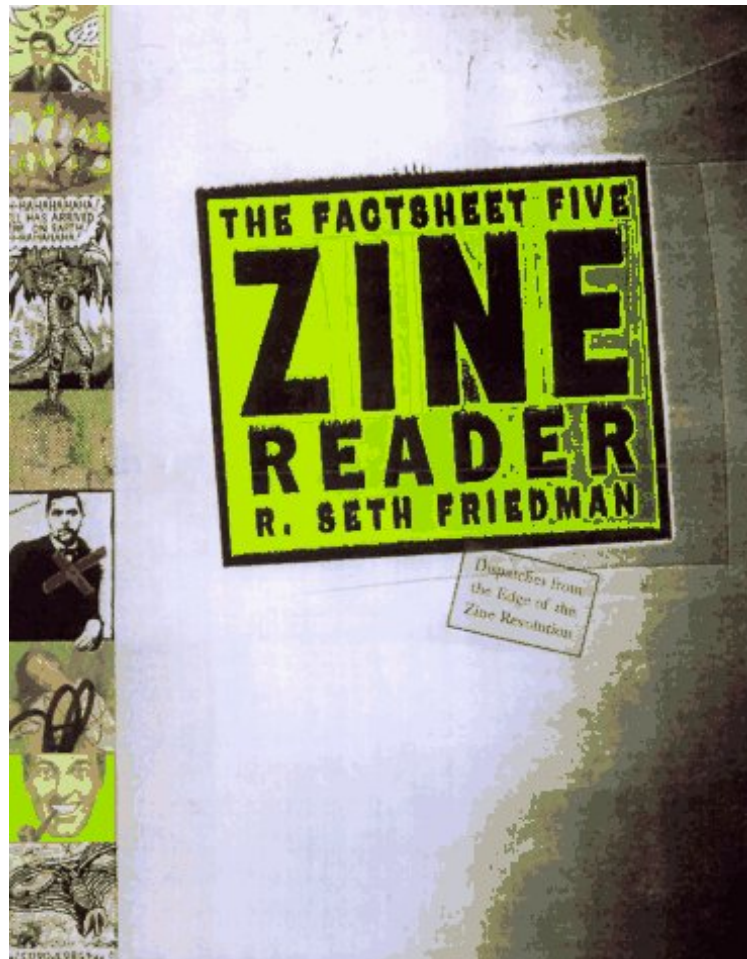


The Factsheet Five Zine Reader: The Best Writing from the Underground World of Zines

R. Seth Friedman

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R. Seth Friedman : The Factsheet Five Zine Reader: The Best Writing from the Underground World of Zines before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Factsheet Five Zine Reader: The Best Writing from the Underground World of Zines:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. secrets of the universe By P. Moran Zine writers tend to do best uncovering secret histories: hobo graffiti tales by freight-hopping filmmaker Bill Daniel, or writing about the street ear-cleaners of New Delhi, or where to find brand-new karaoke machines in Japan for free (and why this happens). 8-tracks and those insane Jack T. Chick pamphlets are also nicely covered. Some parts are not as interesting, but this reflects the huge range of interests covered in this anthology. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Best of the Bunch By A Customer This is the best of the glut of zine anthologies that came out a couple years ago. Worth the price of the book is Sky Ryan's adventures as a gutter punk, roaming the west coast. This is what zines are really

supposed to be like. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Low Quality Anthology By Charles J. Rector This anthology is hardly what it is cracked up to be. It is mostly about publications that died out years ago. The whole zine revolution that it talks about died out with the advent of webzines.

Zines, those hip, alternative, self-published magazines, have broken out from the obscurity of the underground and found themselves in the spotlight. Zealous readers are turning to zines for smart writing on everything from cutting-edge music to radical politics. With all that's been said about zines, one question still remains: Where the heck can you find them? And even if you dig them up, who has time to read through them all to get to the good stuff? R. Seth Friedman, super zine sleuth and the head honcho at Factsheet Five magazine, does. Culled from thousands upon thousands of zines, this book features seventy of the best stories, essays, and rants that have appeared over the past few years. These selections are intensely personal, unconventional, and sometimes completely out of this world. More than just a simple anthology, The Factsheet Five Zine Reader includes original art and covers from the zines, descriptions and histories of the zines, and complete ordering information so you can start exploring this exciting new world on your own.

.com One of the many collections of articles from the world of zines, The Factsheet Five Zine Reader, has the distinction of being edited and selected by R. Seth Friedman. Friedman is the zine fanatic behind Factsheet Five, the world's leading source of zine information, and the first zine dedicated solely to the subject of, well, zines. Commencing with a brief, informative history of his subject, Friedman then goes on to present 73 extracts from almost as many little magazines. Some of the most surprising include the pieces from two different Momzines (magazines dedicated to the subject of motherhood); some good advice on how to sell out; and a disturbing compendium of the 25 partners that Sky Ryan, of the zine How Perfectly Goddamn Delightful It All Is, amassed in the two years since she lost her virginity. Although you'll also find the usual assortment of articles on '70s pop culture, lounge music, eight-track tapes, and Hello Kitty, this collection offers quite a few pleasant surprises, and would be a good introduction to the world of zines, in case you're looking for a hipifying gift for your Aunt Hettie. From Library Journal Otto von Stroheim, publisher of Tiki News, a journal of all things tiki, explains his entrance into the world of zines as a sort of epiphany: After putting a lot of time into researching tiki culture, he thought "Why don't I try to package all this knowledge I've gained into something I can share with other people? That way I can create more of a community." Such is the motivation of most of the thousands of zine enthusiasts, whether they are publishers, writers, collectors, or traders. Vale, one-time copublisher of Re/Search publications, conducted interviews with 12 practitioners?from von Stroheim to Dishwasher Pete to the editor of Eight-Track Mind?and has collected them here along with short, representative excerpts from each zine. The interviews are entertaining and capture the spirit of the culture for those new to zines, and they offer zinesters a rare chance to hear some of these legendary writers/editors/publishers out of character. Friedman, editor of Factsheet Five, a sort of yellow pages of zine publishing, has produced the perfect complement to Vale's work. Friedman collects one or two short excerpts from each of nearly 80 different zines. Whether it is the "Guide to Kids' Birthday Parties" from Hip-Hop Housewife or the workers' rights manifesto from Temp Slave, there is something for everyone here. Both books include addresses for dozens of zines. Since collecting, cataloging, and circulating zines is a librarian's nightmare, the publication of this pair of titles is an excellent opportunity for public libraries to acquire an easy-to-deal-with package of one corner of American pop culture.?Eric Bryant, "Lirbary Journal" Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA useful introduction to, and anthology of, the rude, antic, crowded new world of fanzines ("zines," for short), featuring both a terse, informed overview of the field--Friedman, the editor/publisher of Factsheet Five, a zine that reviews other zines, estimates that he has read some 50,000 zines in the past decade. Zines, Friedman explains, are often one-person operations, sporadically issued, devoted to a single topic, and distinguished, at their best, by writing "more opinionated than newspaper editorials, more personal than magazine articles, more topical than books." There's certainly some strong writing on display here (such as a piece by Al Aronowitz from Long Shot on beat poetry and jazz), with an emphasis on the confessional (as in Doug Holland's remarkable ongoing chronicle of his hard, peculiar experiences, published in Pathetic Life). There's also much that's flimsy and obsessive, but that, probably, is part of Friedman's point: Zines aren't so much about creating alternative outlets for fine writing as they are about the simple, essential need to communicate. (75 bw photos and line drawings) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.