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Elliott Smith's XO (33 1/3 series)

Matthew LeMay

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#526801 in Books LeMay Matthew 2009-04-06 2009-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.55 x .42 x 4.801, .25 #File Name: 0826429009142 pages Elliott Smith s XO | File size: 67.Mb

Matthew LeMay : Elliott Smith's XO (33 1/3 series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elliott Smith's XO (33 1/3 series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author uses fragments of lyrics to explain entire songs By Joshua Goldschmidt This book reads like research paper. The format was awful. The author continues to repeat the same points. Also, the second section of this book is about how our understanding of an artist, whether it is accurate or not affects, our interpretation of their music and vice versa. That section was almost completely worthless and paints the media as evil. My main problem with this book is that the author uses fragments of lyrics to explain entire songs. In many cases I found what he said to contradict my interpretation of the song even after hearing the reasoning behind it. I just think if you are going to analyze a piece of writing you have to look at the entire complete piece before coming to a conclusion. Now the book did have some positives. I liked that lyrics that were later changed were included and

showed the development of the songs. Also, Larry Crane's insight was worth while. All together I would suggest you skip the book and just read the lyrics yourself and come to your own conclusions. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read For Elliott Smith Fans By R. Scott Boundy This is one of the best books available on Elliott Smith. If you are a fan then you probably own the very excellent XO. (My friend Emily who owns a Record Store calls it her favorite E.S. Record) The author discusses the circumstances surrounding the making of XO and also discusses each song from the album in a most intelligent, interesting, introspective, yet objective way. In addition, in Part Two of the book, LeMay delves into who the late Elliot Smith really was and exposes some of the common misconceptions surrounding the Artist. After reading this very well written book, I have gained a new appreciation for XO and am hearing it and enjoying it in a new and beautiful light. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ES fan - enjoyed the book By Customer Enjoyed the book. Purchased in '08 and got mine signed at a book signing. I re-read it from time to time, and is still on my shelf today.

Many albums could be cited to support the claim that great suffering yields great art. Elliott Smith's XO should not be one of them. Smith's 1998 major label debut defies the "tortured singer-songwriter" stereotype, and takes up this defiance as a central theme. At a time when Smith was being groomed for a particular (and particularly condescending) brand of stardom, he produced a record that eviscerated one of the central assumptions of singersongwriterdom: that pain is beautiful. XO insists that romanticizing personal tragedy can only leave you "deaf and dumb and done." And it backs up this claim with some of the most artful and intelligent music of its day. Matthew LeMay writes an original take on a widely beloved album, steering clear of the sensationalist suicide angles that have dogged most analysis of Elliott Smith's extraordinary work.

The case is skillfully put forward that [Smith] wasn't all gloom, but a studious musical perfectionist." Record Collector