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## The Rise, The Fall, and The Rise

*Brix Smith Start*

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**Brix Smith Start : The Rise, The Fall, and The Rise** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise, The Fall, and The Rise:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Don't miss this one!By trance.endingSuch a great read. I can't recommend it enough. It was great to get Brix's unique take on being in The Fall, but her whole story is riveting. At no point was I thinking, "can we hurry up and get to the good stuff already?" It's all fascinating, and Brix is very, very likable. I found that throughout her story, I was happy for her success and I never felt envious or jealous at all. I especially loved the section where she and Mark meet and fall in love. It all seems very fated and it's truly

heartbreaking when the relationship goes by the boards. I kept hoping they would work things out somehow, even though I knew how the events would play out. It's worth noting that Brix's side of the story is a different narrative than what I've encountered before. If you read interviews with Mark or watch "The Wonderful and Frightening World of Mark E Smith," which is available for viewing on a popular video clip website, it's easy to come away with the impression that Brix left Mark. In fact, before I read this book I believed that Brix had arbitrarily left Mark for Nigel Kennedy. That Mark cheated and left Brix was a complete surprise to me. Not sure how Mark was recast in Fall lore as the wounded party here, but Brix lays it down candidly ("one more time for the record"). I was going to save Brix's tome for last after reading Steve Hanley and Simon Wolstencroft's entries. I already read the appallingly bad "The Fallen" by Dave Simpson in which sado music journalist Simpson mistakenly believes that he is as fascinating as his subjects, and that he honors his heroes by inserting himself as a player in their story. He does not. And Brix is given very short shrift in his book despite the hugeness of her contribution. If that book did anything, it whet my appetite and I wound up reading Brix's book next, and I'm glad I did. I'm reading Steve Hanley's book, and it's wonderful for different reasons, but I will say that Brix emerges more as a fully formed person who has had a life and experiences of her own before joining the The Fall than Hanley does. Anyway, read them all and come to your own conclusions, but don't miss this one. Brixie is a gem, and that's for sure!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not just for Fall fans

By Greg GAs a Fall fanatic for 30+ years, I'm probably not the most qualified to write an objective review, but I have good reason to believe that general audiences will enjoy this book too. This is a story of an extraordinary life-in-progress told with a level of candor and vulnerability which really connects with the reader. I nearly read it straight through. Definitely recommend.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brix Tells a Great Story!

By Margaret J. SalengerI loved this book! Brix tells her coming of age story with honesty, humor and kindness. Sometimes heartbreaking and sometimes hilarious, this is the story of a woman who pushes her boundaries, always reinventing herself and always finding her way back to the creative life. College drop out, quickie marriage, overnight rock star and side kick to the famous: Brix takes life in full stride. Her journey includes great highs and lows, and she finds mentors and healers, becoming wiser and kinder in the process. Brix's story is all of our stories but more so. I highly recommend the book!

The Rise, The Fall, and The Rise is the extraordinary story, in her own words, of Brix Smith Start. Best known for her work in The Fall at the time when they were perhaps the most powerful and influential anti-authoritarian postpunk band in the world -- This Nation's Saving Grace, The Weird and Frightening World Of ... -- Brix spent ten years in the band before a violent disintegration led to her exit and the end of her marriage with Mark E Smith. But Brix's story is much more than rock n roll highs and lows in one of the most radically dysfunctional bands around. Growing up in the Hollywood Hills in the '60s in a dilapidated pink mansion her life has taken her from luxury to destitution, from the cover of the NME to waitressing in California, via the industrial wasteland of Manchester in the 1980s. What emerges is a story of constant reinvention, jubilant highs and depressive ebbs; a singular journey of a teenage American girl on a collision course with English radicalism on her way to mid-life success on tv and in fashion. Too bizarre, extreme and unlikely to exist in the pages of fiction, The Rise, The Fall and The Rise could only exist in the pages of a memoir.

"Fascinating, heartbreaking, upsetting and completely one that you can't put down." Popdose "This absorbing book tells a universal story of a woman redefining shy;herself and healing emotionally." mdash; Library Journal "The book isn't just for Fall fans...it also documents Brix's stranger-than-fiction path." mdash; KQED, San Francisco "Smith-Start's hard-won account of the best and worst [indie] has to offer." - GQ UK "A brilliant and strikingly honest memoir." - The Telegraph "She's one of those people who knows everyone and tells you everything - which makes for a vibrant, entertaining read, even when peppered with darker moments." - Glamour UK "A rock 'n' roll must-read." - NME "Brix Smith-Start's new memoir charts a remarkable journey [...] While her incredible story of career and life highs and lows beggars belief, it's also universal - this is a woman who's lived a full life, grown from her mistakes and learned to trust her gut. That's a lesson all of us can learn from." - Red " ...disarmingly engaging, open and funny" mdash; The Australian