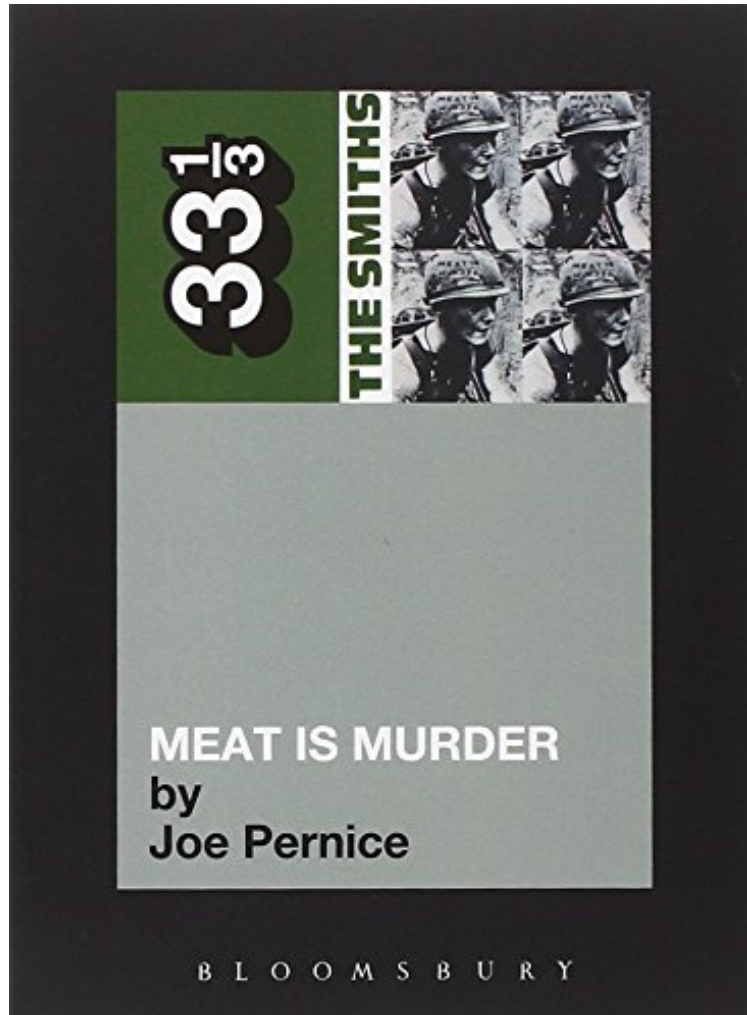


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The Smiths' Meat Is Murder (Thirty Three and a Third series)

Joe Pernice

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Joe Pernice : The Smiths' Meat Is Murder (Thirty Three and a Third series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Smiths' Meat Is Murder (Thirty Three and a Third series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It really is a great read, especially if you turn on Meat is ...By cmd823People complain that this book isn't what they expected. Well, no, this book is not ABOUT the Smiths, but rather the protagonist's relationship with their music. For anyone who has ever been a teenager and felt alone (so everyone really), and found music as a way to cope, this book will resonate with you.It really is a great read, especially if you turn on Meat is Murder while reading it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " but there's plenty of great Smiths/Morrissey bio's that will go into great detail about ...By R. S. BaskervilleOkay, I knew from reading the

reviews that this book would offer virtually zero insights into the album "Meat is Murder," but there's plenty of great Smiths/Morrissey bio's that will go into great detail about the album. What this is, is an extremely entertaining and witty novel about high school life/emotions. We've all been there and this brings it all back. This guy is one terrific writer. I'm waiting for his next novel!!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Little GemBy David SmayPerfect little gem of a novella about the 80s, teenagery and music fandom and obsession. One of the best books to chronicle those years of tape culture and how music can be the last live preserver you hang onto in the rough seas of adolescence. No, it's not a typical critical or historical review of The Smiths. It's something better.

A Catholic high school near Boston in 1985. A time of suicides, gymnasium humiliations, smoking for beginners, asthma attacks, and incendiary teenage infatuations. Infatuations with a girl (Allison), with a band (The Smiths) and with an album, Meat is Murder, that was so raw, so vivid and so melodic that you could cling to it like a lifeboat in a storm. In this brilliant novella Joe Pernice tells the story of an asthmatic kid's discovery of Meat is Murder. Here is a short excerpt: One morning as I was jogging my way past the bronze plaque commemorating the deaths of one student and one motorcyclist, my necktie flapping like a windsock, Ray floored the brake pedal of his Dodge as he closed in on me. Fifty mile an hour traffic came to a screeching, nearly murderous halt behind him. He leaned over and rolled down the passenger side window in one fluid motion. He dispensed with formalities while I marveled at the audacity of his driving and, tossing something at me, winked and said, "Here. I'm going to kill myself." He pegged the gas, leaving a surprisingly good patch of rubber for such a shitty car. In the gutter, sugared with sand put down during the winter's last snow, I saw written in red felt ink on masking tape stuck to a smoky-clear cassette: "Smiths: Meat."

"my personal favorite of the batch has to be Joe Pernice's autobiographic-fiction fantasia on The Smiths Meat Is Murder. Stirring, evocative reading, and like the other two books, it made me want to seek out and hear the music again. Michael Layne Heath, Tangents "Meat is Murder is a page-scorcher, especially when you see Pernice's own experiences practically oozing from the text." Filter magazine "Effectively captures the crushing blows and dizzying triumphs of adolescence, particularly the sense of urgency involved in matters of young love." The Berlin Daily Sun "Pernice captures the essence of the anglophile UK indie lovers that exist in little groups all over North America...Pernice's novella captures [the] feelings of the despair of possibility, of rushing out to meet the world and the world rushing in to meet you, and the price of that meeting. As sound tracked by the Smiths." Drowned in Sound "The novella by the leader of the lush, sad-eyed indie-pop band the Pernice Brothers is full of mordant wit and real heartache. And his fictional (though heavily autobiographical) tale of a tortured Massachusetts high school student who finds solace by listening to Morrissey is a dead-on depiction of what it feels like when pop music articulates your pain with an elegance you could never hope to muster[H]is tale of a lonesome boy, a Walkman, and Meat is Murder does a brilliant job of capturing how, in a world that doesn't care, listening to your favorite album can save your life." The Philadelphia Inquirer "With his astute perceptions and graceful language, the guy [Pernice] can write circles around most of the popular novelists today, and then whack them in the head later on with his melody." Nighntimes.com "Local singer/songwriter and now first-time novelist Joe Pernice seems to have near total emotional recall, in the same way a great athlete possesses top-notch muscle memory. The result is that the bulk of his creative output proves to be as viscerally convincing as it is deeply feltHis emotionally precise imagery can be bluntly, chillingly personalHis well-developed sense of character, plot and pacing shows that he has serious promise as a novelist." Weekly Dig "His (Pernice's) perceptive, poetic ear for unpicking the workings of troubled inner lives is exceptional." UncutJoe Pernice's take on the Smiths Meat is Murder might be the best in the series thus farPart Dazed and Confused and part Virgin Suicides, the book is a funny, elegiac rumination on the pains and perils of adolescenceand the anodyne that certain albums can be to an outsider being smothered by dullness and angstBy fashioning his criticism as fiction, Pernice comes closest to evoking the transporting and restorative effect a song can have. -The Boston Phoenix, 7/8/04 (Mike Miliard)"Meat is Murder is as droll as any of his songs, as its asthmatic narrator recounts his days in a Catholic high school outside Boston in 1985 and how his life was changed by the discovery of the Smith's third album-on cassette, of course. His descriptions of friends are priceless and sweet" - Kathleen Wilson, The Stranger, November 19, 2003"The story never reaches a true resolution, but that's part of the pleasure of itPernice takes pains to capture a teenage voice, although the language refrains from self-pitythe dramatic uncertainty of the language holds together the narrative." The Columbia Spectator"However autobiographical this story might be, it's never predictable or less than heartfelt. The narrator's classmates are sketched fondly, his teachers with a little healthy malice and the music with great affection." Newsday"An essential purchase for any fan of good new rock-write in general - a slim, confessional novella equal to anything written by Nick Hornby. " Bandoppler Magazine"It is beautifully written." The Times (London)"Continuum knew what they were doing when they asked songwriter Joe Pernice to pay homage to the Smith's Meat is Murder." Austin American-Statesman"Fans of Pernice's lyrical work in the Pernice Brothers and Scud Mountain Boys will find the same qualities of his lyrical wordplay used here, equal parts bitter and sweetPernice excels at evoking the feeling that almost any listener of underground music first has when encountering it, of stumbling onto a vein of something previously unknown, but far more immediate

than anything that's come before." -Tobias Carroll, Earlash, 01/21/04 "Pernice writes about the album the only way a true teenager would-clumsily, overflowing with enthusiasm and praise, and beautifully the novella is a wonderfully brief, swift read that nevertheless is as powerful as the greatest of EPs." -Andrew Unterberger, Stylus magazine, 1/1/3/04 "What is it about the Smiths that prompts otherwise sane men to take an 80s youth that heaven knows was miserable then and turn it into a memoir? This singer-songwriter pens a pleasant semi-autobio about how this witty band's least-witty moment saved him from Catholic school, Reaganism and playing the bass poorlyB" Austin American-Statesman, 10/17/04 this short, unassuming novella of 102 small pages captures more of youth, with all its painful, mad obsessions and enthusiasms, and all its longueurs, than any number of much longer books. If you've ever been young and in love with a band, you have to read Meat is Murder. Bookslut, 3/9/05 mentioned in The Boston Herald