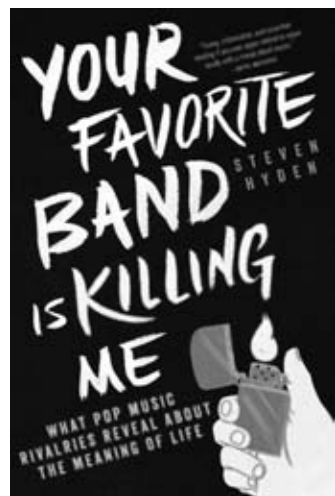


and mechanical to the transcendent and emotional. It is rather areligious, but not vapid or nihilistic, honoring the mysterious qualities of life and death. Through the use of poetic language there is a fragmentary dissolution of the terrestrial and concrete. This element makes it a book that will read a little differently each time it is picked up. — *Paul Quillen*



Your Favorite Band is Killing Me: What Pop Music Rivalries Reveal About the Meaning of Life by Steven Hyden. Back Bay Books, \$16.99.

Strangely, Steven Hyden’s music-obsessed flight of fancy *Your Favorite Band is Killing Me* is one of the most engaging memoirs I’ve

read about a boring, middle-aged white guy in years. In it, Hyden closely examines history’s best-known pop-music feuds and mostly succeeds at sounding out their underlying significance, be it broadly philosophical or narrowly personal.

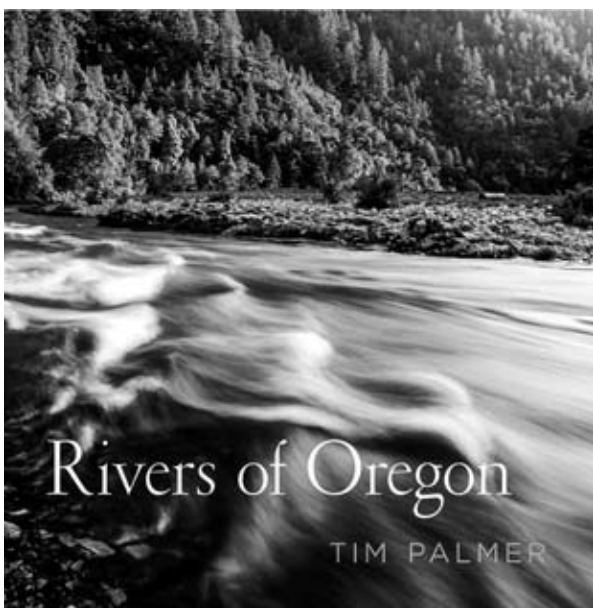
Along the way the author’s ADD pulls in a lot of context and scenery, which in turn reveal a lot about the Hyden’s life and times.

It’s amusing to track Hyden as he flits hither and yon from topic to unexpected tangent. One minute he defends his unbending commitment to *Saturday Night Live*, the next Hyden relives the terrible 1987 NFL players strike. The author then flows naturally to the bitter dissolution of self-abnegating psychedelic art-rock heroes Pink Floyd, all the while freely shifting focus from micro to macro at every turn.

Whether or not the reader agrees that beef between the White Stripes and The Black Keys is a modern parable about how tough it can be for grown men to make friends, the journey is fun and scenic. — *Ben Ricker*

■ Dog Gone: A Lost Pet’s Extraordinary Journey and the Family Who Brought Him Home by Pauls Toutonghi. Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.

While *Dog Gone* is more than just a lost dog book, it’s one that will have a distinct appeal for those of us who see our pups as members of the family. Six-year-old Gonker, a golden-retriever mix, gets lost on a day hike on the Appalachian Trail and time is running out — Gonker has a hormone deficiency and can’t survive without regular medication. Toutonghi takes the tale of a lost dog and uses it to explore a family and its complexities as Gonker’s people frantically search for their beloved pet. — *Camilla Mortensen*



■ Rivers of Oregon by Tim Palmer. Oregon State University Press, \$40.

For the perfect coffee table book, check out Tim Palmer’s collection of images depicting scenic Oregon rivers. It’s a must-see for every Oregon nature-lover. Split into geographical sections, the book’s pages offer splashes of vivid green, peaceful blue and stormy gray on glossy, colorful pages.

Palmer describes Oregon’s rivers with the tone of a river guide, providing geological and historical details. He takes on the role of narrator in a mossy journey down windy waterways and surging rapids. Only a few minutes into the book, I felt myself pulled into its misty atmosphere, that magical fairyland feeling you get when standing in the mystical silence of the Oregon wilderness.

While nothing compares to the real thing, Palmer’s book and his magnificent pictures are a close second. — *Amy Klarup*

The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone by Olivia Laing. Picador, \$26.

Everyone should have to grapple with true loneliness at least once. Not for an afternoon, not because you weren’t invited to a party, not because you can’t go home for the holidays, but real, aching loneliness. There is something sublime about its specific kind of pain and sadness. And, coming out the other end, you will never see the world, or strangers, the same. Author Olivia Laing knows this and she explores it so beautifully, so honestly, so tenderly in *The Lonely City*, a piece of nonfiction that is part memoir, part art history and part biography of New York City.

On the eve of relocating from London for her fiancé, Laing finds herself dumped, but moves anyway, stringing together a solitary existence among sad little apartments in a

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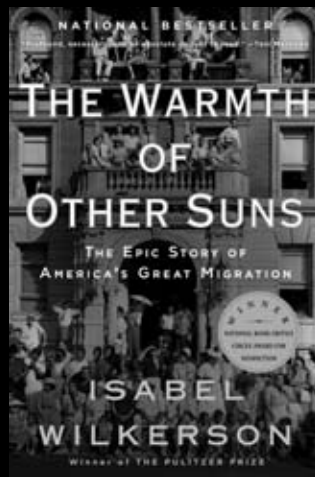
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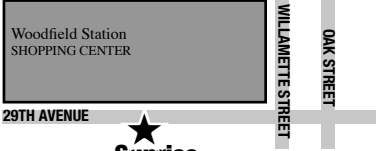
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