

# [PDF] Songbook

## Nick Hornby - pdf download free book

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### Books Details:

Title: Songbook  
Author: Nick Hornby  
Released: 2003-10-07  
Language:  
Pages: 224  
ISBN: 1573223565  
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### Description:

The personal essays in Nick Hornby's *Songbook* pop off the page with the immediacy and passion of an artfully arranged mix-tape. But then, who better to riff on 31 of his favorite songs than the author of that literary music-lover's delight, ?

"And mostly all I have to say about these songs is that I love them, and want to sing along to them, and force other people to listen to them, and get cross when these other people don't like them as much as I do," writes Hornby. More than his humble disclaimer, he captures "the narcotic need" for repeat plays of 's "I'm Like a Bird," and testifies that "you can hear God" in 's coy reinterpretation of his father Loudon's "One Man Guy" ("given a neat little twist by Wainwright Junior's sexual

orientation..."). Especially poignant is his reaction to "A Minor Incident," a Badly Drawn Boy song written for the of the of Hornby's book . While Hornby was writing the book, his young son was diagnosed with autism--a fact that adds greater resonance to the seemingly unrelated song he hears much later: "I write a book that isn't about my kid, and then someone writes a beautiful song based on an episode in my book that turns out to mean something much more personal to me than my book ever did." Meandering asides and observations like this linger in your mind (just like a fantastic song) long after you've flipped past the final page.

The 11-song CD that accompanies the book is a great touch, but it's too bad it doesn't contain all of the featured songs--most likely the unfortunate result of licensing difficulties. Overall, Hornby's pitch-perfect prose, the quirky illustrations from Canadian artist Marcel Dzama, and a good cause--proceeds benefit TreeHouse, a U.K. charity for children with autism, and 826 Valencia, the nonprofit Bay Area learning center--add up to make *Songbook* a hit. Solid gold. --*Brad Thomas Parsons* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**Review** "That whole subculture, all those mournful guys to whom the sound of record-store bin dividers clicking by is almost music enough, should love **Songbook**, yet so should anyone interested in great essays, or in the delicate art of being funny, or in how to write about one's feelings in such a way that other people will actually care."—**The San Francisco Chronicle**

"Delivered in a hugely enjoyable, invisible prose that does in words what Hornby's tunesmiths do with sound. He writes good."—**Time Out London**

"Quintessentially Hornby: an idiosyncratic and charming exploration of the meaning of music and how it changes as we grow up and grow old."—**SeattleWeekly.com**

"A book about the joy of listening to great pop songs, about the elusive genius of a catchy chorus...what shines most is Hornby himself—his wry self-awareness, his disarming honesty. Effortlessly readable, every chapter reminds us how special an observer of human behavior Hornby is"—**Heat**

"A small, singular, delightful collection [about] the power of songs to bind people culturally and to reach deeply into the human spirit, bending the heart into new shapes with new potential."—**The New York Times Book Review**

"When Hornby writes about his enthusiasms and how they intertwine with his life, he's amusing and inspiring."—**Rolling Stone**

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