



Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story

By Chuck Klosterman

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Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story By Chuck Klosterman

Building on the national bestselling success of *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*, preeminent pop culture writer Chuck Klosterman unleashes his best book yet—the story of his cross-country tour of sites where rock stars have died and his search for love, excitement, and the meaning of death.

For 6,557 miles, Chuck Klosterman thought about dying. He drove a rental car from New York to Rhode Island to Georgia to Mississippi to Iowa to Minneapolis to Fargo to Seattle, and he chased death and rock ‘n’ roll all the way. Within the span of twenty-one days, Chuck had three relationships end—one by choice, one by chance, and one by exhaustion. He snorted cocaine in a graveyard. He walked a half-mile through a bean field. A man in Dickinson, North Dakota, explained to him why we have fewer windmills than we used to. He listened to the KISS solo albums and the Rod Stewart box set. At one point, poisonous snakes became involved. The road is hard. From the Chelsea Hotel to the swampland where Lynyrd Skynyrd’s plane went down to the site where Kurt Cobain blew his head off, Chuck explored every brand of rock star demise. He wanted to know why the greatest career move any musician can make is to stop breathing...and what this means for the rest of us.

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Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story By Chuck Klosterman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #85852 in Books
- Published on: 2006-06-13
- Released on: 2006-06-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.44" h x .70" w x 5.50" l, .58 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Klosterman follows up on 2003's *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* by expanding on an article he wrote for *Spin* about driving cross-country to visit several of America's most famous rock and roll death sites, from the Rhode Island club where more than 90 Great White fans died in a fire, to the Iowa field where Buddy Holly's plane crashed. Along the way, Klosterman opines on rock music, never afraid to offend—as when he interprets a Radiohead album as a 9/11 prophecy or reminds readers that before Kurt Cobain's suicide, many preferred Pearl Jam to Nirvana. The quest to uncover these deaths' social significance is quickly overwhelmed by Klosterman's personal obsessions, especially his agonizing over sexual relationships. He applies semifictional techniques to these concerns, inventing an imaginary conversation in the car with three girlfriends that becomes the book's centerpiece. This literary cleverness recalls classic gonzo journalism, but also contains a self-conscious edge, inviting comparison to Dave Eggers. Klosterman also worries his neuroses will brand him as "the male Elizabeth Wurtzel," but he needn't fret. Despite their shared subject matter of drug use and cultural musing, Klosterman has clearly established that he has a potent voice all his own.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Armed with 600 CDs in the back seat, a task of gargantuan rock 'n' roll proportions, memories of three dysfunctional relationships (an ex, a sort of ex, and a true love), and a wild imagination, Klosterman's in good shape for his cross-country death trip. A few critics compared his pop-culture musings to Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*. Yet Klosterman (*Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* *** Nov/Dec 2003) tries harder, indulges himself more, chats faster, uses more gimmicks, and doesn't achieve Hornby's heights. But Klosterman is nothing if not articulate about music, and his light, humorous touch often reveals meatier themes and revelatory insights about not only music but also life and death, particularly his own life. Reading Klosterman is like sitting in a bar with a good friend. It's fun, but when it's time to leave, it's time to leave.

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From [Booklist](#)

Klosterman runs rock to ground in this "death project" that opens with him poking about in the notorious Chelsea Hotel, where Sid Vicious associate Nancy Spungen died. The manager, discerning Klosterman's interest--and wanting no publicity--asks him to leave. A great takeoff for this grim but snappy travelogue and disquisition on death, fame, substance abuse, and rock 'n' roll. Pursuing further enlightenment, Klosterman visits the scene of Lynyrd Skynyrd's fatal crash, muses on Cotard's syndrome, and ruminates on the fates of Waylon Jennings and Buddy Holly. Jennings, then touring with Holly, didn't board the plane that went down with the latter aboard, consequently outliving the bespectacled star, only to gain renown as narrator of *The Dukes of Hazzard*--"a better legacy than being the unofficial namesake for an entire genre of eyeglasses?" Klosterman asks, as one well might. Klosterman's keen eye for American pop-cultural themes and undercurrents facilitates thoughtful observation, and his prose brings those themes and undercurrents together in strange, fresh ways. A treat for the adventurous. *Mike Tribby*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Velasco:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story as the daily resource information.

Lisa Vazquez:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some study before they write for their book. One of them is this Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story.

Jaime Friend:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Stephen Stansbury:

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