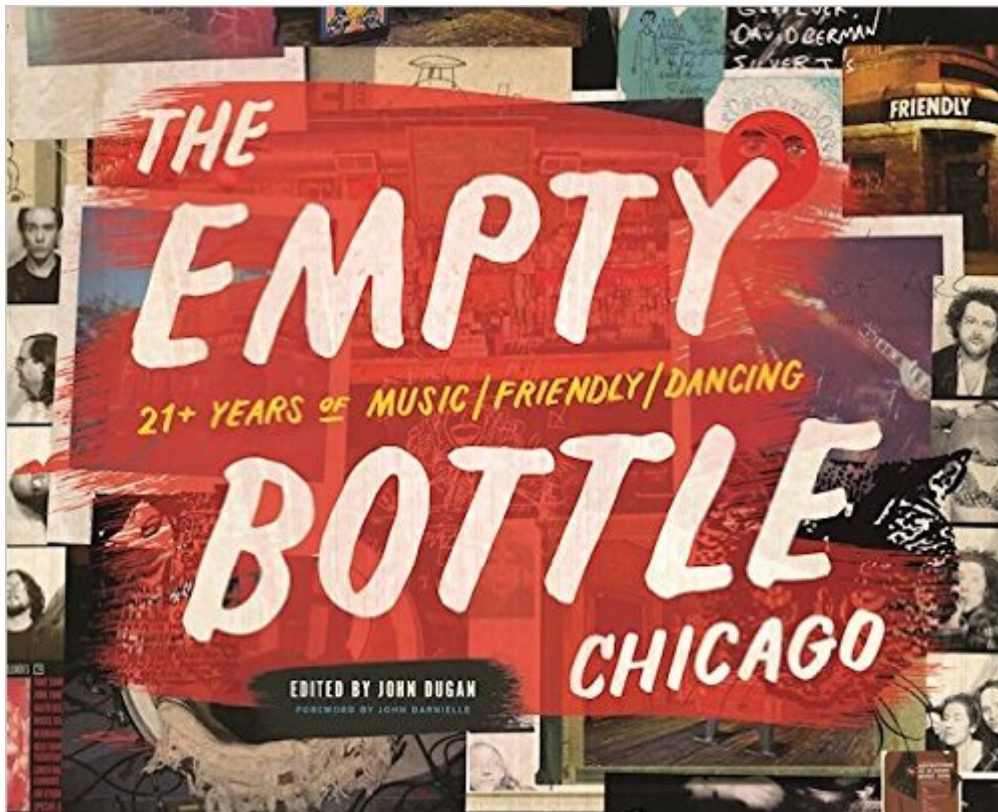# The Empty Bottle Chicago: 21+ Years Of Music / Friendly / Dancing

Synopsis

Cheap drinks, bathroom grafitti, and formidable performances have ruled for nearly a quarter of a century at Chicagoâ ™s Empty Bottle. From this collection of photographs, interviews, and essays culled from a community of music fans, bartenders, booking agents, bouncers, and underground musicians emerges a kaleidoscopic history of this influential hole-in-the-wall rock venue, named one of "The Best Rock Clubs in America" by Rolling Stone.Featuring a foreword by John Darnielle of The Mountain Goats and first hand interviews with members of The Flaming Lips, Interpol, Low, OK Go, Vandermark Five, Girl Talk, The Rapture, Red Red Meat, The Sea and Cake, and more, as well as rarely-seen, full-color photographs and reproductions of original silkscreen gig posters, this collection is the tell-all confessional from a bar with countless stories to share. Each anecdote is an opportunity to relive experiences that seem conceivable only at the Bottle: watching The Flaming Lips play for a capacity crowd; shooting pool with Krist Novoselic of Nirvana; standing ten feet away from Arcade Fire as they perform a show that could be best described as a “spiritual tent revival for secular indie rock fans.â •Those who choose to read the book cover to cover will find that many of the stories intersect and mutate, remarking on the complexities of memory, giving in to the growing older, and what it means to look back on a particular time in your life and realize you were part of something bigger than yourself. As musician and contributor Bobby Conn remarked, "It's not really the place. It's everyone making it happen there."John Darnielle is a writer, composer, guitarist, and vocalist for the band the Mountain Goats. His debut novel Wolf in White Van was released in 2015. He lives in Durham, North Carolina, with his wife and son.

Book Information

Hardcover: 274 pages

Publisher: Curbside Splendor Publishing (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1940430542

ISBN-13: 978-1940430546

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 0.9 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #284,076 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #29 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Paper Ephemera & Cards > Paper Ephemera   #119 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism   #808

Customer Reviews

An amazing book, both visually stunning and a joy to read cover to cover. Not just a book about a dive bar music venue (though one of the more iconic music venues in the country), but about a unique place that for now 25 years has developed a community and launched the careers of countless musicians, artists, businesses, and more. A book about the importance of Chicago's 90's indie music scene. A business book about what it takes to start and run such a tough business for this long.

Lots of interesting comments about the best bar for music in Chicago for the past 21 years.

As of today (7/1/16), this book has 1 review. It's 5 stars and a lot of glowing verbiage. It was written by the publisher of the book, so you'd hope that they like the book enough to give it 5 stars.While writing glowing reviews of books from which you hope to profit might seem shady to some, I'd argue it's the PERFECT review for this book, since nowhere in it's 274 pages does it mention the fact that the Empty Bottle was full of asbestos that the owner bribed inspectors to ignore, thus endangering the lives of all of the employees and bands who played there.That's Chicago, baby.

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