



Dutton

375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

Dear Producer/Editor,

In 2007, music and pop culture journalist **Rob Sheffield** burst onto the bestseller list with *Love is a Mix Tape*, a much-beloved debut memoir about the courtship, marriage, and sudden loss of his first wife, Renee, and the music they shared. "It's a memoir that manages, no small feat, to be funny and beautifully forlorn at the same time," declared the *New York Times*. "Humorous, heartbreaking, and heroic," raved *Entertainment Weekly*.



Duran Duran in the 1980s

Now, in a prequel of sorts, Rob Sheffield hearkens back to his 80s adolescence—the heydays of John Hughes movies, Members Only Jackets, and deplorable hair styles—with **TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut** (Dutton, July 15, 2010). A veteran music and pop culture journalist, Sheffield is a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* and regularly appears on MTV and VH1.

In order to become the romantic hero of *Love is a Mix Tape*, Sheffield had a lot to learn about women, love, music, and himself. **TALKING TO GIRLS** shows his transformation from pasty, geeky "hermit boy" into a young man experiencing love, responsibility, and the notion that God is as confusing as Madonna lyrics—all told through the lens, naturally, of a killer 80s soundtrack.

Make no mistake, you don't have to be a fan of Duran Duran or Men Without Hats to like this book. **TALKING TO GIRLS** is about the mysterious power of a song to invade your world and tell you something new about life, love, pain, sex, or grief. Even the silliest, most trivial piece of car-radio fluff can become something massive when it gets tangled up in your actual emotional life, reminding you of people you love, places you miss, and moments you can never go back to.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as we do. We'll be in touch soon to discuss review or feature.

All best,

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Publication Date: July 15, 2010  
Price: \$25.95



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"A handful of rock writers can explain what they think about music, and lots of rock writers can explain what they feel about music. What makes Rob Sheffield different is that he understands how those feelings are generated. He can turn those abstract emotions into concrete thoughts. It doesn't happen often, but sometimes the smartest guy in the room is also the funniest guy in the room...and the nicest guy...and the tallest guy...and the most vocal Chaka Khan fan. Read *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran* and enter that room."

—Chuck Klosterman, *New York Times* bestselling author of  
*Eating the Dinosaur* and *Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs*

"[Sheffield]'s such a funny and insightful critic... After happily wallowing in this nostalgic journey, haul out your Go-Gos tunes, and you'll soon feel the same." —*Miami Herald*

"... a lighthearted coming of age story about a music-addicted teen growing up in '80s Boston, driving an ice cream truck and gobbling up all things new wave. We all have songs that serve as emotional and biographical touchstones, but Sheffield has a gift for writing about such songs and bands in a way that brings his past to vivid life."— *Dallas Morning News*

"A funny, poignant browse from a wonderful pop-culture evocateur" —*Publishers Weekly*

"Sheffield is back with the same encyclopedic knowledge of pop music and touching, resonant prose in *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran*...incredible, almost stream-of-consciousness commentary on 1980s music." —*Booklist*

# Talking to Girls About Duran Duran

by



Growing up, music and the 80s—everybody has a personal connection to all three of those things, whether or not they experienced them all at the same time, as did music journalist and best-selling author **Rob Sheffield**. 80s music, in all its cheese-tastic, poodle-permed, eyeliner-poisoned

glory, is more popular than ever. Especially among people who were too young to experience it the first time around.

A prequel to his bestselling debut memoir *Love is a Mix Tape*, Sheffield's **TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN: *One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*** (Dutton; July 15, 2010; \$25.95) is a hilarious and poignant tour of his 1980s adolescence, with all the glory (and embarrassment) of the fantastic (and terrible) music of the decade.

**TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN** contains 25 chapters, 25 songs, and 25 moments in Sheffield's adorably confused, adolescent geek life. From 1980 (The Go-Go's "Our Lips are Sealed") to 1989 (Duran Duran's "All She Wants Is"), Sheffield delves into the time and place each song conjures up for him—the friends and lovers they recall, the crap summer jobs they got him through, and the fateful summer where he fell in love with his first wife, Renee (subject of *Love is a Mix Tape*).

The songs in this book are from all corners of the 80s—new wave, disco, hip-hop, indie rock, synth pop, and limp-wristed guitar bands. There are songs everybody knows; songs the world has wisely decided to forget; songs you absolutely adore, and songs, as Sheffield puts it, "you wouldn't be caught dead singing along to, lest you be forced to shave your head, change your name, and wander the earth for the rest of your days like Cain in *Kung Fu*."

Through it all, the music keeps pumping. **TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN** will make readers fall in love with the soundtrack of their life all over again.

#### About the Author:



Rob Sheffield has been a music journalist for more than twenty years. He is a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone*, where he writes about music, TV, and pop culture, and regularly appears on MTV and VH1. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Love is a Mix Tape*, which has been translated into French, German, Italian, Swedish, Japanese, Russian, and other languages he cannot read. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

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## *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran*

*One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

by Rob Sheffield

Dutton | July 15, 2010 | \$25.95 (Hardcover) | ISBN 978-0-525-95156-8

Also available as an eBook and Penguin Audiobook

#### **ABOUT DUTTON**

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# *Praise for Love is a Mix Tape*

"No rock critic- living or dead, American or otherwise- has ever written about pop music with the evocative, hyperpoetic perfectitude of Rob Sheffield. LOVE IS A MIX TAPE is the happiest, saddest, greatest book about rock'n'roll that I've ever experienced."

—Chuck Klosterman, bestselling author of *Fargo Rock City*, *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*, *Killing Yourself to Live* and *Chuck Klosterman IV*

"Sheffield writes elegantly without turning it into a depressing tale of love stolen away too soon. . . . Wry and sardonic, even in his suffering, he's the tragic romantic who never gets overwrought."

—*Newsweek*

"The finest lines ever written about rock 'n' roll . . . Like that song on the radio, every word of Rob's book is true. Love is a mix tape."

— *Rolling Stone*

"Many of us use pop culture as a mirror of our emotional lives, but Sheffield happily walks right through the looking glass."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"This is a lightly-handed, 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."

—*Kirkus*, \*starred\* review

"I can't think of many books as appealing as Rob Sheffield's LOVE IS A MIX TAPE; Sheffield writes beautifully about music, he's hilarious, and his story is alternately joyous and heartbreaking."

—Haven Kimmel, bestselling author of *She Got Up Off the Couch*, *A Girl Named Zippy* and *The Solace of Leaving Early*

"A celebratory eulogy of life 'in the decade of Nirvana.'"

—*Publishers Weekly*, \*starred\* review

"Sheffield's description of Renée's brilliant eccentricity and lovable quirkiness causes the reader to fall in love with her just as he does."

—*Library Journal*, \*starred\* review

"A glorious elegy to a pop culture-blessed decade and a tender, unforgettable tribute to the power of love."

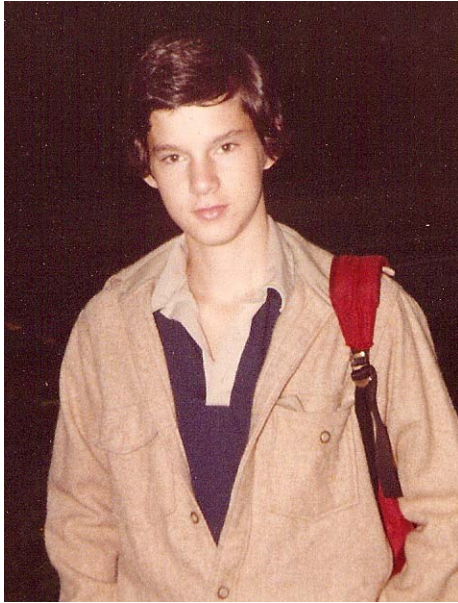
—*The Miami Herald*

"Fun and funny, moving and unbearably sad, Sheffield's account. . .is reminiscent of Nick Hornby's novel *High Fidelity*."

—*Booklist*



## 80s Memories...



80s glamour shot!



Rocking out to some mad air guitar circa 1983



In line at Space Mountain,  
Disneyworld, 1983



Bigwheel! Rob with little  
sister Caroline in 1980