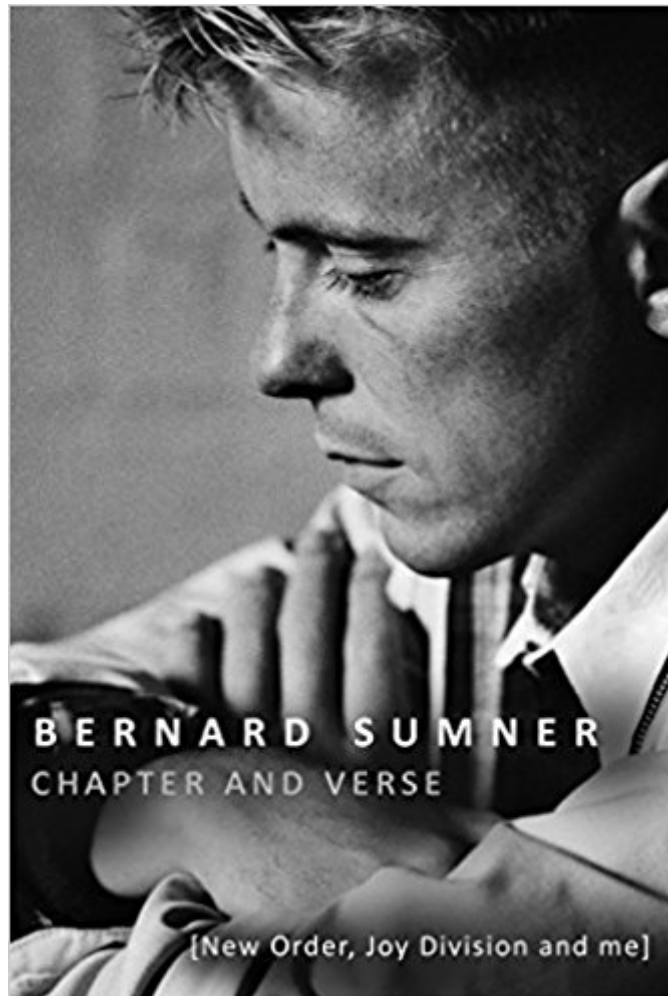




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Chapter And Verse: New Order, Joy Division And Me



Synopsis

Founding member and guitarist of Joy Division and the lead singer of New Order, Bernard Sumner has been famous over the years for his reticence. Until now . . . An integral part of the Manchester, UK, music scene since the late 1970s, his is the definitive version of the events that created two of the most influential bands of all time. Chapter and Verse includes a vivid and illuminating account of Bernard Sumner's childhood, the early days of Joy Division, the band's enormous critical and popular success, and the subsequent tragic death of Ian Curtis. Sumner describes the formation of New Order, takes us behind the scenes at the birth of classics such as "Blue Monday," and gives his firsthand account of the ecstasy and the agony of the Hacienda days. Sometimes moving, often hilarious, and occasionally completely out of control, this is a tale populated by some of the most colorful and creative characters in music history, such as Ian Curtis, Tony Wilson, Rob Gretton, and Martin Hannett. Others have told parts of the story, in film and book form. Now, for the first time, Bernard Sumner gives you chapter and verse.

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Customer Reviews

"Sumner's tell-all is the one we've been waiting for." —Esquire —"No one is better positioned to tell this story than Sumner, the guitarist who shifted sideways into Curtis' role as singer and who became the primary motivator in the shift into the electronic dance music that has made New Order a popular mainstay. ... Given the author's previous reticence, fans of both bands will find this memoir revelatory." —Kirkus Reviews —"A must for Joy Division and New Order fans." —Irvine Welsh "[Chapter and Verse] has the mild-mannered

charms of Sumner's vocals." Rob Sheffield, The New York Times Book Review

Bernard Sumner was a founding member of Joy Division and, after the death of Ian Curtis in 1980, became lead singer and guitarist of New Order.

A great insight into Bernard's life. I'm a great fan of New Order and found some of the behind the scenes stuff really fascinating. My two criticisms were that, while he has been in a longtime disagreement with Peter Hook, Bernard sometimes comes across as a little childish in his constant justification of himself as being completely blameless in the argument (though in fairness, Hooky's book pretty much does the same in reverse). It takes two to have an argument, and I found this quite jarring. I also thought he was a little condescending about Gillian. I paraphrase "she had come on in leaps and bounds". I always thought she added a lot of 'warmness' to New Order records (witness the recent 'Music Complete'), and it just felt dismissive as if she isn't that important. I'd disagree. However, these are fairly minor criticisms and all in all, if you are a fan of Joy Division, New Order, or even that period of English music, this is well worth a read.

A very insightful autobiography from one of the music communities most elusive, yet talented members. Founding member of Joy Division & New Order gives a wonderful first-hand account of his early days as a child growing up in Salford, England during its darker days, to a single mother suffering from CP and confined to a wheelchair. I honestly had no idea of the depressed state of his childhood until reading this book. There is a lot of somber reading material throughout the first quarter of the book, but it certainly gives the reader a deeper appreciation of Bernard. Sumner, as well as other artists who perhaps have gone through similar situations during their childhood. Naturally there is a lot written about the Joy Division years and this section is certainly not without its share of sadness, what with singer Ian Curtis' depression and bouts of epileptic seizures. It's never pleasant to read things such as this, but the friendship and support that Bernard gave Curtis during his life is very uplifting. The chapters on the transition between Joy Division and New Order are very interesting, as are the chapters written about their time in the studio and Bernard's discovery of the various electronic studio equipment that New Order had employed during the recording of their albums. His perspective on the Hacienda is entertaining and of course he touches on the issues surrounding New Order and former bassist Peter Hook. There's no trash talking---it's actually very "high road" and Sumner makes his stance on the matter quite effectively. Very entertaining if you like New Order or even Joy Division, but still a great read for the casual fan looking for something

new to read.

Joy Division and New Order have a unique history, woven into one of the most important and interesting musical movements of the 20th century. Sumner is readable and fills in some interesting details, and he paints an immersive picture of the north of Britain in transition in the 1970s. That world is now gone, and if you are of a similar age to him, you will recognise it. It's unavoidable, Sumner complains a lot about Peter Hook, and that's his prerogative -- no-one is right, no-one is wrong and I'm sure a lot awful things were done on both sides. What is unfortunate, is how much space he gives to it. It consumes a lot of the latter part of this book, under the guise of him saying he has moved on and isn't in a feud with Hook. But the sheer amount of space he give to it here belies that he is consumed by it. What is unforgivable, and what makes this book such a wasted opportunity, is that he misses out so much important material. Incredibly, "Power, Corruption and Lies", "Low-Life" and "Brotherhood" are *not mentioned at all*. Arguably, these three albums defined New Order and are their finest work -- but he doesn't talk about them in any way. So, we'll never know the circumstances of their inception, the recording process or what they learned from them. I'm somewhat surprised that someone, an editor or anyone didn't say "Ah, Bernard -- you forgot to mention the albums." We cover Blue Monday a bit ... and then he's talking about Technique. Also missing, Sumner doesn't talk about how he developed his craft as a singer, or anything around his personal growth. We don't care about the Elvis costume, or that time you watched football. He just doesn't seem very self-aware. I'd say this book is for completists, which is strange thing to say considering that Sumner was the frontman of New Order.

This was well-written and had a manageable length. With such a long span of time to cover, he does breeze through a lot of time periods and just cherry picks random events to elaborate on. By comparison, the Peter Hook book about Joy Division was incredibly detailed, although not as eloquently written as this one. Overall I enjoyed it and learned a lot about New Order, Joy Division, and Mr. Sumner.

I've been a New Order fan for years, so this was a must read for me. A very well written summary of a long career that was more eventful than he probably ever intended for it to be. If you're a fan of New Order or any of the bands that they created, you'll enjoy this book.

As a New Order/Joy Division/Bernard Sumner fan I enjoyed this immensely. The conversational

tone the book was written in felt personal and natural.

I really enjoyed this book. It was well written, honest, unashamed and engaging throughout. I still have questions that I may never get answered: 1) Were Bernard and Hooky ever best/close friends, or just co-workers in two bands? 2) what happened to Bernard's first marriage? Is he close to his son from that marriage? 3) Would this book ever see the light of day if Hooky didn't leave the band and throw him under the bus?

In keeping with Bernard's band persona, his words and recollections are humble and mysterious. For once, a musical hero is actually as good on a personal level as on an artistic one. He just says enough without getting too personal

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