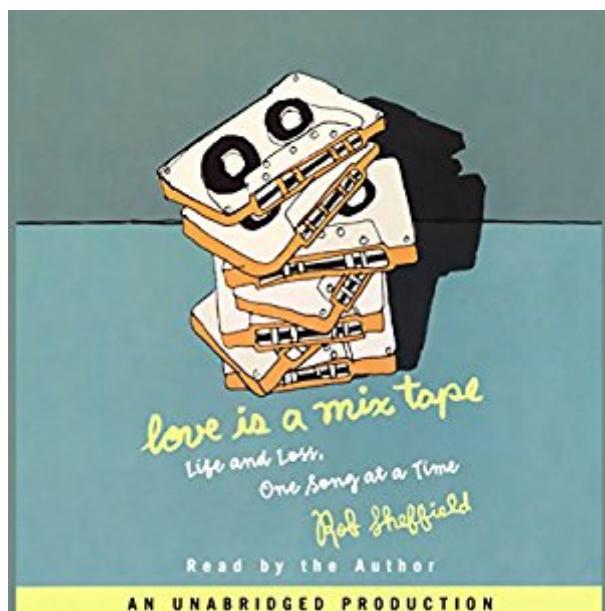


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Love Is A Mix Tape: Life And Love, One Song At A Time



Synopsis

What Is love? Great minds have been grappling with this question throughout the ages, and in the modern era, they have come up with many different answers. According to Western philosopher Pat Benatar, love is a battlefield. Her paisan Frank Sinatra would add the corollary that love is a tender trap. Love hurts. Love stinks. Love bites, love bleeds, love is the drug. The troubadours of our times agree: They want to know what love is, and they want you to show them. But the answer is simple: Love is a mix tape. In the 1990s, when "alternative" was suddenly mainstream, bands like Pearl Jam and Pavement, Nirvana and R.E.M. — bands that a year before would have been too weird for MTV — were MTV. It was the decade of Kurt Cobain and Shania Twain and Taylor Dayne, a time that ended all too soon. The boundaries of American culture were exploding, and music was leading the way. It was also when a shy music geek named Rob Sheffield met a hell-raising Appalachian punk-rock girl named Renée, who was way too cool for him but fell in love with him anyway. He was tall. She was short. He was shy. She was a social butterfly. She was the only one who laughed at his jokes when they were so bad, and they were always bad. They had nothing in common except that they both loved music. Music brought them together and kept them together. And it was music that would help Rob through a sudden, unfathomable loss. In *Love Is a Mix Tape*, Rob, now a writer for Rolling Stone, uses the songs on fifteen mix tapes to tell the story of his brief time with Renée. From Elvis to Missy Elliott, the Rolling Stones to Yo La Tengo, the songs on these tapes make up the soundtrack to their lives. Rob Sheffield isn't a musician, he's a writer, and *Love Is a Mix Tape* isn't a love song — but it might as well be. This is Rob's tribute to music, to the decade that shaped him, but most of all to one unforgettable woman. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 5 hours and 45 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 13, 2006

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000MDH1N4

Best Sellers Rank: #149 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk

#243 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Music #728 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Journalists

Customer Reviews

This man's writing is some of the most beautiful and true wording I've ever read. My book is in tatters from where I've read it and loaned it to people. (Admittedly, I'm on my second copy.) The only other book to do this to me was *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. This is a must read. This man wrote my life by using completely different experiences than I had. Do yourself a favor and read this book. It helps if you know a lot about music, but it's still amazing if you don't.

Nice book, if you love music. I read it on a trip to Charlottesville (where the story is set), and it transported me back to the 90s... The zillion musical references made me want to make mix tapes again! Not a masterpiece novel, but still well written, fun and easy to read, with an emotional side to the story that is almost comparable to a "coming-of-age" at some point. I recommend it!

Did not expect the book to be heartfelt and heart warming. Clearly each mixtape is crafted with great attention, and it translates to us, readers, who will likely be taken to sweet nostalgia as we begin seeing ourselves in each of the chapter written. It's a pleasing read, and an effortless page turner.

Recently bought this book and read again after having been introduced to Sheffield by a friend a few years back. It was just as good the second time around. Highly recommended for anyone interested in music and finding their counterpart in life.

A trifecta for a great book. Sheffield's enthusiasm for music is unparalleled. I would highly recommend this book if you are a lover of all things music, have experienced a loss and loved someone so deeply it hurt. I will be looking into his other books shortly.

Rob Sheffield is a gifted writer, there's not doubt about that, and he knows his stuff when it comes to music. "Life's That Way" by Jim Beaver (Yes, that Jim Beaver-if you are a Supernatural fan you should recognize the name) is one of the most beautiful books I've ever read. Funny, poignant and touching-it was a true testament to the love he had for his late wife. This book was written in the same vein. Sheffield breaks down his relationship with his wife and her death using music, and the

mix tapes he made around the time frame he's writing about. I don't think you have to like the same type of music to have this book resonate with you. I did indeed like some of these songs, and yet the book rarely hit me the way I think Sheffield wanted it too. His love for his late wife, Renee, is painfully obvious, but rather than focus on that by giving us some truly memorable, well through out stories, we are only given glimpses of their relationship. We know he was shy and she was outgoing, but give me more than just an overview. I will say that towards the end when he writes about Renee's death and how he learned to cope I felt that Sheffield really showed who he was. When he wrote about stalking married couples in the 24 hour Walmart, he was able to make his loss feel relevant. He wrote about moving on with his life with a sort of sad humor, and I finally felt like we saw the real Rob. Unfortunately, it came with only about 20 pages left in the book.

Simple writing. Beautiful life anecdotes. Funny analogies. An honest story of life's majesty and tragedy.

Rob Sheffield's Love is a Mix Tape is a heart-breaking, uplifting, funny, sad and entirely human memoir about love and loss unified by Sheffield's love of music and his life-long penchant for crafting the mix tape. Music fans born in the 60's will recognize most of the music (and understand why, for example, the eighth grade dance mix tape had to have Free Bird and Stairway to Heaven to end the sides), but I don't think you have to know much about the music he mentions to enjoy this wonderful book because the book simply uses music as a way into his story about Renee. Renee was his wife with whom he shared an intense love and they found love through love of music as well. Renee died suddenly, tragically at a young age, but somehow Sheffield's engaging personality comes through so well in his writing that he makes this memoir overall an uplifting read, despite the undertones of intense sadness and loss. The love he has for Renee (and she for him) and the love of music, Sheffield's charming, self-deprecating humor makes this a wonderful read. I recommend this one to all, music-obsessed or not. Enjoy.

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