



HOME MEET THE EDITORS HELP

MY READING ROOM LOGIN

New to Books & Authors Join for FREE

Books & Authors

Search:

Title SEARCH



ADVANCED SEARCH »

BROWSE TITLES

BROWSE AUTHORS

BROWSE GENRES

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

EXPERT PICKS

AWARD WINNERS

Love is a Mix Tape (2007)

book detail



about the book



about the author



book reviews

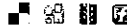


read-a-likes



My Reading Room

Share:



Tools:



about this author

SEARCH for books
by this Author

Rob Sheffield

Nationality: American

Occupation: Music critic

Table of Contents:

[Personal Information](#)

[Career](#)

[Writings](#)

[Sidelights](#)

[Further Readings About the Author](#)

Personal Information:

Married Renee Crist (a rock journalist; died May 11, 1997). Addresses: Home, Brooklyn, NY.

Career Information:

Pop culture journalist, rock critic. *Rolling Stone*, New York, NY, contributing editor. Has appeared on various MTV and VH1 television shows.

Writings:

- *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time* (memoir), Crown Publishing (New York, NY), 2007.
- *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*, Dutton (New York, NY), 2010

Author of "Pop Life" column for *Rolling Stone*.

Sidelights:

Rock critic Rob Sheffield's first book is a memoir and tribute to his late wife, Renee. Sheffield, a "shy, skinny, Irish Catholic from Boston" and Renee, a Southern Baptist born and raised in rural Virginia, had little in common, but they shared a love of music, from punk rock to country. On a day in 1997, while Renee was working at her sewing machine, she stood, then collapsed and instantly died of a pulmonary embolism.

In *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*, Sheffield, who has mixed tapes for every occasion, including doing the dishes, opens each of the fifteen chapters with a playlist. Renee's death comes in the middle of the memoir, and so previous chapters are accompanied by lists he compiled during their dating days and early life together, providing the soundtrack for his story.

Library Journal reviewer Renee Axtell commented that the description he provides of his wife's "brilliant eccentricity and lovable quirkiness causes the reader to fall in love with her just as he does." A *Kirkus Reviews* contributor wrote: "While eulogizing the punk awesomeness of Renee, Sheffield also throws in a surprisingly heartfelt eulogy for the unsung '90s." A *Publishers Weekly* writer described *Love Is a Mix Tape* as "a celebratory eulogy for life in 'the decade of Nirvana.'"

Further Readings About the Author:

BOOKS

- Sheffield, Rob, *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*, Crown Publishing (New York, NY), 2007.

PERIODICALS

- *Booklist*, December 15, 2006, June Sawyers, review of *Love Is a Mix Tape*, p. 11.
- *Kirkus Reviews*, October 15, 2006, review of *Love Is a Mix Tape*, p. 1060.
- *Library Journal*, November 15, 2006, Renee Axtell, review of *Love Is a Mix Tape*, p. 73.
- *Publishers Weekly*, December 18, 2006, review of *Love Is a Mix Tape*, p. 59.

ONLINE

- *Harp Online*, <http://harpmagazine.com/> (May 12, 2007), Crystal K. Wiebe, review of *Love Is a Mix Tape*.

Too many books to remember?

No problem - just save them to a list in your own personal Reading Room. My Reading Room lets you save and modify reading lists, reviews you've written, book lists you've created, and much more!

- ★ MY MARKED LISTS »
- ★ MY BOOK LISTS »
- ★ MY AUTHOR LISTS »
- ★ MY RATINGS & REVIEWS »
- ★ GO TO MY READING ROOM »

what do i read next?

SUBJECT

- Adolescence (1828) »
- Autobiographies (2093) »
- Death (2873) »
- Journalism (1087) »
- Music (1733) »
- Love (7007) »

Source: *Contemporary Authors Online*, 2010

Gale Database: Contemporary Authors Online

Gale Document Number: GALEJH1000175368

Source Citation: "Rob Sheffield." 2010. [Books & Authors](#). Gale. Gale Internal User 15 Jan

2013 <<http://bna.galegroup.com/bna/start.do?p=BNA&u=gale>>

© 2009 Cengage Learning Library Administration

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Contact Us](#)



Read-a-Likes



Community Rating ★★★★★

Audio

0739333526 Compact Disc

9780739333525 Compact Disc

Hardcover

1400083028 Trade Cloth

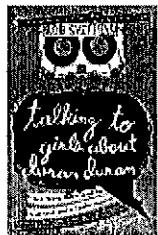
9781400083022 Trade Cloth

Softcover

1400083036 Trade Paper

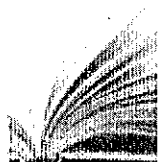
9781400083039 Trade Paper

Love is a Mix Tape (2007)



Talking to Girls about Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut (2010)

Author and Rolling Stone contributing editor Rob Sheffield came of age in the 1980s, when his love



about this book

Undateable: 311 Things Guys Do That Guarantee They Won't Be Dating or Having Sex (2011)

null



The Girls from Ames (2010)

Eleven girls come of age in the small Midwestern college town of Ames, Iowa. After graduation, they go



Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son (2009)

In Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son, Pulitzer Prize-winning

©2008 Cengage Learning

Book Discussion Questions for Love is a Mix Tape by Rob Sheffield

1. This book is a memoir told from Rob's perspective about his life with his wife Renee and after her death. How well does this work? Do you feel you get to know both people equally and how do you feel about them as individuals and in their relationship?
2. After Renee's death Rob describes how he grieves and gets past this tragedy. Talk about how this made you feel about her death and his life afterwards.
3. Each chapter of the book is related to a particular mix tape from Rob's past. How does this format work in telling their story? Did you find this to be a plus or a negative? Why?
4. Music is often the background for our lives. How has music affected your life and important stages in your life? What is a song you remember strongly and why? Is music still an integral part of your life as it is with Rob's?
5. Mix tape cassettes have been replaced by MP3 playlists. How does that affect the music you listen to? Do you create playlists for yourself, for various activities, for others?
6. Rob makes a case for the 90's being a period of change and a burst of feminism in music. Looking back at the 90's how does that era strike you both from your perspective and historically and musically?
7. Is this a book that will have a lasting impression on you, an enjoyable read or not? What do you think of the book overall?

Similar Reads for Love is a Mix Tape by Rob Sheffield

1. High Fidelity by Nick Hornby –

Rob is a pop music junkie who runs his own semi-failing record store. His girlfriend, Laura, has just left him for the guy upstairs, and Rob is both miserable and relieved. After all, could he have spent his life with someone who has a bad record collection?

2. 31 Songs by Nick Hornby –

31 chapters, 31 or 32 (or more?) songs, 31 occasions to think about how beautiful, tragic, absurd, cozy life can be.

3. 13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher

When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

4. Talking to Girls About Duran Duran by Rob Sheffield

Talking to Girls About Duran Duran is his tale of stumbling into adulthood with a killer soundtrack. Inept flirtations, dumb crushes, deplorable fashion choices and girls, every last one of whom was madly in love with the bassist of Duran Duran.

5. Rock and Roll Will Save Your Life by Steve Almond

"Rock and Roll Will Save Your Life" traces Almond's passion for "rawk" from his earliest (and most wretched) rock criticism to his eventual discovery of a music-crazed soul mate and their subsequent production of two little superfans. Along the way, Almond reflects on the delusional power of songs, the awkward mating habits of drooling fanatics, and why Depression Songs actually make us feel so much better.

6. Year Zero: A Novel by Robert Reid

After two aliens reveal that the whole universe is addicted to humanity's music, has committed gross copyright violations, and is murderously unhappy with the resulting fines and penalties, entertainment lawyer Nick Carter has forty-eight hours to save the planet.

Title: Love Is a Mix Tape
Source: *California Bookwatch*. (May 2007): From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Book review, Brief article

Full Text:

Love Is a Mix Tape

Rob Sheffield

Crown

c/o Random House

1745 Broadway, New York NY 10019

1400083028, \$22.95 www.randomhouse.com

In the 1990s alternative music became mainstream with bands like Pearl Jam and Nirvana: it was a decade when the author, a shy music geek, met a punk-rock girl who fell in love with him. Despite their many differences, the one thing they held in common was a love of music--which kept them together. LOVE IS A MIX TAPE uses songs on fifteen mix tapes to tell of his romance and its brief surge. His passion reflects the sentiments and passions of the 1990s and beyond: LOVE IS A MIX TAPE reads like a history of the era and goes far beyond autobiographical reflection to reveal the heart of the alternative music movement. A striking, gripping account evolves, suitable not just for music history libraries, but for any general lending library hoping to reach out to the avid young music fan.

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Love Is a Mix Tape." *California Bookwatch* May 2007. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA163336090&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A163336090

Title: Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time
Source: *Publishers Weekly*. 253.50 (Dec. 18, 2006): p59. From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Book review, Brief article

Full Text:

* Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time ROB SHEFFIELD. Crown, \$22.95 (240p) ISBN 978-1-4000-8302-2

A celebratory eulogy for life in "the decade of Nirvana," rock critic Sheffield's captivating memoir uses 22 "mix tapes" to describe his being "tangled up" in the "noisy, juicy, sparkly life" of his wife, Renee, from the time they met in 1989 to her sudden death from a pulmonary embolism in 1997. Each chapter begins with song titles from the couple's myriad mixes--"Tapes for making out, tapes for dancing, tapes for falling asleep"--and uses them to describe a beautiful love story: "a real cool hell-raising Appalachian punk-rock girl" meeting in graduate school a "hermit wolfboy, scared of life, hiding in my room with my records," and how they built a tender relationship on the music they loved, from the Meat Puppets to Hank Williams. Their bond as soul mates makes his reaction to her death deeply moving: "I had no voice to talk with because she was my whole language." But Sheffield's wonderful, often hilarious and lovingly detailed stories about their early romance and their later domestic life show how they created their own personal "mix tape" of life in the same way a music mix tape "steals moments from all over the musical cosmos and splices them into a whole new groove." (Jan.)

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time." *Publishers Weekly* 18 Dec. 2006: 59+. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA156551734&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A156551734

Title: Sheffield, Rob. Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time
Author(s): June Sawyers
Source: *Booklist*. 103.8 (Dec. 15, 2006): p11. From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Book review, Brief article

Full Text:

Sheffield, Rob. Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time. Jan. 2007. 240p. Crown, \$22.95 (1-4000-8302-8). 781.64092.

Sheffield was a "shy, skinny, Irish Catholic geek from Boston" when he first met Renee. Southern born and bred, "she was warm and loud and impulsive." They had nothing in common except a love of music. Since he made music tapes for all occasions, he and Rende listened together, shared tapes, and though never formally planning to, married. On May 11, 1997, everything changed. He was in the kitchen making lunch. Suddenly, she collapsed, dying instantly of a pulmonary embolism. Devastated, he quickly realized that he couldn't listen to certain songs again, and that life as he knew it would never be the same. Fun and funny, moving and unbearably sad, Sheffield's account at its quirkiest, and because of his penchant for lists, is reminiscent of Nick Hornby's novel *High Fidelity* (1995). Anyone who loves music and appreciates the unspoken ways that music can bring people together will respond warmly to this gentle, bittersweet reflection on love won and love irrevocably lost.--June Sawyers

Sawyers, June

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

Sawyers, June. "Sheffield, Rob. Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time." *Booklist* 15 Dec. 2006: 11+. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA157194076&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A157194076

Title: Sheffield, Rob. *Love is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*
Author(s): Renee Axtell
Source: *Library Journal*. 131.19 (Nov. 15, 2006): p73. From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Book review, Brief article

Full Text: A wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Full Text:

* Sheffield, Rob. *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*. Crown. Jan. 2007. c.240p. ISBN 1-4000-8302-8 [ISBN 978-1-4000-8302-2]. \$22.95. MUSIC

Rolling Stone contributing editor Sheffield's memoir is a beautiful and poignant portrayal of the author's relationship with his late wife, Renee. The gimmick of using a mix tape as a theme for each chapter (there are 15 in all) seems silly at first, but Sheffield's talents as a music writer ensure that each list of songs provides the perfect mental soundtrack. Sheffield's description of Renee's brilliant eccentricity and lovable quirkiness causes the reader to fall in love with her just as he does: she was raised a Southern Baptist in rural Virginia and turned out a punk rocker; he's a Boston Irish Catholic. As they date, marry, and begin their life together, their story is joyful and lighthearted. Then you turn the page, Renee gets up from the sewing machine, and she dies of a pulmonary embolism. This tragedy doesn't happen at the end of the narrative but in the middle, mimicking how it struck Sheffield in life--suddenly and devastatingly. The author's grief and recovery are just as integral to the story as the couple's first date. Somewhere, Renee is beaming with pride at her husband's achievement. Highly recommended. [See Prepub Alert, LJ 10/15/06.]--Renee Axtell, Independence, MO

Axtell, Renee

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

Axtell, Renee. "Sheffield, Rob. *Love is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*." *Library Journal* 15 Nov. 2006: 73. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA156054003&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A156054003

Title: Sheffield, Rob: *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*
Source: *Kirkus Reviews*. 74.20 (Oct. 15, 2006): p1060. From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Book review, Brief article

Full Text:

* Sheffield, Rob *LOVE IS A MIX TAPE: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time* Crown (240 pp.) \$22.95 CD \$27.95
 Jan. 2, 2007 ISBN: 1-4000-8302-8 CD 0-7393-3352-6

A rock critic tells about the love of life via a series of 15 mix tapes full to bursting with songs of passion, regret and bad rhyme schemes.

Like any true music obsessive, Sheffield--a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone*, where he writes the "Pop Life" column--has a vast back catalog of mix tapes, either self-made or given as gifts. In this touching and frequently hilarious book, Sheffield structures each of the 15 chapters around a different mix tape, most of which relate in some way to his wife, Renee, who died of a sudden pulmonary embolism in 1997, after they'd been married for five years. Even though Sheffield was a geeky Irish Catholic music obsessive from Boston and Renee was a "real cool hell-raising Appalachian punk-rock girl" who was raised Southern Baptist, "rooted for the Atlanta Braves and sewed her own silver vinyl pants," when the two met in Charlottesville, they clicked. Renee would take them driving for hours on southern roads just so they could sing along to songs on the radio, while Sheffield was the kind of guy who made mix tapes to do the dishes to. While eulogizing the punk awesomeness of Renee, Sheffield also throws in a surprisingly heartfelt eulogy for the unsung '90s, "an open, free time of possibilities, changes we thought were permanent," before radio lost its last vestige of non-homogenization, and Pavement was the greatest band of all time. This is a lightly-handled, skillful and sincere celebration of pop, of love, sad songs, bad songs and the long, nearly unbearable ache of being a young widower.

Witty and wise; a true candidate for the All-Time Desert Island Top 5 Books About Pop Music. (Agent. Daniel Greenberg/Levine Greenberg Literary Agency)

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Sheffield, Rob: *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*." *Kirkus Reviews* 15 Oct. 2006: 1060. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA153762430&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A153762430

Title: Life and Love Heard Through the Mix Tape
Source: *Weekend All Things Considered*. (Jan. 14, 2007): From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Broadcast transcript, Podcast

Full Text: Weekend All Things Considered(r). All Rights Reserved. For permission to use NPR Content, see <http://www.npr.org/about/permissioninfo.html>

Full Text:

To listen to this broadcast, click here: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6855416>

DEBBIE ELLIOTT, host:

A good mix tape is like a little chunk of history you can hold in your hand. It's a plastic time capsule, a memorial to who you were and what you were thinking when you wrote out that hand-lettered playlist. For writer Rob Sheffield, those tapes are a way to keep alive the memory of his wife, Renee. His new book, "Love is a Mix Tape," tells the story of their relationship in 15 beat-up old cassettes. Rob Sheffield is a contributing editor at Rolling Stone magazine and he joins us now from our New York bureau. Thanks for being here, Rob.

Mr. ROB SHEFFIELD (Author): Thank you, Debbie.

ELLIOTT: Let's just start here. Why is it that choosing songs and putting them together in a new order is such a powerful thing?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: It seems like nothing connects you to a moment like music. So I grew up making a tape really to mark every point in my life. There was when I first got license, I made my first driving tape. And the first time I fell in love, I made my first falling in love tape. And the first time I got broken up with, I made my first I just got dumped tape. And it seems like every occasion in life had its own special songs that it was called for.

ELLIOTT: Now, most of the tapes that you write about in your book were either made for, or by, Renee, your wife. And you call her, at one point in the book, a real cool hell-raising Appalachian punk rock girl. How does that translate to a mix tape?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Well, she was someone who music was just a fundamental way of expressing her passion about the world. And funny, before I met her, music for me was, you know, almost a way of hiding from the world, kind of disappearing into this fanatical, obsessive, teenage boy kind of way of thinking about music. And for her it was all about communicating straight from the heart.

ELLIOTT: There's a section in your book where the two of you are together and you're realizing that she is an important part of your life. Can you read for me this passage?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Definitely.

ELLIOTT: You're in the car and of course there's a soundtrack.

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Have you ever been in a car with a southern girl blasting through South Carolina when Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Call Me the Breeze" comes on the radio, Sunday afternoon, sun out, windows down, nowhere to hurry back to? I never had. I was 23. Renee turned up the radio and began screaming along.

(Soundbite of song "Call Me the Breeze")

LYNYRD SKYNYRD (Music band): (Singing) Call me the breeze, I keep rollin' down the road.

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Renee was driving. She always preferred driving and she said I drove like an old Irish lady. I thought to myself, well, I have wasted my whole life, up to this moment. Any other car I've ever been in was just to get me here. Any road I've ever been on was just to get me here. Any other passenger seat I've ever sat on, I was just riding here. I barely recognize this girl sitting next to me, screaming along to the piano solo. I thought, there is nowhere else in the universe I would rather be at this moment besides here in this car, with this girl, on this road, listening to this song.

(Soundbite of song "Call Me the Breeze")

LYNYRD SKYNYRD: (Singing) And I ain't hiding from nobody, nobody's hiding from me.

ELLIOTT: You were enjoying yourself?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Yes, indeed.

ELLIOTT: Now, the really, really sad part of your book and your story is that the two of you were only married for five years. She died very young of a pulmonary embolism, very suddenly and unexpectedly. You know, after her death, what became of the music and the mix tapes that had been such an important part of your relationship?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: It was strange because some music was too painful to listen to. And some music was actually cheerful and sustaining to listen to because it connected me with those earlier, happier times. And so it was strange because I couldn't predict which songs were going to hurt too much to listen to and which songs were going to carry me through. And for years after she died, I was holding on to those tapes. It was almost like a life raft. Those songs were the only connection I had to the life that I used to have and the person that I used to be with.

ELLIOTT: Is there one song that's really special, that speaks to that for you?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: One of the really special songs is Big Star, "Thirteen." They were a southern band in the early '70s. And the first time I ever met Renee was in a bar in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1989. The bartender put on an album by Big Star. And I really perked up and I said to the friends I was sitting with, hey, this is the band I was telling you about. And I noticed Renee across the room also perking up to the same song. And we had our first conversation about how much we both loved this band and the times that we'd seen them perform live. And this song later became the first dance at our wedding.

(Soundbite of song "Thirteen")

BIG STAR (Band): (Singing) Won't you tell your dad, get off my back. Tell him what we said 'bout paint it black.

ELLIOTT: It's a pretty song.

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Yeah, it's a lovely song. And we were talking about it and I said, I'll make you a mix tape. And that turned out to be the first time that ever really worked in impressing a girl.

ELLIOTT: You know, mix tapes are somewhat of a relic these days, back in the days when we all used cassettes and analog tapes. We're living in a digital world today. I'm wondering, you know, does an iPod playlist work the same magic that a mix tape once did?

Mr. SHEFFIELD: It's funny. It's a different format, but I think it basically does the same thing. Mix CDs are so much fun to make because you can put them together so fast and you can take all sorts of different songs and whip them together.

ELLIOTT: But doesn't that take away some of the emotional weight of it? Like, I'm thinking of back when you were, I don't know, in seventh or eighth grade and you're making the dance tapes for your class dance and all the pressure that was on you to make that perfect mix tape. Today, it just might be a little too easy to do that.

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Yeah, it's - something's lost but something's gained, as Joni Mitchell might say; it's something where it's so easy to do that, it's become more democratic. It used to be if you made a mix tape, you were showing someone that you were really thinking about them, that you devoted hours to making this mix for them. And you put special thought into what was going to be the first song on side two and you maybe came up with a special cover or different titles for side one and side two. And there were all these rituals that were associated with it.

And now you can make the same mix CD for six different people in the same day. And it's funny that it's - there's something lost in that process, but it's just so fun to be able to keep making so many different kinds of mixes.

ELLIOTT: Rob Sheffield is a contributing editor at Rolling Stone magazine. His new book is "Love is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss One Song at a Time." Thanks for talking with us.

Mr. SHEFFIELD: Thank you so much, Debbie.

(Soundbite of song, "Thirteen")

BIG STAR: (Singing) Would you be an outlaw for my love? If it's so, well let me know. If it's no, well I can go. I won't make you.

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Life and Love Heard Through the Mix Tape." *Weekend All Things Considered* 14 Jan. 2007. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA157570152&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmnc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A157570152

Title: Making Mix Tapes No Longer A Labor Of Love
Source: *Weekend Edition Sunday*. (June 14, 2009): From *Literature Resource Center*.
Document Type: Audio file, Broadcast transcript

Full Text: Weekend Edition(r). All Rights Reserved. For permission to use NPR Content, see <http://www.npr.org/about/permissioninfo.html>

Full Text:

To listen to this broadcast, click here: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=105381713>

LIANE HANSEN, host:

If you spend hours or maybe days creating the perfect playlist to express your emotional state, our digital commentator David Kushner may be able to help you out.

DAVID KUSHNER: In college, my roommate was a big music geek. When he had his heart broken by a girl one semester, he expressed himself the only way he knew how - made her a mixed tape. At the time, in the '80s, this wasn't easy. It was meticulous and painstaking. I came back to find my roommate with his vinyl records spread out across the floor, cans of soda lined up on the cabinet, as he chose just the right songs and sequence to transfer to an audio cassette. It took an entire weekend.

(Soundbite of song, "Waiting For A Girl Like You")

FOREIGNER (Band): (Singing) I've been waiting for a girl like you to come into my life.

KUSHNER: Today, all he'd have to do is text her a link to his playlist. Playlists are the digital equivalent of the old mixed tape, and they're gaining in popularity and controversy. The popularity comes from the ease and variety of music. Playlist makers have signed thematic names to their mixes, such as heavy metal.

(Soundbite of heavy metal song)

Unidentified Man: (unintelligible)

KUSHNER: And visitors leave messages commending or ridiculing their choices. Other playlists are more science than art. On Pandora, songs are analyzed according to 400 attributes, from rhythm syncopation to key tonality.

(Soundbite of music)

KUSHNER: When you type in a song choice of your own, Pandora automatically generates a playlist of songs with similar qualities. iTunes has introduced a feature like this called Genius, which, if you let it, scans through your songs and then creates a playlist in that vein. If you don't like the results, you could always boot up a celebrity playlist chosen by, say, The Indigo Girls or Tom Jones.

(Soundbite of "I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)")

Ms. ARETHA FRANKLIN (Singer): (Singing) You're a no good, heartbreaker. You're a liar and you're a cheat. And I don't know why...

KUSHNER: Some playlist sites have been sued or shutdown over copyright violation concerns. But others are building alliances with the music industry. The idea is to create a kind of iTunes for music sharing, and my guess is that there's no turning back now. Cueing up a sequence of songs is still among the most personal acts of expression a music fan can muster. All you need is a computer and some tunes, and a broken heart helps, too.

(Sound bite of song, "Nothing Compares 2 U")

Ms. SINEAD O'CONNOR (Singer): (Singing) It's been 7 hours and 15 days since you took your love away.

HANSEN: What a heartbreaker. Nothing compares to David Kushner, a writer who covers digital culture. This is NPR News.

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Making Mix Tapes No Longer A Labor Of Love." *Weekend Edition Sunday* 14 June 2009. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 15 Jan. 2013.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA201768539&v=2.1&u=lom_metronetmfc&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w

Gale Document Number: GALE|A201768539

- [1](#)
- -
- -
- -

- [Jennifer Randel](#)
- [edit profile](#)
- [friends](#)
- [help](#)
- [sign out](#)



goodreads

Title / Author / ISBN



- [Home](#)
- [My Books](#)
- [Groups](#)
- [Recommendations](#)
- - [genres](#)
 - [listopia](#)
 - [giveaways](#)
 - [popular](#)
 - [goodreads voice](#)
 - [ebooks](#)
 - **fun**
 - [trivia](#)
 - [quizzes](#)
 - [quotes](#)
 - **community**
 - [creative writing](#)
 - [people](#)
 - [events](#)

[Explore](#)



Rob Sheffield > Quotes

Rob Sheffield quotes (showing 1-50 of 114)

“It’s the same with people who say, ‘Whatever doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.’ Even people who say this must realize that the exact opposite is true. What doesn’t kill you maims you, cripples you, leaves you weak, makes you whiny and full of yourself at the same time. The more pain, the more pompous you get. Whatever doesn’t kill you makes you incredibly annoying.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [loss](#), [love](#), [pain](#)

[432 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“When we die, we will turn into songs, and we will hear each other and remember each other.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [music](#)

[349 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“The times you lived through, the people you shared those times with — nothing brings it all to life like an old mix tape. It does a better job of storing up memories than actual brain tissue can do. Every mix tape tells a story. Put them together, and they can add up to the story of a life.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [life](#), [music](#), [nostalgia](#)

[141 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I'd shut the whole world down just to tell you”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [love](#)

[119 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“There are all kinds of mix tapes. there is always a reason to make one.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [music](#)

[114 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“It's always that one song that gets to you. You can hide, but the song comes to find you.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[111 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“Our lives were just beginning, our favorite moment was right now, our favorite songs were unwritten.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [life](#), [music](#), [youth](#)

[101 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I had no voice to talk with because she was my whole language.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[71 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“Tonight, I feel like my whole body is made out of memories. I'm a mix-tape, a cassette that's been rewound so many times you can hear the fingerprints smudged on the tape.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[70 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I realize that I will never fully understand the millions of bizarre ways that music brings people together.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[62 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“But the answer is simple. Love is a mix tape.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[52 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I was helpless in trying to return people's kindness, but also helpless to resist it. Kindness is a scarier force than cruelty, that's for sure. Cruelty isn't that hard to understand. I had no trouble comprehending why the phone company wanted to screw me over; they just wanted to steal some money, it was nothing personal. That's the way of the world. It made me mad, but it didn't make me feel stupid. If anything, it flattered my intelligence. Accepting all that kindness, though, made me feel stupid.

Human benevolence is totally unfair. We don't live in a kind or generous world, yet we are kind and generous. We know the universe is out to burn us, and it gets us all the way it got Renee, but we don't burn each other, not always. We are kind people in an unkind world, to paraphrase Wallace Stevens. How do you pretend you don't know about it, after you see it? How do you go back to acting like you don't need it? How do you even the score and walk off a free man? You can't. I found myself forced to let go of all sorts of independence I thought I had, independence I had spent years trying to

cultivate. That world was all gone, and now I was a supplicant, dependent on the mercy of other people's psychic hearts."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [cruelty](#), [grief](#), [kindness](#)

[48 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Unlike me, Renee was not shy; she was a real people-pleaser. She worried way too much what people thought of her, wore her heart on her sleeve, expected too much from people, and got hurt too easily. She kept other people's secrets like a champ, but told her own too fast. She expected the world not to cheat her and was always surprised when it did."

— [Rob Sheffield](#)

[45 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"I get sentimental over the music of the '90s. Deplorable, really. But I love it all. As far as I'm concerned the '90s was the best era for music ever, even the stuff that I loathed at the time, even the stuff that gave me stomach cramps."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [music](#), [nostalgia](#)

[41 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"The dilemma of the eighth-grade dance is that boys and girls use music in different ways. Girls enjoy music they can dance to, music with strong vocals and catchy melodies. Boys, on the other hand, enjoy music they can improve by making up filthy new lyrics."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [childhood](#), [music](#)

[41 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Love dies in many different ways, and it's natural for the grass to seem greener on the other side. But it's not a competition; there's plenty of pain to go around."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

[36 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"When you stick a song on a tape, you set it free."

— [Rob Sheffield](#)

tags: [humor](#), [music](#)

[32 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"My sisters were the coolest people I knew, and still are. I have always aspired to be like them and know what they know. My sisters were the color and noise in my black-and-white boy world-how I pitied my friends who had brothers. Boys seemed incredibly tedious and dim compared to my sisters, who were always a rush of energy and excitement, buzzing over all the books, records, jokes, rumors and ideas we were discovering together. I grew up thriving on the commotion of their girl noise, whether they were laughing or singing or staging an intervention because somebody was wearing stirrup pants. I always loved being lost in that girl noise."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

tags: [sisters](#)

[31 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

➤ "Nothing connects to the moment like music. I count the music to bring me back, or more precisely, to bring her forward."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

[28 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"One of Renee's friends asked her, "Does your boyfriend wear glasses?" She said, "No, he wears a Walkman."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [love](#)

[27 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Girls take up a lot of room. I had a lot of room for this one."

— [Rob Sheffield](#), *Love is a Mix Tape*

[24 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"For two weeks, I lay awake at night and said Hail Marys over and over to stop my heart from beating too fast. I suddenly realized how much being a husband was about fear: fear of not being able to keep somebody safe, of not being able to

protect somebody from all the bad stuff you want to protect them from. Knowing they have more tears in them than you will be able to keep them from crying. I realized that Renee had seen me fail, and that she was the person I was going to be failing in front of the rest of my life. It was just a little failure, but it promised bigger failures to come. Additional ones, anyway. But that's who your wife is, the person you fail in front of. Love it so confusing; there's no peace of mind."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[23 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"But for me, if we're talking about romance, cassettes wipe the floor with MP3s. This has nothing to do with superstition, or nostalgia. MP3s buzz straight to your brain. That's part of what I love about them. But the rhythm of the mix tape is the rhythm of romance, the analog hum of a physical connection between two sloppy human bodies. The cassette is full of tape hiss and room tone; it's full of wasted space, unnecessary noise. Compared to the go-go-go rhythm of an MP3, mix tapes are hopelessly inefficient. You go back to a cassette the way a detective sits and pours drinks for the elderly motel clerk who tells stories about the old days--you know you might be somewhat bored, but there might be a clue in there somewhere. And if there isn't, what the hell? It's not a bad time. You know you will waste time. You plan on it."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[22 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"The hungry feeling and the lonely feeling merged until it was hard to tell them apart."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[20 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"A song nobody likes is a sad thing. But a love song nobody likes is hardly a thing at all."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [love](#), [music](#)

[19 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"on the 11th of every month my friend elizabeth would say, "well we made it through another month. so do we get her back now?" we always giggled, but we really did expect to get her back. its not human to let go of love, even when it's dead.

we expected one of these monthly anniversaries to be the Final Goodbye. we figured that we'd said all our goodbyes, and given up all the tears we had to give. we'd passed the test and would get back what we'd lost. but instead, every anniversary hurt more, and every anniversary felt like she was further away from coming back. the idea that there wouldn't be a final goodbye- that was a hard goodbye in itself and, at that point, still an impossible goodbye. no private eye has to tell you it's a long goodbye.

...the loss just doesn't go away- it gets bigger the longer you look at it."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[18 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Every mix tape tells a story. Put them together, and they add up to the story of life."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[18 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"It was bewildering and humbling to keep discovering how many brave things people can fail to talk themselves out of doing."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [bravery](#)

[18 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"I didn't know what I was. I didn't have a noun."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[17 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Falling in love with Renee was not the kind of thing you walk away from in one piece. I had no chance. She put a hitch in my git-a-long."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[16 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"I had no voice to talk with because she was my whole language. Without her to talk to, there was nothing to say."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [lovers](#)

[15 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Sometimes great tunes happen to bad times, and when the bad time is over, not all the tunes get to move on with you."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time*

[15 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"But bringing people together is what music has always done best."

— Rob Sheffield, *Talking to Girls about Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

tags: [kindlehighlight](#)

[14 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"The way I pictured it, all this grief would be like a winter night when you're standing outside. You'll warm up once you get used to the cold. Except after you've been out there for awhile, you feel the warmth draining out of you and you realize the opposite is happening; you're getting colder and colder, as the body heat you brought outside with you seeps out of your skin. Instead of getting used to it, you get weaker the longer you endure it."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [grief](#)

[13 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"You know the Prince song where the girl's phone rings but she tells him, "whoever's calling couldn't be as cute as you?" I long to live out this moment in real life."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [fantasy](#), [song-lyrics](#)

[13 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"If the girls keep dancing, everybody's happy. If the girls don't dance, nobody's happy."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[13 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"I was totally clueless about social interaction, and completely scared of girls. All I knew was that music was going to make girls fall in love with me."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [love](#), [music](#)

[12 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"But the rhythm of the mix tape is the rhythm of romance, the analog hum of a physical connection between two sloppy, human bodies."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[12 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"bitch power is the juice, the sweat, the blood that keeps pop music going. Rick James helped me understand the lesson of the eighth-grade dance: Bitch power rules the world. If the girls don't like the music, they sit down and stop the show. You gotta have a crowd if you wanna have a show. And the girls are the show. We're talking absolute monarchy, with no rules of succession. Bitch power. She must be obeyed. She must be feared."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [dis](#), [music](#), [rick-james](#), [women](#)

[11 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"...some people aren't worth the trouble of being kind to, because they have neither the brains nor the power to make something for themselves out of your kindness."

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[11 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

"Not being able to protect her from things was the most frightening thing I'd ever felt, and it kicked in as soon as we got together. With every year we spent together, I became more conscious that I now had an infinitely expanding number of

reasons to be afraid. I had something to lose.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

[11 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“What doesn't kill you maims you, cripples you, leaves you weak, makes you whiny and full of yourself at the same time. The more pain, the more pompous you get. Whatever doesn't kill you makes you incredibly annoying”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[11 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“She was the first person on either side of her family to go to college, and she held herself to insanely high standards. She worried a lot about whether she was good enough. It was surprising to see how relieved she seemed whenever I told her how amazing she was. I wanted her to feel strong and free. She was beautiful when she was free.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [love](#)

[10 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“Sometimes you lie in a strange room, in a strange person's home, and you feel yourself bending out of shape. Melting, touching something hot, something that warps you in drastic and probably irreversible ways you won't get to take stock of until its too late”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[10 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“It was like trying to break up with the color orange, or Wednesday, or silent e. It was the most passionate and tumultuous relationship I'd ever known.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

[9 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I was the only kid at Camp Don Bosco who would admit he was an alter boy back home, so I served two masses a day all summer. But I loved the cassock and surplice, ringing the bells, lighting the candles - it was like being a glamrock roadie for God.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[9 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“The Word 'Repulse': I hate this word. I believe 'repel' is a perfectly good word, and 'repulsion' is the noun, as well as the title of an excellent Dinosaur Jr. song. A compulsion compels you; an impulse impels you. Nobody ever says 'compulse' or 'impulse' as a verb. So why would you ever say 'repulse'? This word haunts me in my sleep, like a silver dagger dancing before my eyes. Renee looked it up and I was wrong. But I still kind of think I'm right.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

[8 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“The Stones suggested that if you dabble in decadence, you could turn into a devil-worshipping junkie. Paul McCartney suggested that if you mess around with girl worship, you could turn into a husband. So Paul was a lot scarier.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

[8 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“I kept thinking of an old Robert Mitchum cowboy movie where he goes back to see the farmhouse where he was born and finds the house falling apart and an old man living in it by himself. “Lonely place,” Robert Mitchum says. The old man says, “Nothing wrong with a lonely place as long as it's private. That's why I never married. Marriage is lonely, but it ain't private.” That was always my most intense fear about getting married: When everything sucked and I was by myself, I thought, Well, at least I don't have another miserable person to worry about. I figured if you gave up your private place and it still turns out to be lonely, you're just screwed.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Love is a Mix Tape*

tags: [life](#)

[7 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

“Monogamous musicians are like vegan hockey players.”

— Rob Sheffield, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

tags: [funny](#)

[7 people liked it](#)

[like](#)

« [previous](#) / [2](#) [3](#) [next](#) »

[All Quotes](#) | [Add A Quote](#)

Find quotes

[Play The 'Guess That Quote' Game](#)

Books by Rob Sheffield



[Love is a Mix Tape](#)

12,634 ratings

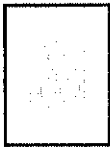
[buy a copy](#)



[Talking to Girls About Duran Duran](#)

3,762 ratings

[buy a copy](#)



[UC Turn Around Bright Eyes](#)

1 rating

[buy a copy](#)



[Любовта е сборна касетка](#)

1 rating

[buy a copy](#)

[More...](#)

sponsored books



[Talented](#) by Sophie Davis

The Talented are taught to use their powers for the greater good. But all Talia wants is revenge...

~For a Limited time, only .99!~
Amazon.com/Talented



[Flashman and the Cobra](#)

The second instalment of the scandalous memoirs of Thomas Flashman, set in napoleonic Paris and India

www.goodreads.com

[9 people added it »](#)

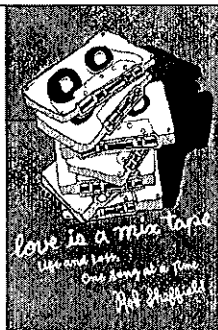
[more books...](#)

© 2013 Goodreads Inc

- [about us](#)
- [advertise](#)
- [author program](#)
- [jobs](#)
- [api](#)
- [our blog](#)
- [terms](#)
- [privacy](#)
- [help](#)

Books & Authors

Answers to *What do I read next?*



Love is a Mix Tape (2007)

Rob Sheffield (Author)

Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time is the story of *Rolling Stone* journalist Rob Sheffield's relationship with the woman he loved and the music they enjoyed together. Using the track lists of 15 mix tapes he made throughout the course of his life, Sheffield recalls special moments from summer camp, high school, and the day he met Renee, his wife of eight years. From Elvis Presley to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nirvana to Missy Elliott, Sheffield draws connections between his favorite songs and the events they correspond to in his life. Music is invaluable to Sheffield, as it brought him and Renee together--and kept him from falling apart when she died suddenly.

Community Rating ★★★★★

SUBJECT : Autobiographies, Music, Love, Journalism, Adolescence, Death

Hardcover

9781400083022 Trade Cloth

1400083028 Trade Cloth

Softcover

9781400083039 Trade Paper

1400083036 Trade Paper

Audio

0739333526 Compact Disc

9780739333525 Compact Disc

RECOMMENDED SIMILAR TITLES

Eating the Dinosaur - Chuck Klosterman

The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty-Year Friendship - Jeffrey Zaslow

Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son -

Michael Chabon

Talking to Girls about Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler

Haircut - Rob Sheffield

Undateable: 311 Things Guys Do That Guarantee They Won't Be Dating or Having Sex -

Ellen Rakieten; Anne Coyle

Gale Document Number: GALE|M1300175157

Gale Database: *What Do I Read Next?*, 2012

SOURCE CITATION : "Love is a Mix Tape." 2012. *Books & Authors* Gale. Gale Internal User. 15 Jan 2013 <<http://bna.galegroup.com/bna/start.do?p=BNA&u=gale>>

©2008 Cengage Learning