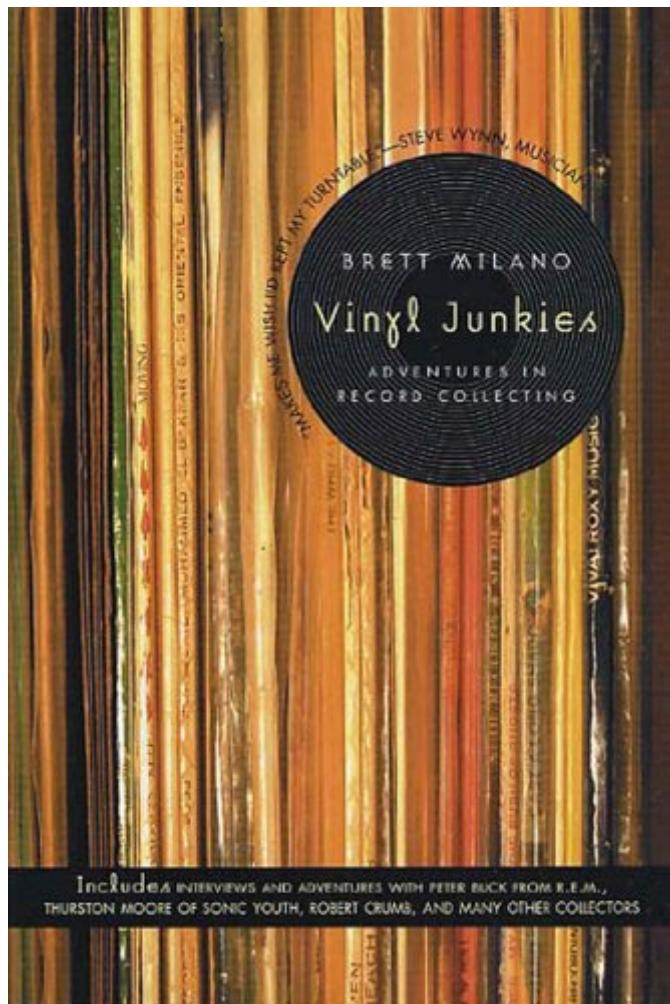


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# Vinyl Junkies: Adventures In Record Collecting



## **Synopsis**

Not too far away from the flea markets, dusty attics, cluttered used record stores and Ebay is the world of the vinyl junkies. Brett Milano dives deep into the piles of old vinyl to uncover the subculture of record collecting. A vinyl junkie is not the person who has a few old 45s shoved in the cupboard from their days in high school. Vinyl Junkies are the people who will travel over 3,000 miles to hear a rare b-side by a German band that has only recorded two songs since 1962, vinyl junkies are the people who own every copy of every record produced by the favorite artist from every pressing and printing in existence, vinyl junkies are the people who may just love that black plastic more than anything else in their lives. Brett Milano traveled the U.S. seeking out the most die-hard and fanatical collectors to capture all that it means to be a vinyl junkie. Includes interviews with Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, Peter Buck from R.E.M and Robert Crumb, creator of Fritz the cat and many more underground comics.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My husband collects vinyl albums, and has done so for years. We literally have over 25,000 in our house. Or I should say the garage which has been converted into a big man cave where he can

stash them all. The walls are filled from top to bottom, both alphabetically and in ways only his mind could conjure up. I got him this book because it sounded like something he would like. Normally I buy him biographies or art books displaying such things as the top album covers or the like. He usually glances at them and maybe reads a bit. Not so with this book. He picked it up and didn't put it down until he finished. He was cackling on almost every page and he would read aloud the parts that especially amused him - and they were pretty funny. Here's the thing - for the hardcore vinyl collector this book is a must. Filled with stories from other collectors (some well-known musicians) it will completely resonate for those with whom collecting is a passion. Highly recommended. Even funny for the rest of us....

This book is terrific. The author looks at record collecting from every possible angle -- from the Freudian aspects of the drive to the possible reasons why collectors have trouble finding girls. It's full of wonderful interviews with the famous -- Peter Wolff, Peter Buck, and Robert Crumb -- and not so-famous -- a guy with 150,000 records, a woman who collects all Olivia Newton John albums and memorabilia. A collector himself, Milano thoroughly understands the search and satisfaction of finding a record very few other people have. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in music, collecting, or simply good storytelling.

VINYL JUNKIES is a very entertaining little book about hard core record collecting. We're not talking about making sure you buy the latest Britney album when it comes out, we're talking about spending lots of time, money, and social capital seeking out the one Guided By Voices seven inch you need to complete your collection. The book is full of anecdotes about people discovering something rare in a box of Lps in somebody's attic. Some of the collectors are famous (Peter Buck, Thurston Moore), but most are just regular guys (and a few gals) who have to navigate around a pile of Jeff Beck Japanese only Lps to get to the fridge. There are chapters about collecting imports, bubblegum pop, industrial records ("Got to Investigate Silicone") and also an attempt to explain why collectors collect. (Hint: serotonin) My one complaint is that almost all of the collectors discussed in this book are either musicians, music writers, or record execs. How about some pointers for the beginner? Still, very enjoyable for music fans.

I found myself smiling several times while reading this book, recognizing myself in several of the portraits of "obsessive" collectors. Although every collector mentioned here is in some level of denial ("I'm not as bad as \_\_\_\_\_", or "At least I don't listen to \_\_\_\_\_"), it's very interesting to hear some of

their explanations (rationalizing?) for their collecting. I also discovered a few records I must track down myself (The "Scythian" and "Naughty Rock and Roll"!). I have a few suggestions for the author, if there is a second edition - I was thinking that both Lux Interior and Poison Ivy (of The Cramps) would have been excellent subjects for the book, as well as Jello Biafra. I've heard that they have amazing collections, as does the former lead singer of Canned Heat. Also, it would have been awesome for the book's actual cover to have graphics of some of the titles mentioned inside (like the former Searchers lead singer's solo EP, or The Click Kids LP). The Mohammed El-Bakkar LP was a nice touch, but Vol 3 ("Music of the African Arab") is the one you want! (I know, I know...) Finally, one correction --> In Pulp Fiction, Uma Thurman plays a reel-to-reel tape of "Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon," not a CD. This is a great book about a very interesting topic, and I'd recommend it to any record collector I know, or anybody interested in wild record collections and why people collect them!

The best book written (so far) about record collecting and what it's all about. Covering everything from what drives a collector to collect (it's obsessive) to strange and just plain weird vinyl collector specialties: such as sewing machine records and music to hang wallpaper by. Thrown in among descriptions of knocking on doors to hunt down rare blues 78's to where to look for the 'real collectables' are great short interview pieces with serious collectors with huge collections like R. Crumb (cartoonist) and Peter Buck (guitarist from REM), as well as quite a few collectors you might not have heard about. When you finish it, you just might be inspired to visit the local thrift shops, or to go through your own collection for a massive sell-off. Either way, you'll enjoy this well written slice of collectors and their lifestyle (which may, or may not be your own).

My wife bought this book for me for Christmas and after I had read a little bit of it I read some reviews on here. Not everyone is going to agree on what makes a great collection, or whether or not 60's garage rock is more important than the NWOBHM. The book does come across as snotty sometimes, like implying there's something uncool about having an REO Speedwagon record. I don't think any record is uncool. The genres and artists are irrelevant, what makes this book fun is that it shows the passion and borderline lunacy that collectors share. And it also will make you realize that not only are you not alone in your passion for records, there are people much worse than you! I never knew there were other people who obsessed over things like which "label" looks cooler etc. Whether you are a beginning collector or an over the top vinyl junkie I think anyone who can put aside "genre arguments" will enjoy this book very much.

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