinking about 35 years ago when they wrote a particular tune is a bit dicey. However, we do get some very informative interviews with the late Sandy Pearlman, Mickey Gallagher, Ellen Foley and Bernie Rhodes who discuss their roles while recording with the Clash.

The inclusion of “Cut the Crap” is debatable; it is not included in the definitive Clash collection “Sound Box”, but Martin Popoff does a good job of going through the entire album and playing the “well this would have been a good song if” routine that we all do. I also appreciate his discussion of “Sandanista” – my repeated listenings of the entire 3-record set have mellowed my harsh criticisms since I first heard it in 1980, but I agree that this would have been a great double album and side 6 is not ever required. Let’s also forget Combat Rock for now and focus on the first three brilliant albums. I’m somewhat spoiled after reading Marcus Gray’s “Route 19 Revisited” where he spent 500 pages talking only about London Calling, so I would have liked to hear more about the early Clash albums. But that’s nitpicking – this is a valuable contribution to the Clash history.

Two last points:

- Page 73 includes a part of the flyer from the Clash show at Masonic Temple in Detroit on September 17th, 1979 where I first saw the Clash.
- “Train in Vain” seems to almost deserve a chapter of its own. Marcus Grey has his interpretation of the song while Martin Popoff presents three possibilities for Mick’s song. I’m very inclined to believe Viv Albertine’s version which she discussed in her awesome book “Clothes, Music, Boys” where she talks about Mick taking the train across town to visit her and she wouldn’t let him in. I guess we’ll never know for sure unless Mick decides to write his own book.

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## MissBecka says

Thanks to NetGalley and Quarto Publishing Group – Voyageur Press for hookin' me up with a copy!

Let me start off by saying Martin Popoff is a research genius.

The guy can find out anything about everything.

This book was no exception.

If you haven't read any of his work, get on it!

He gave me the history and inspiration of every album and every song by The Clash.

It was amazing learning weird little facts behind some of my favourite Clash lyrics and how the ideas for them came to fruition. The details behind Janie Jones were particularly scandalous!

If you like The Clash...or even if you don't...pick this one up and give a read.

There's a bunch of cool press shots and facts for anyone who likes music!

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## **Deborah says**

The Clash are my favourite band.

They've had some strong competition over the years most recently in the form of the Arctic Monkeys. But the Clash still reigns supreme. They proved to be so much more than just a punk band, developing and growing to produce some real classics.

I was 14 years old when punk started and I loved it. Even now, so many years later it still occupies a large portion of my playlist.

This book is for Clash fans. It's about the albums and the songs and it makes for fascinating reading. We're given information on each album and every song.

For example the song Garageland was written in response to a negative review by Charles Shaar Murray. He referred to them as a garage band that should essentially go back to the garage, close the door and leave the engine running.

After reading this I think it's time to mix up my playlist again (something I aim to do every couple of months).

At the moment it contains:

White Man in Hammersmith Palais. (Actually it always contains this since it's my favourite).

Career Opportunities

Car Jamming

London's Burning

Safe European Home

Lost in the Supermarket

Overpowered by Funk

It's so difficult to pick just a few each time.

I remember my parents saying punk wouldn't last, it was just people who couldn't play or sing and in five years time they'd all be forgotten.

Well for me they live on and books like this bring all the memories and feelings back.

Along with The Clash I always have several Sex Pistols tracks and usually some Siouxsie and the Banshees, Buzzcocks, Stiff Little Fingers and The Stranglers on my playlist.

My one regret is that I never saw them live.

I voluntarily read a review copy kindly provided by NetGalley.

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## **Shawn Conner says**

A must-have for fans of The Clash. Great selection of pics and strong writing; Popoff is especially good when describing drum patterns and sounds and also parsing genres (not an easy task when it comes to a band

as adventurous as The Clash). My main quibble is that it's not quite "all the songs" though it does cover all the songs on the albums (not eps or b-sides) and even has a section on Strummer/Jones' work on Ellen Foley's Spirit of St. Louis. For this fan, that alone was worth the price.

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