



Recipe for Hate

Warren Kinsella

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How a group of Portland, Maine, punks defeated a murderous gang of neo-Nazis.

The X Gang is a group of punks led by the scarred, silent, and mostly unreadable Christopher X. His best friend, Kurt Blank, is a hulking and talented punk guitarist living in the closet. Sisters Patti and Betty Upchuck form the core of the feminist Punk Rock Virgins band, and are the closest to X and Kurt. Assorted hangers-on and young upstarts fill out the X Gang's orbit: the Hot Nasties, the Social Blemishes, and even the legendary Joe Strummer of the Clash. Together, they've all but taken over Gary's, an old biker bar. Then over one dark weekend, a bloody crime nearly brings it all to an end.

Based on real events, Warren Kinsella tells the story of the X Gang's punk lives — the community hall gigs, the antiracism rallies, the fanzines and poetry and art, and what happened after the brutal murders of two of their friends.

Recipe for Hate Details

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Author : Warren Kinsella

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From Reader Review Recipe for Hate for online ebook

Tristan says

This was a very good book from start to finish. The interesting name and cover art caught my attention at first, and I'm glad I was able to read it because it was very interesting. I was drawn into the story from the very beginning. In conclusion, I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in suspenseful stories.

Lisa says

This was one of those books that normally I wouldn't read, but since I'm melodrama mama lately, "think menopausal mess!" I'm trying new things that I usually wouldn't have...I was initially taken in by the description of based on a true story, and all that entails. What I couldn't find was the true story that it was based on. Bummer. I spent hours searching, but to no avail. If anyone does have a link to the true story then I'd really appreciate it if they sent it to me. So, on with my meandering review! I loved X. I've been lucky to come across a rare few like him in my life, and they've added something to me that I hadn't even known was missing. Kurt Blank on the other hand is someone I've crossed paths with more often, and they've added nothing. Kurt seemed to be so caught up in not being a lemming, "his words" that he struck me as someone who really was. Punk Rock was not, is not, nor ever will be the best of everything, as Kurt thinks. I also liked punk. I also liked country, disco, pop, rock and roll, rap, soul, new wave, etc. I think that if you're closed off to all music, then you really aren't expanding your horizons. Kurt was a true and faithful friend, but he was also the lemmings that he railed so hard against. This whole book was good. I find it almost unbelievable though, and had it been written as fiction then it would have received the 5 star treatment. Hell, if there had been something in the afterword relating to what was real and what wasn't, then I'd still have given it 5 stars. It's the not knowing that bugs the crap out of me! As always, my thanks to Dundurn Press, and Netgalley for this free galley copy to read and review.

Shannon Ozirny says

Warren Kinsella's many professions include author, political strategist and commentator. Is YA author now on the list? Yes and no. Kinsella's latest book is published for teens and, in many ways, shines as a book for mature younger readers. It focuses on two teenage best friends—Kurt Blank and X—leaders in Maine's burgeoning 1978 punk scene. When their friend is brutally murdered outside of a club, it's the beginning of a very dark, violent time for Kurt, X and their punk crew. Portrayals of rebellious and non-conforming teens can feel reductive or contrived but Kinsella nails it without any stereotyping or embellishment. Though this authenticity will have big teen appeal, the novel is also part police procedural, part detailed history on the emergence of punk and part gritty murder mystery, all elements that skew more adult. Classification aside, it's absorbing, jarring and raw.

Enid Wray says

An interesting trip down memory lane for readers of a certain ‘vintage’... the soundtrack of your parent’s youth! The Sex Pistols, The Ramones, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Patti Smith, Modern Love, Iggy Pop, Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe, Devo... and, of course, The Clash.

Mind though your expectations as you prepare to read this novel. While it is literary fiction, it reads very much like (literary) non-fiction. A little background research on the author is worth embarking on prior to beginning your read.

The book is told, mostly, from Kurt’s PoV sometime in the future. But, it is not always Kurt’s PoV. This makes for a different reading experience, one which, admittedly, takes a little getting used to as the changes in voice are sometimes not as well delineated as they could be.

Notwithstanding that minor criticism, there is some really good - and oh so timely!! - stuff here. The trip back in time to understand the roots of punk - as a protest movement and as creating artistic possibilities, not just in music, but also in art and photography, and whatever else - will have you firmly in its grip. Certainly there are lots of parallels to be drawn to our current political moment. There’s also some humour - especially that to support environmental causes was to be considered to be ‘counter cultural’. Imagine that!... Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

While the book is set in the US, the movement, the time, the events in the novel were happening around the world, including here in Canada. In fact, the events in the novel are very much a mash up of a number of individual events that happened in various places across Canada (including the Clash concert they go to in the book which would have been the one that happened on Feb 16th, 1979... and which saw The Clash come to Toronto on the same tour at the O’Keefe Centre that same September, the 26th).

Hunter Faulkner says

I really enjoyed this book and I know I have students who would as well. I think the characterization is nicely done and the characters feel genuine. The pacing seems to really keep a nice pace too, I think it could have veered off into wasted pages, but the author really managed to keep a building pace until a pretty wild crescendo. The book is very action packed and has some rather graphic and violent parts, and also contains more than a few choice words. These could be a problem for some people, but the curse words are used for effect and not dropped every sentence and the violence, while graphic was not gratuitous. I would definitely recommend this book to some of my students, I have already told some of my junior and senior boys about it and that I think they would enjoy it.

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

Many thanks to Warren Kinsella, Dundurn, and Netgalley for the free copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review.

This plot was a bit surreal. I had to keep reminding myself that it was based on true events because the narrator seemed absolutely implausible. Kurt must have never let X go to the bathroom he was so attached to his side. So if I were to take that out of the equation I could believe that some of this occurred. But I think the book would benefit from a more thorough author’s note or an historical timeline something to that effect.

I guess I'm just really bothered by the narrator. It really comes down to that. He's just always **RIGHT THERE**. **ALWAYS** I mean if that were truly the case he would have been a suspect. Again it's surreal

Greyson [Use Your Words] says

Thank you to Netgalley for providing me an advanced reader copy in exchange for my honest review.

The first time I heard “Anarchy in the UK” by the Sex Pistols, I said to X: “This is a world where I can finally breathe.” Like lots of others, I wasn't the same after that.

I'm a sucker for educated rebellion.

Recipe for Hate, set in the late 70's, follows Kurt, X and the rest of the Punk scene in Portland, Maine, when a punk kids start being murdered in the area. Kurt and X both work to determine who the killer is while facing backlash from those around them. This book is an analyzation of the villainizing of youth subcultures.

Being punk means being pissed off. Punks have pushed young people to embrace the transforming power of anger.

My mother was a punk as a teenager, she wasn't a teen until the early 90's but Australia has always been a bit behind the rest of the world. While other kids doodled illustrations in the margins of their friends books my mother kept it simple writing only **PUNK** in bold letters. To be fair she had a lot to be angry over, he was rebellious and curious by nature, so it was only natural she's turn to a subculture like Punk. She's worked to have bogus laws changed, she challenges every single boss in every single workplace she's ever had. When I'm angry about injustice, she's who I turned to because I know she'll get angry with me, then I don't feel like I'm just screaming into the void.

PUNK IS WHAT WE MAKE. Punk is about trying to scratch out some meaning in a big old world that seems pretty meaningless, most days. It's about being angry at being lied to, and cower behind, even if you know you're the one who is probably going to get hurt. Punk is about raging against all the powers that be, to try and make things better, if only for just an instant. Punk is something that is real, and holding onto it like your life depends on it.

Which, when you get right down to it, it does.

Luckily for me, I inherited my mother's predisposition of questioning all authority, challenging social norms, and the belief that we should hold those in power accountable. After all, youth subcultures are only in existence because kids see through shit far better than adults, they don't stand for corruption. They're not jaded by adulthood.

So there's a reason why people are looking to YA literature, why it's on the front line of social change. It's no longer a genre restricted for teens that side steps all the tough and real subjects in life in favor for fluffy stories, providing only escape. It's showing the world for what it is, it's bring attention to our faulty systems on which the world runs, and dismantling them It's pointing out the ways we as human beings have failed each other, and are continuing to fail those who need the most help while helping those who don't.

“PUNK KIDS LINKED TO SATANIC CULTS.”

What the fuck?

Other media pulled the same sort of crap. None of the reporters and editors appeared to notice, or care, that

it was punks that had been the actual victims. It didn't matter to them.

Recipe for Hate is a stark example of this, it shows just how much hate can poison people, especially when that hate is ingrained in uneducated and unfounded rationalization.

It's a too real example of when shit hits the fan and a marginalized group or one deemed as 'other' is attacked, with people dying or getting hurt, it's often that same group that is blamed. "If they only...", "Well, maybe they should have...", "It's their own fault, if they'd just...".

The X Philosophy of the world decreed that human beings are flawed, so human institutions are flawed, too. "People are stupid, and they come together to do stupid things," X said, shrugging, when I asked him how a punk like him could still periodically attend Mass, as he did. "The church does stupid things, but so does every other institution, group, government, union, or corporation. They are only as good or as bad as the people who make them up."

Recipe for Hate also shows how too often when a hate group forms, their way of fixing what they view to be as the problem of our society is to just wipe whole groups of people out. Blood is apparently how to make our world clean but they seem to forget, that shit fucking stains. It is never okay to play God, to choose who does and doesn't deserve to die. I don't give a fuck how rooted in religion your faction is, humans don't have any right in playing God.

At that gig, one Portland cop hustled straight up to X's younger sister, Bridget, who was the most un-punk-looking kid there, and demanded that she spit out her gum that she was chewing— into his hand. Bridget, shocked, did. We then watched speechless as the cop brought the gum up to his nose and sniffed it repeatedly like a dog. He was looking for the odor of drugs, apparently. "Wow," I whispered to X, "good thing these morons don't carry guns or anything."

Recipe of Hate feels like a call of arms to fight back, and that's because it is. Recipe of Hate is a megaphone scream for us to "just fucking do something", in a time where basic human rights are at risk, USA has never been less united and the rest of the world is just bracing for the fallout when shit finally well and truly hits the fan. Although this novel is set in the 70's, it's a story that's relevant now, just as much as it would have been back then.

“Well, I say that punk is all about the future. Getting one. Keeping it.”

?Blog?Instagram?Twitter?Tumblr?

Michelle says

This was an intriguing read. I really have no background knowledge of punk or the punk scene, so learning about it was interesting. I enjoyed the mystery of the murders and was shocked by the ending. The writing was easy to follow and the characters were believable. I have a number of student who I think will enjoy reading this book.

Rachel Seigel says

The second book in the series is being re-branded as adult, but I really enjoyed this and think it definitely

should be read by older high school students. The events in this book mirror a lot of what's happening now, and it's a really engaging and fast read. I've downloaded an ARC of the 2nd book and look forward to reading it.

Anne says

Warren Kinsella likely relives his misspent rocking youth in this lively mystery about the punk rock scene in the late 1970s. From snippets of actual punk/racist news, Kinsella sets a story in Portland, Maine where a group of young punk enthusiasts led by the enigmatic and intelligent Christopher "X" find themselves at odds with the police and justice system when two of their friends are mysteriously and brutally killed. More deaths occur and yet the police seemed determined to set the blame squarely in the punk scene, despite obvious clues that there is more horror and hate and even religion involved. It is up to The X Gang to solve the crimes which they do with a little help from their biker friends.

Recipe for Hate is a real page-turner despite also being a fictional history of punk rock, its philosophy and its musical greats. Narrated by X's best friend, Kurt Blank, some twenty years or so after the fact, the story still works well and its pace is maintained by short breathy chapters (60+), although this sometimes creates some choppy plotting and incredulity for the reader. There's just enough profanity for the older adolescent!

Rosemary Standeven says

This unusual crime novel is told from the viewpoint of one of the intended victims. Kurt and his friends don't fit in anywhere. They are the school misfits, useless at sport, generally scrawny and unloved – until Punk Rock happens. Suddenly, they have a home, an identity, a way of expressing their anger at the world. Needless to say, their conversion to Punk is not universally welcomed. They don't expect anyone to like them – being unloved fits in with their new-found confidence as part of a huge movement of outsiders. However, they also don't expect to be murdered for their taste in music.

One after the other, punks are targeted – murdered, or 'just' beaten within an inch of their lives. The authorities react as though the punks are to blame. Places where the punks would congregate are closed down. School and parents actively dissuade the punks from meeting their friends. The police seem ambivalent about catching the perpetrator(s), even though there is strong evidence pointing towards extreme right-wing racist groups and skinheads.

However, nothing is as clear cut as it seems. One of the main themes of this book is that you should never judge a book by its cover. The punk movement is by nature non-conformist. The music and dress code often feels like a slap in the face of traditional values and can be seen as offensive – but that doesn't mean that they are necessarily violent nor that they want to overthrow civilisation – but they do want to be heard.

Another group that seldom gets good press is the bikers. In this book, the individual bikers give much needed assistance to the punks, although their respective groups normally have little in common. A number of other groups in this book have particularly repellent ideologies. But, that does not necessarily mean that they are guilty of murder.

Justice is also a major theme. Should someone be imprisoned for holding abhorrent views, that may have (or may in the future) lead to criminal acts? Is killing another person ever justified, and should the police always investigate unexplained deaths?

A third theme is the destructive power of hate. Ideologies that advocate a "Recipe for Hate" against groups of people, can only lead to evil outcomes, that harm everyone.

I really liked the main punk characters in this book. They are very big on tolerance and acceptance, and operate on a gender, race and sexuality neutral basis – all are welcome in the punk fold. They come across as intelligent young people, well organised and competent, who care greatly about the world around them – even if the world does not care for them. Their world view contrasted greatly with that of the extreme right. I also enjoyed the sections on punk music's heroes and had the music playing as a backdrop when reading the book.

There is not a lot of character development in the book – there isn't really the time span for it, as the action takes place too quickly. But the named characters are fully realised and believable. The book is fast-paced, with some unexpected twists, and very readable – whether you are a punk fan or not.

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Kasey Giard says

I kind of can't resist books featuring punk kids or the late 70s era punk scene, and this book is both. It's raw and gritty and soaked in the passion for personal freedom, disdain for authority, and commitment to indie music which the punk scene is so known for. Reading it felt, to me, much like watching the movie SLC Punk.

While I loved the setting and all the punk culture, the style of the writing was hard to follow at times. The narrator, Kurt, would digress from the present into memories and backstory—all of which were interesting and added some flavor to the story, but made it a little confusing to keep the timeline straight.

Scenes jumped around from one perspective to another, revealing details the narrator, Kurt, wasn't present to witness. Sometimes he would explain he'd learned the details later. Especially toward the end of the book, as things begin to happen quickly, I found the narrative choppier. Sometimes the story would shift to a different scene or time within the same paragraph. I think it would have helped to have a hard break before each shift to make it easier to follow what's happening visually.

In terms of plot, Recipe for Hate had some really surprising moments which I didn't see coming. (I won't give anything away.) More than once the story took a turn I didn't expect—in a good way. The plot made sense but wasn't predictable.

The story contains a lot of profanity and some graphic descriptions of violence, so that may be a barrier to sensitive readers. See the content section for more specifics. If you like murder mystery with a sort of stream-of-consciousness style narration, you will want to check out Recipe for Hate.

Zachary Houle says

Ah, memories. I never really was a true punk fan, but I listened to my share of the genre in the '90s and early 2000s. I was into Hüsker Dü, and, for a period, I was involved in zine culture. I read Alternative Press religiously, too. So Warren Kinsella's new book for older young adults, titled Recipe for Hate after a Bad Religion song/album, certainly took me back. The book is set in Portland, Maine's fledgling punk scene in 1978 and '79. Punk bands rule the local biker bar. Punks make newspapers. And punks go and see the Clash perform live in Boston. The book is the stuff of good memories for a first-wave punk, so I suspect this book

will resonate with adults, too.

However, there is a deeper and darker edge to this story. Amid the glory of making the NME and getting signed to Stiff Records is a murder mystery. Skinheads are suspected to be behind the deaths of two young punks, friends of a punk mysteriously known as Christopher X?—?or just “X” as his friends call him. Seeing that punks kind of disdain the local police force, and that’s when the police seems to know what its doing, it’s up to X and his friends to solve the murders and a series of attempted murders.

Read the rest here: https://medium.com/@zachary_houle/a-r...

Arlen says

Thanks to NetGalley for the opportunity to preview yet another YA novel. This one, *Recipe for Hate* by Warren Kinsella, will be published December 5, 2017.

Because it is set in and around Portland, Maine, which was a favorite vacation spot of mine for 10 years and is where my husband and I met the son we adopted, I really wanted to like this more than I ended up doing. I think it's because, as far as storytelling goes, the setting overpowered the narrative. While the plot could have happened anywhere, Kinsella made Portland practically one of the characters. I would feel much more comfortable recommending this to my high school readers if I didn't think they'd be bored by all of the setting descriptions interrupting the flow of the story.

Other than that, though, when I could downplay the interference of setting descriptions, the story itself was compelling. Part cultural history, part murder mystery, *Recipe for Hate* helps today's readers understand the punk rock movement and see that the racism of neo-Nazis has been around for a while.

I required a bit of suspension-of-disbelief with the main character X as the hero. As a character, X was part *The Outsiders* and part Fonzie from *Happy Days* -- a tough underdog who was feared and revered by his peers and adults alike. The coincidences toward the end, of the punks using their acquaintances with bikers as allies and the police choosing to apply the law where it benefitted them, added to the surreal impossibilities of this being a realistic and not hyperbolic tale.

Readers will relate to the way the teens in this book think and are thought about by adults. They will be interested in reading how Kinsella describes the murders, the friendships, and kidnapping. This is where Kinsella's attention to detail allows readers' creative imaginations to flow - and Kinsella writes some great descriptive images. Unfortunately, then, the fact that this is all taking place in Maine intrudes on the narrative progression. I understood the importance of the plot occurring in "Small Town, USA." As a reader, though, I needed to know why it was so important that it happened in Portland. A map of Portland on the end pages would have been more useful, i.e., less intrusive, than precise details of streets in Portland.

As I said, I really liked the premise of the story - I just wish I hadn't been grounded to Portland or encountered a demigod-like X. (p.s. - I'm still not sure why the book is entitled *Recipe for Hate*.)

Kathryn Kania says

Reviewed for SLJ

I would like some sort of anything to show that this book was actually based on true events. I am severely doubting it at this point.
