

Drawing Blood

By Molly Crabapple

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Art was my dearest friend.

To draw was trouble and safety, adventure and freedom.

In that four-cornered kingdom of paper, I lived as I pleased.

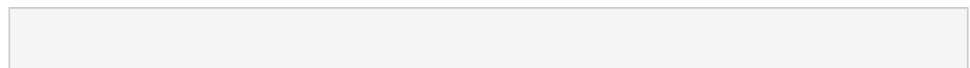
This is the story of a girl and her sketchbook.

In language that is fresh, visceral, and deeply moving—and illustrations that are irreverent and gorgeous—here is a memoir that will change the way you think about art, sex, politics, and survival in our times.

From a young age, Molly Crabapple had the eye of an artist and the spirit of a radical. After a restless childhood on New York's Long Island, she left America to see Europe and the Near East, a young artist plunging into unfamiliar cultures, notebook always in hand, drawing what she observed.

Returning to New York City after 9/11 to study art, she posed nude for sketch artists and sketchy photographers, danced burlesque, and modeled for the world famous Suicide Girls. Frustrated with the academy and the conventional art world, she eventually landed a post as house artist at Simon Hammerstein's legendary nightclub The Box, the epicenter of decadent Manhattan nightlife before the financial crisis of 2008. There she had a ringside seat for the pitched battle between the bankers of Wall Street and the entertainers who walked among them—a scandalous, drug-fueled circus of mutual exploitation that she captured in her tart and knowing illustrations. Then, after the crash, a wave of protest movements—from student demonstrations in London to Occupy Wall Street in her own backyard—led Molly to turn her talents to a new form of witness journalism, reporting from places such as Guantanamo, Syria, Rikers Island, and the labor camps of Abu Dhabi. Using both words and artwork to shed light on the darker corners of American empire, she has swiftly become one of the most original and galvanizing voices on the cultural stage.

Now, with the same blend of honesty, fierce insight, and indelible imagery that is her signature, Molly offers her own story: an unforgettable memoir of artistic exploration, political awakening, and personal transformation.



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Editorial Review

Review

“*Drawing Blood* is packed with enough energy and edge to make Patti Smith’s *Just Kids* seem like a field trip to Disneyland...Candid, earthy, romantic, funny, omnivorous... A portrait of a tough woman winning (finally) in a tough profession in the toughest of cities” (*Shelf Awareness*)

“Crabapple is smart and wicked and wicked smart, a master of imagery and perception, and so her art always works on multiple levels. So too the book. She’s not afraid to provide contradictory thoughts and feelings. *Drawing Blood* might be the sexiest thing you read this year.” (*Daily Beast*)

“This beautiful book, generously graced with so many illustrations, is artfully designed and fun to browse for the images alone...But Crabapple’s tight, vibrant, jabbing prose, and prescient asides are the reason to buy this work. Her narrative is well-crafted, expertly told, and completely compelling.” (*Seattle Times Book Review*)

“The book reads like a notebook of New York, a cultural history of a certain set. Filtered through her eyes, we see 9/11, the aftermath of the crash, Occupy Wall Street, Hurricane Sandy and onward... [Crabapple is] a new model for this century’s young woman. (*New York Times Book Review*)

“Celebrated New York journalist Crabapple is also one of America’s best, most original artists. Her memoir tells the story of her remarkable life, from her days modeling for Suicide Girls to her groundbreaking Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art School and her work with Occupy Wall Street.” (*Men’s Journal*)

“Hers is a story of art as liberation...Molly detects the bright and beautiful as well as she does the dark and fearful in the world not just because her eye is keen, but also because her eyes are so wide open.” (Alana Massey, BuzzFeed Books)

“Among the book’s delights are the frequent examples of her work, from jittery sketches to lush, colorful paintings — both words and images are the product of a keen eye and devastating pen.” (*Boston Globe*)

“Jaw dropping, awe inspiring, and not afraid to shock, Crabapple is a punk Joan Didion, a young Patti Smith with paint on her hands, a twenty-first century Sylvia Plath. There’s no one else like her; prepare to be blown away by both the words and pictures.” (*Booklist* (starred review))

“Lavishly illustrated, the book offers a candid portrayal of an artist’s journey to self-knowledge and fulfillment.” (*Kirkus Reviews*)

“Artist, writer, and activist Crabapple was compelled from a young age by the need to draw because it gives her a sense of self worth. Her struggles as an impoverished artist are rendered here in raw, vivid prose, accompanied by her arresting illustrations.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“Using illustrations to bolster the written material, *Drawing Blood*, out now, is a more intimate memoir than we’re used to seeing, one that is blazingly honest and unafraid to offer up something real to chew on.” (*Paper Magazine*)

“Artist Molly Crabapple delivers a violently felt and intimately revealing memoir.” (Book Riot)

“Hands down, the best book I’ve read all year...an incredible book that has everyone talking... This raw,

unrepentant memoir sheds light on Molly Crabapple's early career, her first forays into reporting, and her tireless quest to improve as an artist. The lavish illustrations are just the icing on the cake." (Heavy.com)

"Molly Crabapple's pen is a scalpel, and she's not afraid to turn the blade on herself. Beautifully excruciating." (Patton Oswalt)

"Molly Crabapple could be this generation's Charles Bukowski. She's a great artist whose life is also a work of art." (Matt Taibbi)

"In a few short years, Molly Crabapple has proved to be one of the most determined and effective political artists working in these sorry times. I wish there were a hundred or even two or three like her." (Joe Sacco)

"Molly writes like she draws: the spare lines have a reporter's keen accuracy, but can barely contain the boisterous, messy, soulful life splashing about within. Inspiring, intimate, and just a bit intimidating, this book is a must." (Joss Whedon, creator of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and writer-director of *The Avengers*)

"Molly Crabapple is turn by turn irreverent, respectful, enraged and then trembling with awe, and all of this is a tender meditation on the power of art to transform a singular life into one that can be emblematic for us all: powerful and magical." (Chris Abani, author of *The Secret History of Las Vegas* and *GraceLand*)

"Molly Crabapple writes that her 'pen is a lockpick,' and with it she has revealed truths about life, culture, and politics in America that are compelling, artistic, and memorable—as is this revealing new memoir. An engaging read by one of the nation's most gifted activists." (Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*)

From the Back Cover

"Molly Crabapple could be this generation's Charles Bukowski. She's a great artist whose life is also a work of art."—**Matt Taibbi**

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transformation.

About the Author

Molly Crabapple is an artist and writer. She is a contributing editor for *Vice* and has written for the *New York Times*, the *Paris Review*, and the *Guardian*, among other publications. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. She lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mia Shaw:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great along with important the book *Drawing Blood*. All type of book would you see on many resources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

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Jerry Schooler:

Is it anyone who having spare time and then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *Drawing Blood* can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is

common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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