

# PRAISE FOR *TROUBLE BOYS*

The *New York Times* Bestseller

“Like the band’s best albums, *Trouble Boys* careens from snotty comedy to poignant moments of introspection. . . . It’s an apt elegy for one of rock’s most incorrigible bands.” —**Billboard’s “100 Greatest Music Books of All Time”**

“Bob Mehr [delivers] mythic battle tales like a barroom historian. . . . The ‘Mats story has been told many times, but Mehr got unprecedented access and his reporting gives their hard-luck tales chilling depth.” —**Rolling Stone**

“Bob Mehr charts the births, deaths, and small resurrections of Minneapolis rock icons The Replacements. It is the sort of music journalism that reminds you why people bother with music journalism in the first place. . . . Mehr fortifies the book against the typical melodrama of the music biography with a willingness to be fully absent from the work. Objectively, thoroughly, and tragically, he shows us trouble.” —**NPR, Best Books of 2016**

“It’s hard to believe a book this comprehensive could have, would have, been written by a neutral observer. Ambitious, passionate, and obsessive.” —**Amazon Book Review, Best Books of 2016**

“Thoroughly researched and eminently readable biography . . . the type of book any band (or any artist of any kind, for that matter) would kill for.” —**Chicago Tribune**

“*Trouble Boys* takes us to all the recording sessions, reveals the inspirations behind Westerberg’s key songs, and puts us in the front row at infamous concerts . . . [The] details behind the band’s notoriety and demise are laid out masterfully by Bob Mehr.” —**The New Yorker**

“The result of ten years of meticulous research and interviews with more than two hundred people within and surrounding the band. Mehr traces the band members’ disparate, uneasy origins . . . the making of the records, the fights, the firings, the breakups, the rivalries . . . the bail, the girlfriends, the wives, the kids, the sobering up, and the drinking again.” —**Los Angeles Times**

“Mehr brings the band’s members to life . . . the book does a masterful job of balancing all these moving parts and condensing a narrative that soars high and dips low. *Trouble Boys* has the feel of living history.” —**Pitchfork**

“The rare, honest, tragicomic music biography that has far too much sympathy for its subjects to ever reduce them to rock ‘n’ roll caricature.” —**Vulture**

“Mehr’s unblinking, guts-exposed, meticulously researched book can be read as the new high bar for rock biography.” —**The A.V. Club**

“*Trouble Boys* dares to tell the true story of The Replacements.” —**Vanity Fair**

“At once heartbreaking and inspiring.” —**Village Voice**

“There is a depth to *Trouble Boys* that takes it far out of the class of ‘rock book’ and into something that

transcends the genre; a work that, at its core, is a story about the nature and complexities surrounding the idea of family. *Trouble Boys* examines—in the most painfully entertaining way possible— how families of origin can shatter you to such a degree that it’s nearly impossible to ever really hold anything together in your life.” —**Forbes**

“Suffused with sadness, dysfunction, and unrealized potential, [*Trouble Boys*] charts the doomed trajectory of one of America’s greatest crews of blindingly talented misfits. . . . Mehr reveals that the natural highs were few and early, and the lows were much lower and darker than fans might have imagined, in an exhaustively researched, definitive biography.” —**The Economist**

“Mehr has compiled a compelling tale full of some of the most colorful characters you’ll ever encounter on page.” —**USA Today**

“A narrative thick with detail, revelations and emotion.” —**Washington Post**

“*Trouble Boys* finally tells the whole fascinating tale of the Replacements in all its ragged glory. Mehr. . . . brings out the human element in the band’s story.” —**Vice**

“The definitive history of The Replacements’ rise and fall, telling their story with the same mix of pathos and humor that makes their music unforgettable.” —**Entertainment Weekly**

“[A] meaty biography. . . . The stories of mayhem on the road are as entertaining as one would hope for. . . . *Trouble Boys* is a *Bulfinch’s Mythology* for a time of indie rock legend.” —**Barnes & Noble Review**

“Grave revelations, coupled with side-splitting stories of booze-fueled bedlam, net Mehr’s biography as definitive. Ace reporting and the author’s shrewd parlance boost this tragicomedy page-turner past paean to allusive eulogy of rock ‘n’ roll’s foremost troublemakers.” —**The Austin Chronicle**

“*Trouble Boys* dismantles (or upholds!) the myths with an artful, patient diligence. . . . Mehr is sympathetic to the story in that he gives it as much room as it needs and unfailingly fills in the necessary detail, whether it’s through research, going through the archives, or hunting down friends from grade school, ex-girlfriends, or Minneapolis scenesters.” —**Salon**

“An essential tome for anyone who ever loved the band.” —**MTV.com**

“Mehr’s exhaustive biography raises the squeaking garage door on the legend of The Replacements to shed some light and capture in vivid detail the pain, disappointment, and heartache of a group of four disparate, self-loathing suburban misfits.” —**The Huffington Post**

“This fantastic biography of the self-destructive 1980s alternative rock band The Replacements provides sensitive, detailed, and critical depictions of the band’s members. . . . A page-turner from beginning to end and should find its way onto every music fan’s bookshelf. It offers a master class on how to pen a rock biography.” —**Library Journal (starred review)**

“Impressively researched and well-rendered. . . . The dynamic that made the band great also tore it apart, as this biography superbly documents.” —**Kirkus (starred review)**

“Music critic Mehr captures the light and dark of. . . one of the great alternative rock bands of the 1980s. Thoroughly researched and detailed. . . earning the ‘true story’ subtitle.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“Tremendous . . . [a] brilliant biography.” —**Uncut (UK)**

“Reveals the very human tragedy behind one of the great American rock ‘n’ roll bands, as well as the foibles that made The Replacements so beloved by their true believers. This book is for every one of them.” —**MOJO (UK)**

“Both a belly-laughing and cringe-worthy tale...[Mehr] impeccably paints their trainwreck-turned triumphant picture of these suburban blue-collar rabble-rousers’ basement-punk beginnings through to its drug-addled breakup... Mehr aced telling the story of one of alternative rock’s greatest bands with flying colors.” —**The Observer (UK), “The Best Music Books of 2016”**

“Bob Mehr’s raucous, ribald, and oft-times harrowing book takes us behind the scenes, to the bottom of the bottle, all the way to the end of the road, and then further still—revealing the story of The Replacements, a band that gave away its soul on every record and refused to sell its soul to a corporate world.” —**Robert Gordon, author of *Respect Yourself: Stax Records and the Soul Explosion* and *Can’t Be Satisfied: The Life and Times of Muddy Waters***

“The destruction. The volume. The cruelty. The charm. The songs. The songs. The songs. To live close to Paul Westerberg’s material was to be lifted . . . then bent by it. The songs were that good. Mehr shows us that no one, Westerberg included, knew quite what to do with it all. It was underrated, overrated, obsessed over, ignored—never anything in the middle. But somewhere between the Replacements’ path of destruction, epic but ultimately empty, and the beauty and honesty of Westerberg’s writing, there was a band, a band whose story has for too long remained unknown and unknowable. This book gets us closer than we’ve ever been. Mehr brings us one of the great American rock ‘n’ roll stories and all the hurt that came with it.” —**Warren Zanes, author of *Petty: The Biography and Revolutions in Sound: Warner Bros. Records, The First Fifty Years***

“Heartbreaking and hilarious, the story of rock provocateurs The Replacements is a tour de force—vibrantly written and meticulously researched. Bob Mehr has dug deep and come up with riveting behind-the-scenes info, from the disturbing childhoods of the Stinson brothers to the inspirations behind Paul Westerberg’s greatest songs. *Trouble Boys* is a must-read for all ‘Mats fans—as well as those interested in Minneapolis’ nascent punk scene and the birth of alt-rock in the 1980s. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry—but you won’t be able to put this book down.” —**Holly George-Warren, author of *A Man Called Destruction: The Life and Music of Alex Chilton, From Box Tops to Big Star to Backdoor Man***

“The Replacements spent a decade of their lives making some of the most emotive rock music never to hit the mainstream. Bob Mehr has spent a decade of his life researching their story. Balancing a fan’s enthusiasm with journalistic perspective, he now delivers it in richly detailed and powerfully unvarnished form. Finally, the ‘Mats get the book they deserve.” —**Tony Fletcher, author of *Moon: The Life and Death of a Rock Legend* and *A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths***

“Bob Mehr has given us a book, a real book, that will draw you in whether or not you give a fig about rock ‘n’ roll or any world but your own.” —**Nick Tosches, author of *Hellfire: The Jerry Lee Lewis Story and Dino: Living High in the Dirty Business of Dreams***