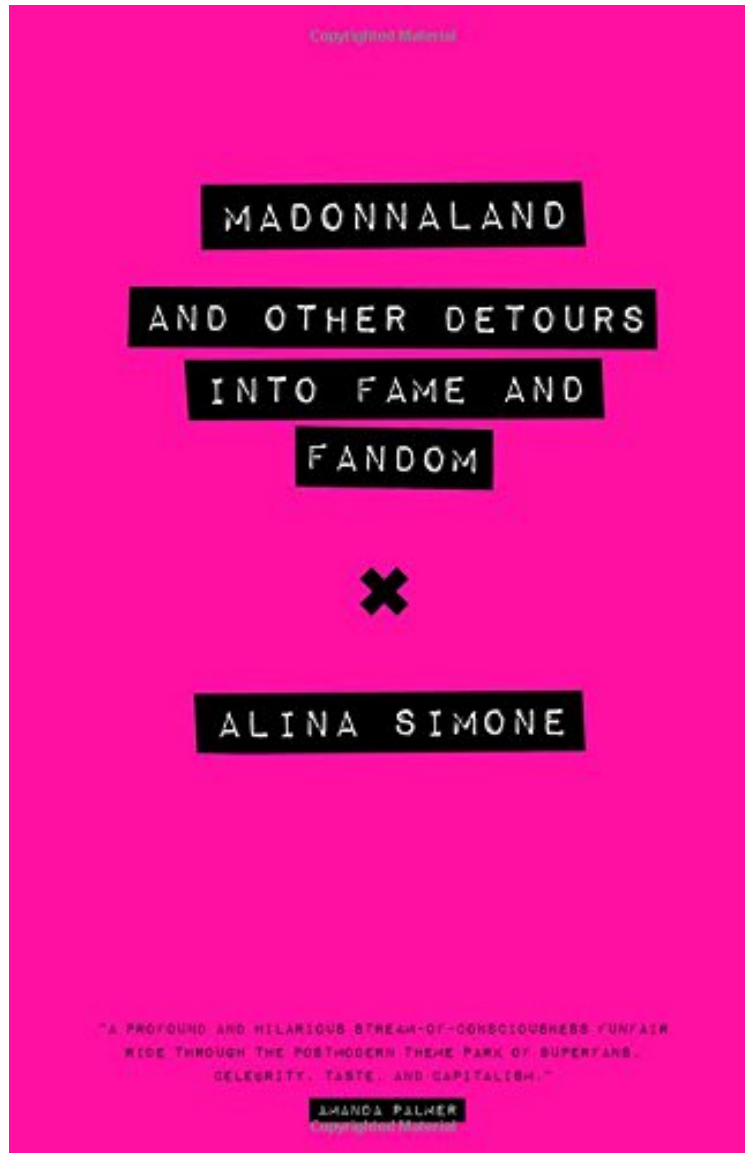


(Mobile pdf) Madonnaland: And Other Detours into Fame and Fandom (American Music)

# Madonnaland: And Other Detours into Fame and Fandom (American Music)

Alina Simone

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**Alina Simone : Madonnaland: And Other Detours into Fame and Fandom (American Music)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madonnaland: And Other Detours into Fame and Fandom (American Music):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Madonna, Music Fandom and Other Bands and Musicians...By

missmickee-bookreview In this unique and absorbing read "Madonnaland: And Other Detours Into Fame and Fandom" by journalist Alina Simone. With Simone's extensive background as a Russian-American NYC former punk psychedelic rock musician, her influence of Yanka Dyagileva (1966-1991), she received notable recognition for her music writing skills, which appeared in the NYT, Slate, Wall Street Journal and others, she is the author of the essay compilation: "You Must Go Out There and Win" (2011) also, "A Note to Self: A Novel" (2013). Many cities and towns have a tourism industry affiliated with the famous celebrity, musician, artist born or raised there: an example is Bob Dylan's hometown of Hibbing, M.N. Simone was dismayed to discover when she traveled to Madonna's hometown of Bay City, Michigan, she couldn't find a sign or plaque in honor of Bay City's most famous resident. Madonna's late grandmother Elise Fortin's large house had been converted to an elder care facility. The city dignitaries were aware of Madonna's status as Simone interviewed them and explored the reasons behind this unusual slight. The residents of Bay City were hardworking with "regular jobs and Hobbies, with last names" yet it was unclear if they wanted a tribute to Madonna in their midst, in the form of a museum, park, statue, or commemorative plaque or sign. With thousands of online articles, the history and material on Madonna seemed endless, and with confidentially contracts few insiders were willing to be interviewed. This included Christopher Ciccone who wrote the book "Life With My Sister: Madonna" (2008); and informed Simone he charged \$3,000 for a 45 minute interview. Joel Herrera (not his real name), a 45 year old Madonna super fan, was thrilled discuss his favorite obsession. Spending thousands of dollars on tattoo's and concert tickets, he had a shrine in his New Jersey home and owned every Madonna tee shirt, book, button, concert program ever produced and wore the Madonna women's perfume and jewelry. The British Invasion was a tremendous influence on American pop music. The 1966 number one hit song "96 Tears" by a Mexican American group (often called the Mexican Beatles) "The Mysterians" were from Bay City, Michigan. The lead singer who had changed his name to Question Mark, and band members were still in high school when they had their hit single. Simone explored the subject of obscurity with Detroit musician Sixto Rodriguez, his story was the subject of the excellent documentary "Searching For Sugar Man" (2012). Rodriguez music was unknown in the U.S.-- in South Africa he was a legendary icon and presumed dead, until he was tracked down by a music producer fan. The talent and sound of "The Flying Wedge" and limited fan base were brought to light and the difficulty getting noticed. Despite her noticeable lack of enthusiasm for Madonna, Simone admitted that completing this writing assignment was more challenging than she anticipated: Madonna had reached the highest levels of superstardom, while the majority of bands (including her own) never get off the ground. It didn't matter how good or talented they were, the professional music recording industry was brutal, especially for lesser known bands. Although Simone seemed deflated to reveal that four of the record labels she had recorded with folded, she compared themes of fame with obscurity with the style and ease related to success and accomplishment in this captivating insightful book.\* The 1970's pop band: "The Bay City Rollers" had several hit songs in the U.S. were from Edinburgh, Scotland. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Andrea Olenick These are great light weight pajamas. They run somewhat large and they are nice and stretchy

When Alina Simone agreed to write a book about Madonna, she thought it might provide an interesting excuse to indulge her own eighties nostalgia. Wrong. What Simone discovered instead was a tidal wave of already published information about Madonna and her own ambivalence about, maybe even jealousy of, the Material Girl's overwhelming commercial success. With the straight-ahead course stymied, Simone set off on a quirky detour through the backroads of celebrity and fandom and the people who love or loathe Madonna. In this witty, sometimes acerbic, always perceptive chronicle, Simone begins by trying to understand why Madonna's birthplace, Bay City, Michigan, won't even put up a sign to celebrate its most famous citizen, and ends by asking why local bands who make music that's authentic and true can disappear with barely a trace. In between, she ranges from Madonna fans who cover themselves with tattoos of the singer's face and try to make fortunes off selling her used bustiers and dresses, to Question Mark and the Mysterians one-hit wonders best known for "96 Tears" and Flying Wedge, a Detroit band that dropped off an amazing two-track record in the office of CREEM magazine in 1972 and vanished, until Simone tracked it down. Filled with fresh insights about the music business, fandom, and what it takes to become a superstar, Madonnaland is as much a book for people who, like Simone, prefer "dark rooms, coffee, and state-subsidized European films filled with existential despair" as it is for people who can't get enough of Madonna.

"Simone . . . achieves a productive union between the obscure and the intriguing." (New York Times Book 2016-03-03) "Madonnaland is a wonderful collection of essays on subjects ranging from one man's quest to get Bay City to recognize its famous daughter, and other bands that hail from the Michigan city, like Question Mark and the Mysterians. Simone is a deeply funny writer, but also a perceptive, compassionate one." (NPR's Best Books of 2016 2016-12-07) "Alina Simone gives us a fuller, weirder and more interesting overview of Madonna than we may have thought possible. . . . It's the way Simone presents her story that's most riveting, whether it's looking at idiosyncratic figures from the pop star's home state . . . or her own journey from pop music fandom to indie rock." (Rolling Stone's 10 Best Music Books of 2016 2016-12-21) "Though Madonnaland seems to be about other musicians, at heart it's a

meditation on the author's own career, which provides a convenient entry point a meditation on success and failure and an attempt to come to some sort of peace with one's place in the world." (Chicago Reader 2016-02-25)"Simone's book is more than a portrait of Madonna and the people who love her, it's a reflection on the nature of pop music fandom. " (Men's Journal, "The Best Books of March" 2016-03-01)"Alina Simone's *Madonnaland* is a totally excellent book, and if you don't bother to read it, you will be missing something significant in the development of modern cultural criticism. " (PopMatters 2016-03-23)"The entire book is great fun for any lover of music history, and Simone always supplies contrary and complicating thinking about her own opinions...*Madonnaland* is another fine book on contemporary music from the University of Texas Press." (Yes! Weekly)"How do we start with sparkly cone bras and end with a well-considered philosophy of human fulfillment? No idea, but Simone manages to do it. *Madonnaland* is a profound and hilarious stream-of-consciousness funfair ride through the postmodern theme park of super fans, celebrity, taste, and capitalism, with Simone as the perfect conductor." (Amanda Palmer)"Alina Simone's critical (and hilariously self-critical) look at pop culture, ambition, identity, and the strange things that can happen when art meets time is, if you'll pardon the expression, a ray of light." (Ben Greenman, New York Times best-selling author of *Mo Meta Blues* and *The Slippage*) "How do we start with sparkly cone bras and end with a well-considered philosophy of human fulfillment? No idea, but Simone manages to do it. *Madonnaland* is a profound and hilarious stream-of-consciousness funfair ride through the postmodern theme park of super fans, celebrity, taste, and capitalism, with Simone as the perfect conductor." (Amanda Palmer)"Alina Simone's critical (and hilariously self-critical) look at pop culture, ambition, identity, and the strange things that can happen when art meets time is, if you'll pardon the expression, a ray of light." (Ben Greenman, New York Times best-selling author of *Mo Meta Blues* and *The Slippage*)  
About the Author  
Alina Simone is a singer-turned-writer whose work has appeared in the New York Times, Slate, Wall Street Journal, and many other publications. She is the author of the essay collection *You Must Go and Win* and the novel *Note to Self*, as well as a regular contributor to the PRI news radio show *The World*.