

**the // skyway \\
the replacements mailing list**

issue #100

(november 24, 2016)

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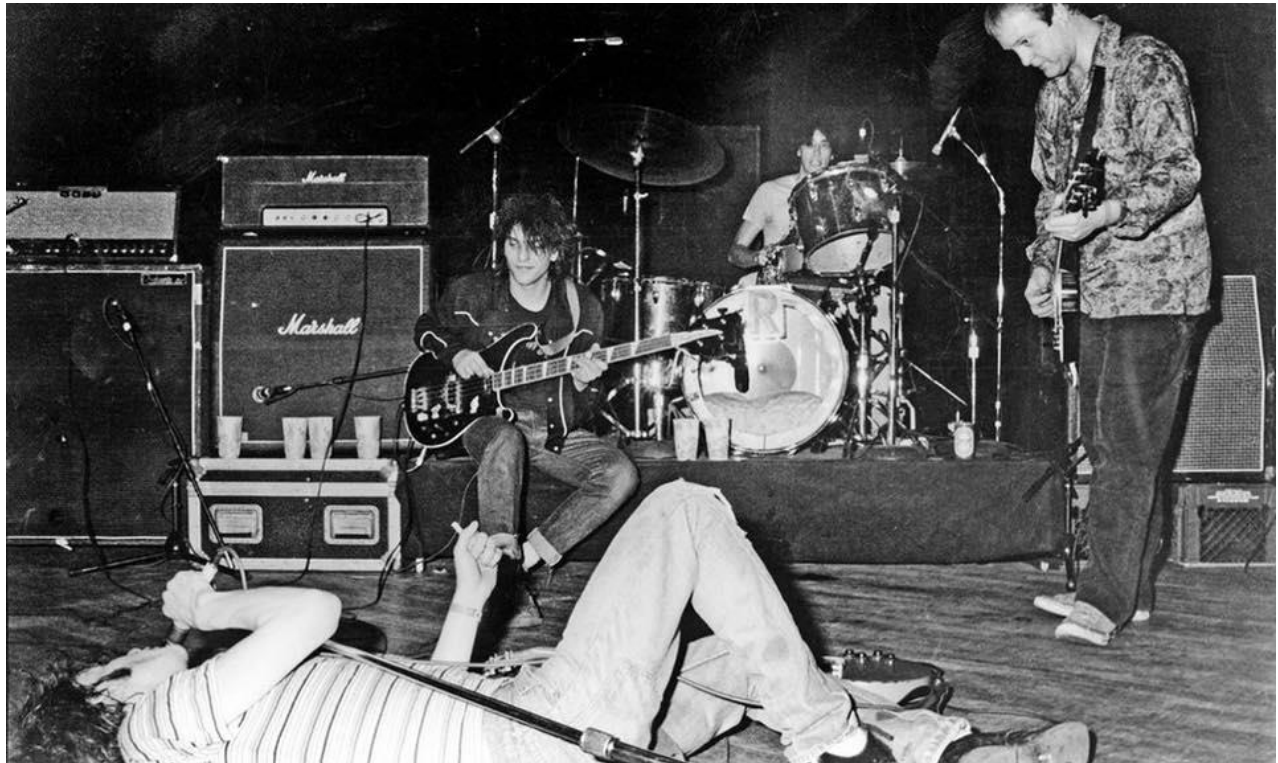
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COLOR ME IMPRESSED

24 years later, issue #100.

I'd say thank you for reading, but really I say thank you for writing. In the end, I have just collected and saved what everybody else has to say about the Replacements. I started because I wanted to hear what everyone else had to say and what memories they had of that band that I loved, from everywhere. So for this 100th issue, I asked 1024 Replacements fans all the questions you'd ask if you met for ten minutes and talked about their favorite band.

People who hear the Replacements and just hear the sound of a loose, raucous bar band don't get why this group and its songs are held in such reverence in such a unique way. No matter which album you listen to, there is the spirit, the great songs, the guitar anthems, the colorful personalities, the legend itself of the band that could simultaneously be brilliant and a shambles and whose songs could make you simultaneously laugh and cry. The Replacements are a great story in how they failed at whatever hopes for mainstream success they pursued in a self-sabotaging way, only to reunite two decades later for a little over 30 shows only to become larger than ever and finally achieve the national acclaim they never had.

But after so far reading 24 years' worth of fans' thoughts, stories and letters, I can sum up what I've seen why people love this band like no other: because when they listen to the Replacements, they feel understood. And if you're reading this, then I probably don't need to explain it any more.

Even though I have heard every Replacements song enough times that I could recite them, this electric form of a fan 'zine is both about and is for the fans. And it continues because one of the most interesting things about the Replacements are the fans themselves. *Color Me Obsessed* didn't need to interview a single member of the band to tell the story of why The Replacements were so great, and the stories in this issue show why. And if one day twenty years from now, some kid wants to know what it was like seeing the Replacements with Bob Stinson during the tour for *Tim*, there is a place where they can read about it, long after the memory had faded and maybe even after we have gone.

So here are ninety thousand words: over a thousand fans' first albums, favorite albums, favorite songs, stories of how they got into the band, when they saw them, and anything else they had to say. It's the story of how the Replacements touched so many people that is just as interesting as the story of the band itself. After months putting this together, it has been like reading a page each from of a thousand life stories. Maybe that sounds silly, but see for yourself.

m@.

This survey was open to any Replacements fan from August to November 2016.

It was sent to all subscribers of the //Skyway\\ and posted in several places, including:

The Paul Westerberg Page

www.paulwesterberg.com

Paul Westerberg & The Replacements Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/537792766296918>

We Love The 'Mats Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/welovethemats>

Quick links to the different sections of the survey:

[THE SURVEY](#)

[HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE REPLACEMENTS?](#)

[FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM](#)

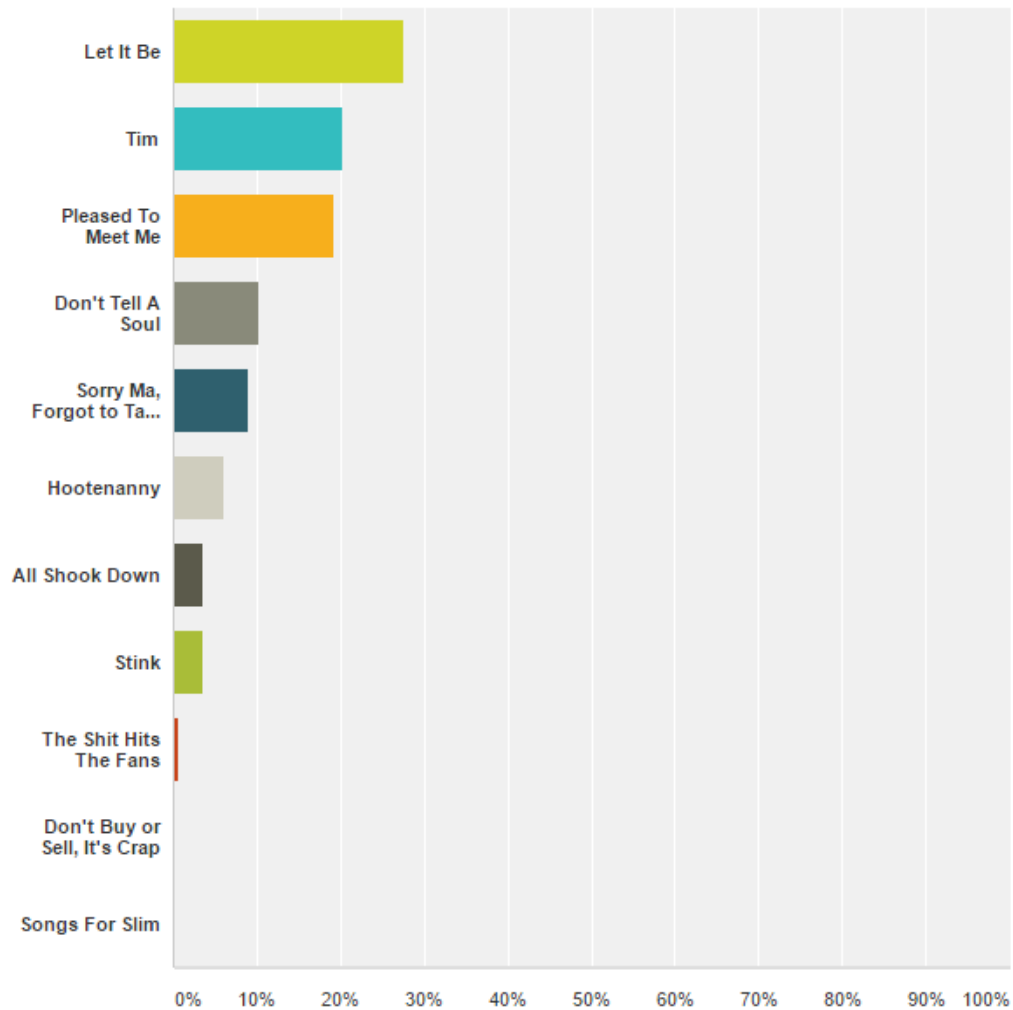
[FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SHOW](#)

[ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO SAY](#)

THE SURVEY

What was the first Replacements album you heard?

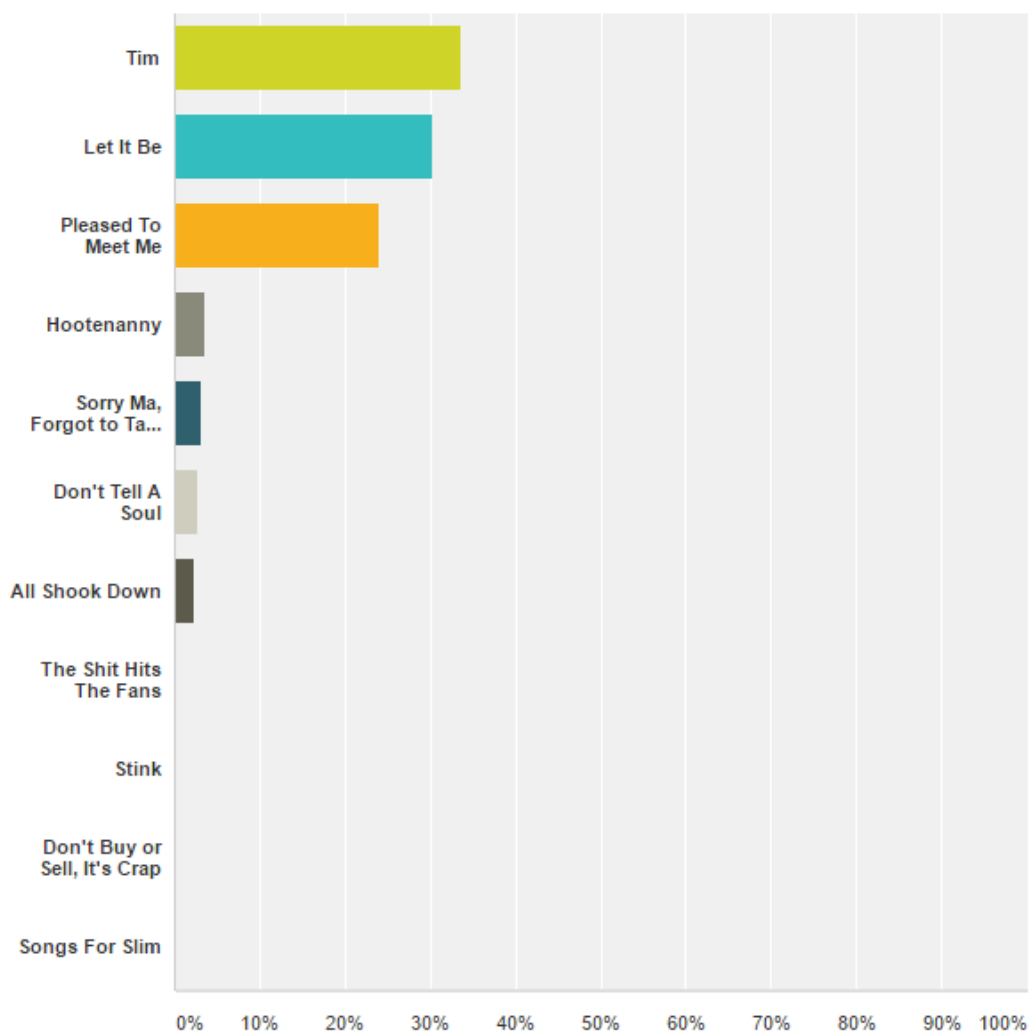
Answered: 1,024 Skipped: 0



Answer	Percent	Count
Let It Be	27.64%	283
Tim	20.31%	208
Pleased To Meet Me	19.24%	197
Don't Tell A Soul	10.16%	104
Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash	8.89%	91
Hootenanny	6.05%	62
All Shook Down	3.61%	37
Stink	3.52%	36
The Shit Hits The Fans	0.59%	6
Don't Buy or Sell, It's Crap	0.00%	0
Songs For Slim	0.00%	0

What is your favorite Replacements album?

Answered: 1,024 Skipped: 0

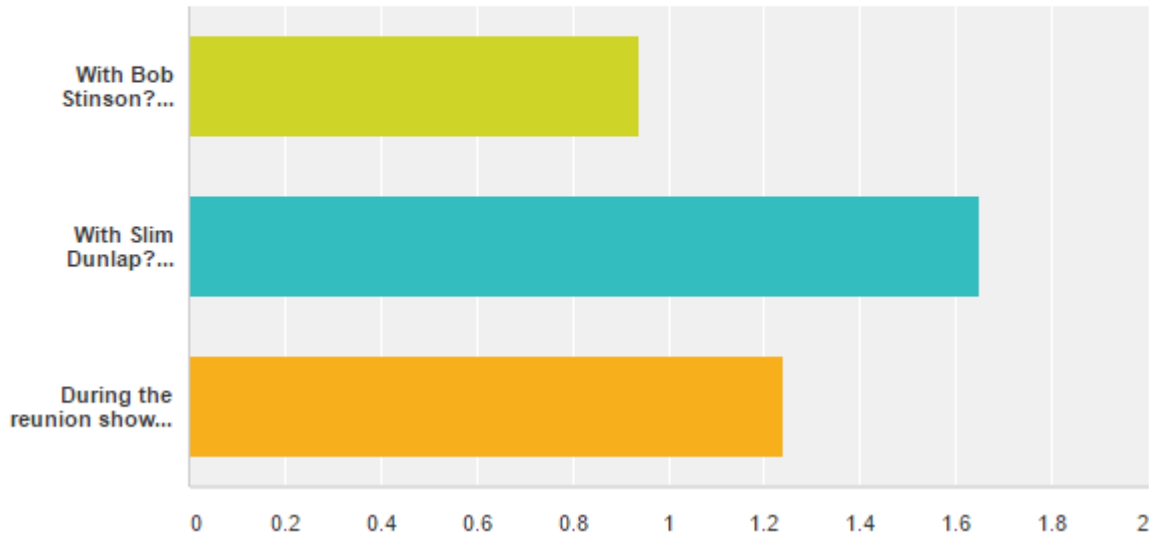


Only 35 out of 1024 votes separated *Tim* from *Let It Be* as the favorite Replacements album.

Answer	Percent	Count
Tim	33.59%	344
Let It Be	30.18%	309
Pleased To Meet Me	23.93%	245
Hootenanny	3.61%	37
Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash	3.22%	33
Don't Tell A Soul	2.64%	27
All Shook Down	2.34%	24
The Shit Hits The Fans	0.29%	3
Stink	0.10%	1
Don't Buy or Sell, It's Crap	0.10%	1
Songs For Slim	0.00%	0

How many times did you see The Replacements live?

Answered: 775 Skipped: 249



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or more!	Total	Weighted Average
With Bob Stinson? (1980-1986)	72.56% 521	11.84% 85	3.62% 26	1.95% 14	2.37% 17	1.81% 13	1.53% 11	0.42% 3	0.42% 3	0.14% 1	3.34% 24	718	0.94
With Slim Dunlap? (1987-1991)	41.53% 309	19.35% 144	14.78% 110	9.81% 73	4.97% 37	3.76% 28	1.48% 11	0.67% 5	1.08% 8	0.13% 1	2.42% 18	744	1.65
During the reunion shows? (2013-2015)	31.97% 234	38.39% 281	15.71% 115	7.79% 57	3.01% 22	1.64% 12	0.68% 5	0.27% 2	0.27% 2	0.00% 0	0.27% 2	732	1.24

Out of 100 Replacements fans who answered the questions about live shows:

26 out of 100 saw the Replacements with Bob Stinson.

33 out of 100 had only seen them with Slim Dunlap before the reunion.

24 out of 100 never saw the Replacements before the reunion.

68 out of 100 saw the Replacements on the reunion shows.

19 out of 100 still haven't seen them live.

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SONG

Replacements Song	%	#
Left Of The Dial	38.46%	375
Bastards Of Young	32.62%	318
Unsatisfied	28.41%	277
Alex Chilton	28.13%	274
Can't Hardly Wait (Pleased To Meet Me version)	26.67%	260
Here Comes A Regular	23.82%	232
I Will Dare	21.85%	213
Answering Machine	19.92%	194
Color Me Impressed	16.92%	165
Skyway	16.41%	160
Can't Hardly Wait (Tim version)	14.56%	142
Little Mascara	13.44%	131
Achin' To Be	12.72%	124
Within Your Reach	10.87%	106
If Only You Were Lonely	10.46%	102
Hold My Life	8.72%	85
Favorite Thing	8.51%	83
I'll Be You	8.21%	80
Androgynous	7.90%	77
Sixteen Blue	7.90%	77
Valentine	7.79%	76
Kiss Me On The Bus	7.59%	74
Nowhere Is My Home	7.38%	72
I.O.U.	6.87%	67
Never Mind	6.87%	67
Swingin' Party	6.15%	60
The Ledge	5.74%	56
Talent Show	4.82%	47
Nobody	4.51%	44
Sadly Beautiful	3.28%	32
I'm In Trouble	3.28%	32
Waitress In The Sky	3.28%	32
Kids Don't Follow	2.97%	29
Customer	2.87%	28
Go	2.87%	28
Raised In The City	2.67%	26

Takin' A Ride	2.67%	26
Portland	2.56%	25
Heyday	2.36%	23
Merry Go Round	2.26%	22
Take Me Down To The Hospital	2.15%	21
Johnny's Gonna Die	2.15%	21
Seen Your Video	1.95%	19
Someone Take The Wheel	1.95%	19
Shiftless When Idle	1.95%	19
Beer For Breakfast	1.85%	18
I Don't Know	1.74%	17
Darlin' One	1.54%	15
Nightclub Jitters	1.44%	14
When It Began	1.44%	14
Treatment Bound	1.33%	13
I Hate Music	1.23%	12
We'll Inherit The Earth	1.23%	12
We're Comin' Out	1.23%	12
Lovelines	1.13%	11
All Shook Down	1.13%	11
Satellite	1.13%	11
Bent Out Of Shape	1.03%	10
They're Blind	1.03%	10
Birthday Gal	1.03%	10
One Wink At A Time	1.03%	10
Anywhere's Better Than Here	0.92%	9
Fuck School	0.92%	9
We Know The Night	0.92%	9
White And Lazy	0.92%	9
Asking Me Lies	0.82%	8
Rock & Roll Ghost	0.82%	8
Red, Red Wine	0.82%	8
Perfectly Lethal	0.72%	7
Attitude	0.72%	7
Don't Ask Why	0.72%	7
My Little Problem	0.72%	7
Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out	0.72%	7
Hangin' Downtown	0.62%	6
Date To Church	0.62%	6
Wake Up	0.62%	6
The Last	0.51%	5
Gary's Got A Boner	0.51%	5

Otto	0.41%	4
Kick Your Door Down	0.41%	4
Shooting Dirty Pool	0.41%	4
Buck Hill	0.41%	4
Willpower	0.41%	4
Happy Town	0.41%	4
Careless	0.41%	4
Run For The Country	0.31%	3
Don't Get Married	0.31%	3
Shutup	0.31%	3
God Damn Job	0.31%	3
All He Wants To Do Is Fish	0.31%	3
I Won't	0.31%	3
Rattlesnake	0.31%	3
Dose Of Thunder	0.21%	2
Till We're Nude	0.21%	2
Hootenanny	0.21%	2
Whole Foods Blues	0.21%	2
You Lose	0.21%	2
Dope Smokin' Moron	0.21%	2
I'll Buy	0.21%	2
Run It	0.21%	2
Love You Till Friday	0.21%	2
Mr. Whirly	0.21%	2
Stuck In The Middle	0.10%	1
Bad Worker	0.10%	1
Torture	0.10%	1
Election Day	0.10%	1
Who Knows	0.10%	1
I Bought A Headache	0.10%	1
Like You	0.10%	1
Lay It Down Clown	0.10%	1
Somethin To Du	0.10%	1
It's Hard To Wave In Handcuffs	0.10%	1
Kissing In Action	0.10%	1
Jungle Rock	0.00%	0
Message To The Boys	0.00%	0
Gimme Noise	0.00%	0
More Cigarettes	0.00%	0
Oughta Get Love	0.00%	0
Back To Back	0.00%	0
Shoot Me, Kill Me	0.00%	0

WHAT IS THE MOST POPULAR REPLACEMENTS SONG?

According to the survey, the **number one Replacements song** listed by 38.5% (out of 975) fans surveyed is **“Left of the Dial”**.

However, if you combine the results for both the *Tim* demo and *Pleased to Meet Me* versions of **“Can’t Hardly Wait”** (and counting only once the 5 people who voted for both versions), means 40.7% (397) of those who answered the question listed it as their favorite Replacements song.

THE SURVEY

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE REPLACEMENTS?

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SHOW

ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO SAY

WHAT IS THE STORY OF HOW YOU FIRST HEARD THE REPLACEMENTS?

"Kiss Me on the Bus" was the first 'placemats song I heard, and it was on the radio in 1987 or 1988. An early morning DJ, Lewis L'Argent, apparently was a big 'Mats fan, and he played the song before 6 AM every morning in defiance of KROQ's (Los Angeles) prescribed playlist. Why was a high school kid like me waking up so early? I have no idea, but I am so glad I did because I discovered my favorite band. I was also a bit of a prude back then, because even though I loved the music and singing on "Kiss Me on the Bus" so much, I disagreed completely with the concept of P.D.A. that the vocalist espoused. These days I am still a morning person, but I am totally cool with kissing on a bus. - *Arpita*

Nephew turned me on to them.

I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin and somehow started reading *Rolling Stone* at a pretty young age. In high school I started getting into "college" music. I was a sophomore when *Tim* came out. I must have read something about it in *Rolling Stone* or some zine. My town had no real record store so I had to drive to a slightly larger small town that had the cool independent record store. I bought it on cassette. Once I got my driver's license that cassette was worn out in my car. - *Eric White*

An older female friend put "Alex Chilton", "I Don't Know" and "The Ledge" on a mixtape - where the initial draw was pre-Sister Sonic Youth tracks. Maybe some Big Black. Gun Club? And possibly X. The latter I didn't appreciate. What an awesome friend. - *Ben Harrison, Singapore*

Cool older sister in 84. - *Jim*

Local record store (Broadway Records in Rochester, MN) that I hung out at played MN music all the time. *Sorry, Ma* was playing and I asked the owner who it was. This was around 89-90 I think. From there on I was into the Replacements and other MN bands. Grant Hart came into the store quite often, so I got to hear stories from him or hear about new bands. I had a lot of catching up to do and then they all broke up or went away. I felt like I had missed so much. - *Carl Haakenson*

The bartender at the bar I hung out at in college and for two years after made amazing mix tapes, many with 'Mats' tunes on them. He was a big fan and introduced me to them. - *Drew Tomko*

Invited by a fellow college student and co-worker at a conservative Southern university to spark up at his place and listen to some stuff I wasn't otherwise exposed to. Was hooked after that and bought everything that came out after.

I first heard them on a local college radio station, Gonzaga University's KAGU (long since defunct).

My uncle made me a Christmas mix CD in 1994 and it had a bunch of tunes of bands that don't suck.

The first I can remember is the Bob Stinson *SPIN* magazine article.

Through *Melody Maker* in the late eighties.

Nephew gave me a copy.

"Alex Chilton" warming up for a high school basketball game. It was on the warm up/pump up mix. – *Tony (Wisconsin)*

While flipping through albums at Schoolkids Records in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the clerk put on *Let It Be*. I immediately went up and asked "What the #\$%& was that!" The clerk said "The Replacements". I bought a copy of *Let It Be*, went home and listened over and over again and my 30+ year obsession began.

College radio in Athens, Ohio.

Heard "Bastards of Young" on a local 88.1 radio station. Bought *Tim* the next day. It was in 2001 when I was college. From that point on, I've been seeking out their music and to find new favorite songs. – *Tom G. (St Louis, MO)*

In college I worked as a clerk at the University of Washington's Odegaard undergraduate library, refiling books and tapes after class. This was the year 2004, I believe. One fateful day I went to shelve a CD called *Let It Be* by The Replacements. Hey, that loser wears Chucks like me. The guy with the ratty mop rubbing his eye? He must be the lead singer (wrong). "Gary's Got a Boner"? Are they serious? A Kiss cover? Who are these chumps? I took it home, put my headphones on, and "I Will Dare" came bouncing out. How do you say "I'm lonely" to an answering machine? Nobody has ever said it better. Long live the 'Mats. That CD is now 12 years overdue.
– *Connor Dinnison (Spokane, WA)*

Saw them in the Entry after reading about them and seeing flyers around time. It was like a group of guys hanging out on a stage and they eventually got around to playing some songs. I had heard of them, but never listened (not on the radio, I wasn't cool enough to look beyond what was on alternative radio). The first song I heard was "Can't Hardly Wait" on the Sire *Just Say Yes* compilation which didn't live up to the reputation I was expecting. The first time I 'got' them

was in freshman year of college when my friend Jesse gave me a tape with *Let It Be* on one side and Minor Threat on the other. He said listen and your life will be different. - *Jason Loeb*

My sister had just moved to Chicago to begin her training to be a United flight attendant. Six of my ten brothers and sisters and I did a music video lip syncing to "Waitress in the Sky" complete with a band and airplane/stewardess skit that we all came up with. It was nuts. Then my mom continued taping us after filming the video dancing around in our basement to "Swingin' Party." Gotta love the 80's. - *Chris (Grafton, ND)*

I was a graduate student in Plant Biology at the University of Illinois working late one night in the lab, when a song came on the radio that caught my attention. This would have been the fall of 1985 and music at that time was a wasteland of synth drums and fake English accents. The song was "Little Mascara". I listened until they said the name of the band. The next day, I went to Record Swap on Green St. to talk to my man behind the counter who filled me in on The Replacements. I ended buying *Let It Be*, *Tim* and *Hootenany* on vinyl. Been a fan ever since.

In college in 1988, I was a little late in the game, friends turned me on to them. I got to see them in Omaha in 89 or 90.

Friend of mine had it. He thought "Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out" was hilarious. I agreed.

A classmate of mine in high school said, "You like punk and you've never heard The Replacements?" He played me *Sorry Ma* followed by *Let It Be*. The former sounded awesome, the latter sounded interesting but a little "adult" for me (I was 15 or 16). Years later I heard *All Shook Down* and didn't really get it. *All for Nothing/Nothing for All* changed my mind however. I've been hooked on everything ever since. - *Nazareth*

I honestly don't remember. Either on the *Say Anything* soundtrack or on MTV the video for "I'll Be You."

When I was in college in the early 90's, *Rolling Stone* used to have a poll issue where various people ranked all things musical in a variety of categories. Some of these rankings were tallied by readers, some by musicians, and some by critics/writers. Every year it seemed that Paul Westerberg was named "Best Songwriter." At the time, I knew who he was and knew a few Replacements songs, but I certainly hadn't heard anything that made me think they were above everyone else. And yet I kept reading that name.

A few years went by, The Replacements broke up (don't even know if I knew that at the time) and *Singles*, Cameron Crowe's homage to the Seattle music scene, came out in theatres. The soundtrack featured tunes from many of the big grunge bands of the day, including Pearl Jam,

Soundgarden, Muddhoney, and Alice in Chains. Nestled in among those brooding heavies were two solo tunes from Paul Westerberg, "Waitin' for Somebody" and "Dyslexic Heart," the latter of which featured the infectious NAH-nah-nah-nah, NAH-nah-nah, NAH-nah-nah sort of singalong. I remember going to the bathroom after the film and hearing someone humming it in the stalls. I bought the soundtrack and repeatedly listened to all of it, but especially enjoyed the Westerberg tunes. They were simple and catchy and just good straightforward rock-n-roll. I had a friend who I knew liked the Replacements and I went to him and asked if he had anything I could borrow. He gave me a few of their albums, sang their praises, and that was it. I haven't stopped listening to them since. - Gregg Greentree (Fairfax, VA)

Saw a *Rolling Stone* review and heard they were recommended by Peter Buck.

I was part of the college rock scene at the University of Kansas - 1984 was my freshman year. The Replacements were a band I had heard of, but hadn't really heard. A good friend who was always a jump or two ahead of me when it came to new stuff turned me onto the band. We were at his apartment having an afternoon smokedown, when he put *Let It Be* on the turntable and advised that I had to hear it. We played it all the way through like three times. It was a major paradigm shift. Well, the weed may have had something to do with things shifting...but yeah, from first listen, I was all in.

I was managing a band from Milwaukee that got signed to Warner Brothers Records. Our entertainment lawyer also represented The 'Mats. Let the stories/music begin. I became a devoted fan and saw them play gigs in many different cities, including the last show at Taste of Chicago.

Actually first time was buying, *Don't You Know Who I Think I Was?* right when it came out from Walmart in Ontario, Oregon. I heard about them before on VH1 from best of album countdowns mentioning *Let It Be* and thinking 'wtf, who does that?'. "Alex Chilton" caught on first, then "Kiss Me On The Bus", then I'm getting all the albums, reading the book, playing the shit on guitar. Then during the reunions, driving from Vegas to LA to watch the fuckers at the first Palladium show. Greatest shit ever. - Trevor Jones (Trevor and the Joneses)

I think I read a review of it in Tower Records' *Pulse* magazine, or perhaps Peter Buck mentioned it in an interview. That prompted me to check it out myself and I fell instantly in love.

My friend included "Androgynous" and "Unsatisfied" on a mixtape for me.

From multiple friends in college.

My boyfriend Ted had a copy of *Let It Be*, and I would listen to it at his house on the nights he was working at the I-beam (then the nightclub of choice in San Francisco). I borrowed it to include "I Will Dare" on a mix tape which became my fav tape to listen to. Soon after that I was helping friends move from LA to SF and it's such a boring drive up I-5 that I brought my walkman & just one tape - *Sorry Ma* (which I had just discovered) - & played it so loud that my friend sitting next to me in that noisy old van recognized "I Hate Music" through my headphones! I was surprised that he knew the band's early songs, since "I Will Dare" had only just caught on the airwaves. - *Andy (San Francisco)*

No cool stories...it was a cassette from my brother.

Moved to Minneapolis for graduate school in 1985. Heard about the band, bought the new release (*Tim*) but it had no impact on me until summer 1987 when *Tim & Pleased To Meet Me* became my summer obsession.

I don't have a good story. Was hanging in a fellow rock band's house, and it came on. Love at first listen.

I was born only months after the Replacements did their last concert on July 4th, and having not lived in their area of origin, I hadn't heard much of them until I heard "Unsatisfied" used as a music rejoinder on the radio. In my head I thought this had to be band lost in the early 90's maelstrom of grunge. When I looked them up my jaw dropped. I was thinking "Unsatisfied" was from '94, but here I was, wrong by an entire decade. Needless to say, I devoured their entire catalog.

Back in the 90's Green Day hosted on our national music video channel here in Australia and played both the "Bastards Of Young" and "Merry Go Round" videos. Loved them ever since.

The Wellington (New Zealand) Public Library was a great way to discover music for a teenager growing up in the 80s. One could borrow up to 6 LPs at a time. 5 of them would turn out to be dull, but usually 1 was good, and one would go on to buy their back catalogue/future recordings. On one such visit, I selected *Let It Be*; intrigued by the cover art to see what this bunch of guys sitting on a roof would sound like. Back home, I dropped the needle on the record and was hooked by the time "I Will Dare" ended. - *Phil Clayton*

I had heard from someone in Madison, WI, where I lived at the time, that The Replacements were right up my alley. They said they were loud, aggressive, melodic, trash from the garage with great lyrics, and a snotty attitude. I was like, shit, that's perfect. I don't remember which song I heard first, probably "Takin a Ride". "Turn that Shit Off" cemented it for me.

I was a sophomore in high school riding on a bus for an hour to play in a hockey game. One of our assistant coaches was college age and a big 'Mats' fan. This was 1985 so we still had cassettes and walkmans. He gave me *Tim* and said check these guys out. When I popped it in, he had it on *Little Mascara*. In about 20 seconds, all of my at-the-time favorite bands - U2, R.E.M., Big Country - took an immediate back seat to the 'Mats. – Mark (Fargo, ND)

In the mid-eighties, I was living in Germany at the time and came back to Wisconsin to visit family and friends. I went to an old farmhouse where my very good friend Bill and his band were living and rehearsing. We talked about bands and he pulled out a copy of *Let It Be* and said that this was an important group. I was hooked. From that point on, I would search for anything Replacements while on business trips. I ended scoring some unique stuff in Tokyo (Replacement bootlegs and a video of Paul Westerberg's rehearsal on Saturday Night Live), Germany (*Boink!*) and California (*Shit Hits the Fans*). All this stuff was donated to the Slim Bin at HiFi Records in Minneapolis (thanks Jon Clifford) to raise funds for Slim Dunlap's family. It seemed like an appropriate way for someone in the Replacements to finally get some money for bootlegs.

MTV "I'll Be You" video.

SNL up late at my mawmaw's house.

My brother Joe knew Mars' and Westerberg's older brothers. The 'Mats played a house party at Joe's house on 13th Ave in 1980 or 81. It was soooo loud. I always told my friends that the opening to "Kids Don't Follow" was recorded that night but I really have no idea! Loved them ever since. - Tom Dotray

Friend from high school.

At a friend's house who introduced me to the 'Mats.

A friend brought over *Pleased To Meet Me* on vinyl over to my house and we listened to it. "Red Red Wine" won me over.

I was in a punk band out of St. Paul in the spring/summer of 1981 called Johnny Quest. We had heard about the Replacements. One night, we were supposed to rehearse and someone in the band knew the Replacements were playing at the band shell (if memory serves) in Loring Park. So, we blew off practice and headed over to show. It was a great night. The sun was shining and began to fade beyond the horizon as the Replacements wailed away. The contrast of the idyllic urban park giving stage to a non-stop blast of songs from "Sorry Ma" is still hard to talk about in any way that makes sense to those who were not there. Tommy was only about maybe 14 or 15 and already blowing people out. I can't recall details, but I so remember the moment and the

feeling. This was the first time I saw the Replacements and it inspired my own musical work. When they released *Let It Be*, I realized I was never going to be in the best band in Minneapolis and I headed off to college. - *Rick Ramacier*

From my older sister. She started me on my journey to becoming a Replacements fan but then I surpassed her. I bought more records and more CDs went to more concerts, and ended up meeting Paul and Tommy. Became fans of their solo works as well. - *Julie*

I heard "Favorite Thing" at a high school party. Someone had a cassette and I was captivated. - *Joe Wooden*

97x Bam! The Future of Rock and Roll!

Saturday Night live in 1985. Total drunken chaos. Loved the band from the get go.

"I'll Be You" video on MTV.

A friend of mine who was a bit older than me told me about them when I was in college. He thought I would really like them. One night I was in a Best Buy looking for a CD from a different band, but they didn't have it. Then I remembered my friends telling me about The Replacements so I looked and they had a copy of *Tim*. I put it in on my way home and when I got to my house I just kept driving until the record was over. I never heard anything like it before, the lyrics just spoke to me in a way no other band had before. "Left of Dial" is still my favorite song ever.

I snuck up behind a girl at school and, as a joke, stole the tape out of her walkman. The tape turned out to be *Let It Be*. I originally intended to return it but, needless to say, she never got it back.

I read a review of *Don't Tell a Soul* in *Mucchio Selvaggio*, an Italian music magazine, and I bought it. It was 1990. Here's a thing I wrote about my relationship to the 'Mats, if you're interested: <https://michaelhodgin.wordpress.com/2013/08/23/dont-tell-a-soul/>

I got *Tim* as a birthday present from my older brother. The only thing his said was to go to room put the record on and turn it up to 10. Which I did. And my life was changed forever. Thanks. - *Pete*

Working in a record store in late '84 and liked the LP cover art to *Let It Be*.

It was featured in music writer Tom Moon's brilliant cross-genre book *1000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die*.

A friend had “Sorry Ma” in high school. Had an older sister with good taste.

Friend made me a cassette thinking I'd dig. I dug deeply.

On WCVT radio station. Towson University.

Some kids on my high school debate team often talked about how cool The Replacements were. One day inbetween 9th and 10th grade, I went to a Musicland in downtown Minneapolis (I'm from Minnesota) and bought a copy of *Pleased To Meet Me* on CD.

Looked at the title of record (*Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash*) and had to have it.

I had heard them occasionally on the radio station where I went to college. I borrowed *Pleased To Meet Me* from a friend and was hooked.

MUCH MUSIC

My brother.

Dating a much younger college guy, he made me a mixed tape that I still have 29 years later.
- *Katy*

My freshman college roommate played them for me. I had never heard of them before.

I've been a Bowie fan my whole life, and it was just a natural progression that I'd be into everything New Wave during my teen years, especially Duran Duran. But when I was working after school at a little boutique in Huntington Beach, CA called Jed the Fish, the afternoon DJ on KROQ in LA played “Alex Chilton” every day. After hearing that song, I fell in love and bought everything I could, probably on cassette at that time. Then my cousin reminded me that I'd already seen the 'Mats open for X...haha! *Pleased To Meet Me* is still my favorite, but so is *Hootenanny*.

I was a freshman in college in 2003 and I remember having a vague notion of The Replacements and an even vaguer recollection of hearing “Merry Go Round” in my youth on our local college radio station, but I did not count that as the time I first heard the boys. I was downloading music to expand my musical tastes and an old friend told me to download the 'Mats. It sat in my iPod for a couple of weeks and one drunken night out I played them on my way home in my '92 Black Lincoln Town Car, every window rolled down and the sun roof rolled back. The first song that blared out was “Left of the Dial” and as soon it finished I said out loud, “Wow, so this is my

favorite band.” Westerberg's voice was the voice in my head of the perfect rock star. I pulled up to my house, grabbed a six pack out of the fridge, went back out to the car, and listened to them for the next four hours. It was an immediate love affair, and it hasn't died a bit. They will always be the greatest band ever. – *Nolan*

Worked in an indie record store , when such things existed.

Read a review of *Let It Be* in *Rolling Stone*. Found it that weekend at Sam Goody. Brought it home, listened to it 4x in a row. And that was that. - *Sal C*

A boyfriend at the time introduced me to them. I was into Detroit Rock and Australian guitar bands. He and his friends used to play lots of stuff I had never heard before. *Tim* and *Let It Be* were among the 'new' records I was hearing. He didn't last but my love of the Replacements sure did. - *Lynnette*

My brother saw them at the St. Croix Boom Company in Stillwater and told me how horrible they were.

My oldest brother Gary is a huge fan. I like all his music and one day he gave me *Tim* as an introduction to the 'Mats. I was immediately hooked and within a month had all their CD's I heard Mark Pender (Miami Horns, Southside Johnny) play “Alex Chilton” in a bar one night. Recognizing the song, but not knowing about the band, I worked backwards and bought *Pleased To Meet Me*. Bought *14 Songs* and devoured the catalog of both afterwards. I missed the initial assault of the band, but caught up!! - *Kevin L.*

My older brother had the album *Pleased To Meet Me*.

I can't remember, they were just always in my ears.

My dad. All from my dad. I remember pretending to be asleep on the couch so I could listen to The 'Mats when my dad played them late at night. - *Marcus*

Read about them in *Rolling Stone*.

I was stuck at home sick from school at the beginning of 1989 and was watching MTV. I remember the video for “I'll Be You” came on and it was distinctive for a couple things: one, it was a real rock song instead of a hair metal power ballad or synth hit like most things on the radio. And they smashed a red Fender Precision bass instead of a guitar. I didn't know anything about Minneapolis or the Replacements, but I loved the song. It wasn't until two years later when one of my best friends came back over fall break from the University of Iowa and was

talking about DJing at KRUI, the campus radio station. He brought a copy of *Let It Be* and played me “Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out”. It was PERFECT. It was rockin’, it was catchy, it was hilarious. He left me the CD when he went back to school and it was one late Friday night when I finally heard “Answering Machine” that I had that epiphany, that moment of clarity. It was one of those moments where something - whether it is a book, or a movie, or a song - acts as a mirror and reflects a part of yourself you can’t see on your own. It perfectly described a feeling of a late night phone call to no one but an answering machine, the emptiness and the loneliness and the hope, all in about three minutes. Isn’t that what we want, even more than love, is just to be understood? And that started a lifelong love affair with a band and their songs that changed my life. And now, I’m writing this, 25 years later. - *Matt Tomich*

Nothing too interesting, just from friends in high school, sitting in a car listening to *Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out The Trash* on a cassette player. We were going thrift store shopping.

My dad & I would make these trips to the local library, where they had a pretty comprehensive music collection. And if I recall correctly, that's how I first heard The Replacements. I randomly picked *All Shook Down* out of the batch and my dad told me a few factoids about them. I was intrigued. - *Rob Lefever*

I heard from a guy who was a local college DJ.

My buddy Joe turned me on.

Saw them open for X in 1984.

January 18th, 1986. God awful episode of *Saturday Night Live*. Musical guest that didn't give a shit. Twice. My favorite band still, 30 years later. I was 14. *Let It Be* was/is still my favorite record. Vinyl, then cassette, then CD. Now phone, specifically my Pandora (Spotify?) station that throws in Big Star, Echo and the Bunnymen, and the Smithereens as well. - *Jason Gober*

Years ago I was living in a sweet spot. Guest houses behind a swanky palace in Atlanta. I had the carriage house and the caretakers’ cottage was smack dab next to it. Lucky for me the new tenants looked ok because I like my music LOUD & constant. Fortunately the new guys were just like me. In fact, we sometimes would take turns picking what we were all going to be listening to whether we wanted to or not. And the fun we had! They slapped *Hootenanny* on the turntable and by the third song I was hooked. By the end of side 2, I had a new very favorite band.

Nothing exciting, recommended by a friend at a record store.

The day *Let It Be* came out one of my bandmates (the Lifeguards in Bellingham, WA) bought it - I think because the cover was so cool, and we listened to the whole thing. Sold!

A friend had the album *Hootenanny* and played it for me.

Listening to WBCN in Boston in the '80s. Don't remember which song I first heard, probably "I Will Dare", which quickly became my favorite 'Mats song. - *Tom Garside*

I was a high schooler spending the night on a college visit to the University of Illinois and someone in the dorm taped a review of a Replacements concert on their door. After reading that I went out and bought a cassette tape of *Let It Be* from the year before. I had never heard of them before and certainly nobody else in my small Ohio town had either. No college radio stations where I lived. - *Scott Fry*

Saw them live.

Read about them in *Cream* magazine back in 1987 or so. Bought *Pleased To Meet Me* on cassette. I was hooked.

"Alex Chilton" on local radio in Tampa, FL. Jumped right out of the speakers and I was forever changed. - *Scott R*

Roommate was a fan.

Heard "Talent Show" on WBRU while staying with my American girlfriend in Massachusetts in 1989. I'm British and our radio stations were pathetic then. Never played anything they weren't paid to.

"I'll Be You" video on MTV.

Friend of mine bought the first LP.

1985-86 at a house party. Someone put side 2 of *Let It Be* on. I was a fan by the 20 second mark.

Overheard the cool kids at the local college record store talking about em. Bought *Let It Be* used for a buck or two. Listened to it every day the second semester of my second year at college in 1984/85.

Friend of mine talked about the Replacements often, and I had grown a little weary of popular radio. Saw *Don't Tell a Soul* on sale (which in those days meant around \$8.99) and bought it,

listened to it, loved it, and wondered why this music was not on the radio, or at least the radio I was listening to. I dove into the whole Replacements catalog and never looked at popular radio the same again. - *Don N*

I heard "I Will Dare" on the radio hooked forever after that.

Roommate at the time was a fanatic.

Let It Be: it just looked cool at the record store. - *Jane Egan*

There was an alternative cover band in Fort Wayne, IN called The Hush. They would play "Alex Chilton" in their set. Once I found out who did the original, I purchased *Pleased To Meet Me* and the rest was history. - *Dave Romary*

Heard *Let It Be* on an airplane en route to Winnipeg. Almost spewed in the barf bag it sounded so good.

In college, tired of all the BS on the radio and I started to listen to alt rock. Always liked rock & roll and really got into the punky stuff the 'Mats played. There were several kids that I hung out with who grew up in the Twin Cities and they introduced me to the Replacements.

Older brother had a cassette of *Let It Be*.

Columbia Record Club.

My brother brought home *Let It Be* and told us we needed to listen to it. We did. The record didn't leave the turntable for months.

The song was "The Ledge". I was driving home from work late at night. I worked waiting tables in Malibu and I was headed back home to Hollywood, driving through Malibu canyon along the cliffs and I first heard the opening notes, turned it up and hit the curves along my own ledge, listening to my Dylan on the road home. - *Dave O.*

I was sad and blue listening to all that 80s hair metal crap. My friend told me I'd probably like the Replacements. He was right, damn fucking right. - *Mike Miledi*

My two buddies I worked in a record store with turned me on to them.

Playing on the radio: "Alex Chilton".

I was 16 and the guy at the local record store recommended *Let It Be*.

Older friends in high school (class of 90) who listened to cool music I hadn't heard yet.

Senior year of HS. Buddy from California made me listen to *Pleased To Meet Me*. I was a 'Mats junkie from day one. – *Cash*

Read an article where Paul described their typical fan and it sounded like me so I went out and bought *Tim*, then backward to *Let It Be*, then *Hootenanny*, then *Pleased To Meet Me* came out and my music world was reawakened. – *Ted*

I was living in Minneapolis and going to the U for grad school. I saw an ad for the *Stink* album in the TC Reader and went to Oarfolkjokopus and bought it. Little did I know that they frequented the same store. *Stink* was blasting from the speakers and then I was a fan for life.

They played 'em on KROQ. I dug 'em. Not much of a story, really.

I remember about the time that The Hold Steady album *Boys and Girls in America* was being promoted. *Uncut* Magazine ran an interview in which The 'Mats were mentioned as inspiration. I had heard of The Replacements before then being a fan of all things power pop and in particular Big Star but was never sufficiently motivated to seek out their music. As it happened my ex-girlfriend's father had a few albums including *Pleased To Meet Me* and we spun it one night before dinner. Rest is history. – *Nick Bryant (Taunton, UK)*

Driving in Baltimore, working, listening to WHFS. The first time I heard "I'll Be You". I pulled over and wrote it down. Bought the cassette tape the next day. Bought the rest soon after.
– *Chip Welsh (Red Lion, PA)*

Cool girl in high school handed me a *Pleased To Meet Me* cassette and said, "you'll like this." I did.

I can't remember.

An older co-worker at one of my first jobs let me borrow *Don't Tell a Soul* on cassette and from the first listen of "Talent Show", I was hooked.

Saw *Let It Be* in Newburyport Comics (record store) and I bought the album on the spot.

WXRT. Best Chicago station.

Hanging at Scott Campbell's parents house, talking about starting a band, listened to a few albums but the song "Androgynous" stuck with me. Still reminds me of the people we hung with, the way we dressed, etc. - *Kevin Proescher*

I had read much about them in music books and magazines, and found a \$6 copy of *Tim* at CD Exchange in DC. I was sold on first listen.

Saw the video for "I'll Be You" and thought I would check out the rest of the album.

Traded a Misfits album for *All Shook Down* and the Pixies' *Trope Le Monde*.

Late night college radio. I was still in high-school, ha-ha! "Color Me Impressed" comes on.

A review of a live show for the band my brother was in was next to a review of Let It Be. Read the review and was hooked.

I first heard them when I started working at my college radio station as a freshman in September 1984.

College.

A friend's older brother brought the record *Pleased To Meet Me* home from college. My friends and I were already playing music and our tastes were changing radically, largely due to older siblings and friends bringing back culture from places beyond the borders of our small town. The only radio I had access to was top 40/classic rock/MTV. MTV didn't touch "alternative" music for another couple years. It was sterile compared to the 80s indie thing - and the punk that inspired it - which was a revelation at the time. On top of that, the Replacements wrote unbelievably great songs. It was a double whammy for me. - *Jonny Mac*

A good friend of mine (Brian Young of infamous Belfast punsters RUDI) was selling his 'Mats collection to date, so I bought the first 4 'Mats records! Fell in love...never looked back.
- *Deadelvis*

My friend gave me a tape for my birthday or Christmas. Something like "Best Alternative Hits of '86 or '87." One of the songs on it was "Alex Chilton." I had no idea who he was or who the Replacements were, but I fell in love with that song. Not too long after I got that tape, the video for "I'll Be You" started showing up on MTV, and I was smitten. - *Rachel Roe*

"I'll Be You" on 99 Rock WPLR out of New Haven. Even one of their most 'mainstream' songs

stood out as different.

I was 18 and had just started working at the Grand Canyon after moving there from New England. I was into music already, having grown up on band like the Clash and T. Rex, but had never been actively into the Replacements. At my job while moving around tables to open a cafeteria a manager asked me what the last record I bought was. My answer was the new Lemonheads one (the self-titled one released in the 2000's - this was around that time.) He then feigned surprise that Evan Dando was still alive and began to wax on about the 'Mats. I had known a couple of songs ("Can't Hardly Wait" and "Androgynous" for sure) but really knew nothing about them. That manager and I became good friends. He made me a bunch of Replacements and Westerberg mixes and I completely fell in love with the band. Now when people ask, I typically give Westerberg as one of my favorite/best songwriters. When I came back to Massachusetts with a new favorite band, I found out that my father, the man greatly responsible for my taste in music, was, unbeknownst to me, a huge Westerberg fan. Things came full circle and I got to take my dad to see the Replacements for his birthday. I had already seen them once at one of the Riot Fest gigs. Both shows were fantastic and it was great for my dad to see them play an awesome gig (he had seen them put on one of those awful shows back in the heyday.) - *Brian Brownell*

I was playing a gig at the Mystic Den in Harrisonburg, VA with my band. We were, as usual, buzzed and sloppily playing a mix of our own songs and covers, some poorly learned. Some guy we'd never seen before asked us if we were Replacements fans. We said we never heard of 'em. He basically said, "Wow, your stage show is exactly the same." We became intrigued. Within a year we were opening for them in Charlottesville, VA.

I fell madly in love with the *Tim* album after I bought it hearing a review of the reissue in people magazine and have been in love with everything Paul Westerberg since. I have bought most of the albums except for the very first one and *Stink*. It is the best discovery of a bunch of albums I ever heard.

I read a piece in *Rolling Stone* about the band (I think in '86) in which the singer (I guess Paul but I didn't notice the names at the time) said "We're a band who'll do anything, we'll even dare to fail." I thought that was kinda cool. So I rushed to a local record store (in College Station, TX) and bought *Let It Be*. This was in December 1986. I remember cause we were getting ready for New Year's Eve. The record floored me totally. I was totally obsessed with them that whole spring of '87.

Strangely enough my wife introduced me to their music as she is probably their biggest fan on the West Coast.

My first exposure to The Replacements was seeing them on SNL on the night of January 18, 1986.

This was a time in my life when I was very ready for something new and exciting to come along and seeing the 'Mats live on television that night far exceeded any expectations of something very cool to come along in rock music. To this day, I remember how stoked I was to see these guys thrash through those two numbers and how perfect that one of my favorite actors was there to introduce them- Mr. Harry Dean Stanton! What a thrill!! - *Brian Lux*

I had two friends that wanted to see X play at Duffys. They wanted to honestly because they wanted to see the band that had a 14 year old in it. Both acts were great! So good. The same bill the following night.

While I can't recall when I first heard the band, I first knew about them through other bands' interviews like The Gaslight Anthem and even Green Day.

High school 1988 - Prior to this I mostly listened to hair metal or heavy metal. I really got into the Smiths, 10,000 Maniacs, the Clash, Hüsker Dü and Soul Asylum. I had never heard of the Replacements until my friend Dan Corcoran played it in my buddy's jeep heading to a party one night in May. "Alex Chilton", "IOU" and "Red Red Wine" were the tunes that stuck out. Since that day, I have been a huge fan. - *Jerry Wall*

It's lame but I saw that *Let It Be* was listed on the *Rolling Stone* 500 Greatest Albums of All-time. Though I'd heard of the Replacements, that was what stoked my curiosity to actually go and download that album. I fell in love with it when I got to "Androgynous". At first I thought that song was a bit clichéd, but the bridge caught my attention and I gave it a second listen, then a third, then I put the song on repeat. I bought all their albums almost immediately. - *Ben*

Back in 1986, John Doe and Exene from the great LA band "X" were promoting the film "The Unheard Music" on KROQ's "Rodney on the Roq" show hosted by the iconic DJ Rodney Bingenheimer. Rodney had asked both what bands had they been lately into and Exene mentioned The Replacements. The next morning I went to Tower Records and purchased *Tim*. - *George Kurbikoff*

I was working in a record store in 1994. I read a lot about the band, but never heard anything outside of "I Will Dare", which I loved.

No big story. I had heard the name from music mags etc. and from Tommy being in GnR. Downloaded "Answering Machine" and a few others from Let It Be around about 2006/2007. Haven't stopped listening since. Went to see them in London last year by myself. One of the most joyous nights of my life.

I was looking through bins at the record store and the guy who watched over them suggested I

try *Tim*, based on the music I usually bought. That was all it took for me to become devoted to all their music.

Working in a college record store in 1985. Got *Tim*. 2nd album was *Sorry Ma* and things just progressed from there.

There was a great little record store/head shop in my town that had all of the great music. The guy behind the counter recommended *Tim* to me. I bought it on cassette. I'm forever grateful.
- *Brenda Ann Love*

Sister's boyfriend.

Read album review in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

In grade 10, my friend had *Sorry Ma* on CD and he lent it to me, saying you gotta hear this band. I was hooked right away and started looking for and buying more 'Mats records.

Let It Be, on a cassette tape, in a girl from Philly's dorm room, freshman year at Bard College.

Hip kids from my high school (Anoka) who showed the rest of us there was something outside of our white suburban existence.

In 1986 my high school buddy and bandmate brought me into his room to have me listen to a record he had bought. I had been out of commission for a year because of a severe car accident, and I was just getting back on my feet (literally) and back in the loop musically. He told me he picked up the record based only on the cover photo, and then he put the needle on "Answering Machine". It hit me like a ton of bricks. - *Mark*

Let It Be, college dorm room, was drunk...bet ya never heard that one before.

Christian E. Boyatt. 19. Modesto, California. It was about four years ago, I was 15 and a sophomore in High School. I grew up really liking Guns N' Roses because of my parents. They had covered and mentioned Johnny Thunders several times, so of course I started listening to Thunders and the New York Dolls. I was always aware of the name The Replacements because I dug Tommy and thought he was super rad. While reading about Johnny Thunders, I saw that Tommy Stinson's band The Replacements had a song about him called "Johnny's Gonna Die," which intrigued me as they surely idolized him and all. So I immediately went to download that album. With no luck at finding *Sorry Ma*, I downloaded the first one I could, which was *Let It Be*. Looking at the track list I saw that they covered "Black Diamond" by KISS, which was the first band I ever liked. So it finished and I listened to "Black Diamond" first. BRILLIANT. I loved it. So it

ended and I thought that the first song had a cool title and it was immediately my favorite song I'd ever heard and still is. With such a great sense of humor "Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out" and "Gary's Got a Boner" were so great. "Sixteen Blue" was so ridiculously perfect for a young kid in high school. I've never felt so attached to a group of songs. Slowly going through the albums, I realized that there will never be a band as great as The Replacements. They saved my life, got me through girl problems, and are the soundtrack to my life. My friends don't get it, but that's okay.

They are the Replacements in all their glory, and I couldn't ask for a more perfect band.

I heard *Pleased To Meet Me* at a party in high school and it blew my mind. I had never heard anything that felt like me before. I almost got into a fight (which I would easily have lost) with some guy because I kept playing it over and over.

My friend Jaime had a mix tape that he played in his truck. - *Joe*

Friends/boyfriend.

I read about them in *Creem* magazine, and decided they sounded like a band I needed to hear!
- *Mike Baltz*

My older brother introduced me them.

A friend who worked at a record store gave me a cassette of *Pleased To Meet Me* thinking that I might like it. He was right. When I heard "The Ledge", I was hooked for life and I dug into their catalog like a madman.

They played at a club I used to go to in Worcester, Massachusetts. Of course, it was on a Sunday night or weeknight, hence I did not see them there. Of course the people that did see them were few in numbers (5, tops). I still have the promo picture they sent from Twin/Tone. - *Murph*

Rolling Stone reviewed *Tim*, at the time took a \$11 gamble on the cassette, and it has been paying off handsomely for the last thirty years. - *Steven Wright*

Sophomore year of high school(1984). My friend Frank and I were starting to get into alternative (or, as it was usually referred to at the time, college radio) music. We spent a lot of time at the Record Archive in Rochester, NY and were guided by one of the clerks there to bands like R.E.M., The Replacements, Hüsker Dü, and The Velvet Underground. Frank moved away later that year, but my passion for these bands had been formed. When it came time to choose a college two years later, it's not surprising that I was drawn to Minnesota and I ended up spending the next 4 years at Carleton College. Missed seeing the 'Mats play there by one year. :(- *Chris Braunsdorf*

On the radio at college...heard the Replacements and thought they were singing about the life I was living at that moment.

The Record Connection in Columbus Ohio was run by a guy named John Hurly. He was a bit of a Deadhead, but he had a weakness for the underground and "alt" bands of the 80s. I remember walking in the store, thinking I needed something new. Hurly said, "Hey man, Listen to this." He put on *Hootenanny* and I listened to the first three tracks--a ramshackle "jam", a punk song about running red lights, and then some of the best power pop I'd ever heard. I was sold. They've been my favorite band ever since. *Let It Be* came out shortly after I heard *Hootenanny* and that more than sealed the deal. I'm pushing 50 years old and I'm still a fanboy when it comes to the 'Mats.

I had heard of them being a teen listening to music in the mid-90s. I think when I found Chris Bell and possibly Superdrag their name had come up. The first time I remember hearing Paul's name was seeing him on what I think was the Tonight Show. I remember hearing "Love Untold" but then not going back to it. I didn't have Napster yet of course! The day I showed up to college in 2000 and had broadband internet I scoured for music. I found "Can't Hardly Wait" and few other then never looked back. (I have since paid for music and tickets to see them in case I seem like a leech! I was just young.) - *Patrick*

Came across *Sorry Ma* at WLHA, Madison, WI radio station that only broadcast about 500 feet to the Lakeshore dorms. I remember tracking quickly through the album and finding "Johnny's Gonna Die" and playing it because it was the most melodic. - *Mike*

I had an older friend who was into all kinds of music when I was in my early teens. He insisted I start with *Sorry Ma* and then listened up to *Let It Be* which had just came out. Every record got better and I was hooked. There was a lot of great music coming out of the Twin Cities back then but the 'Mats became my favorites early on. - *Jason S.*

I am the uncoolest 'Mats fan ever. The first time I heard them was the first time I saw the video for "I'll Be You". I immediately went out and bought that album and then went out and bought every Replacements album I could find after that.

I was DJ'ing at a little nightclub in the basement of Pracna on Main called Grapes and they had a 12" single of "I Will Dare" which was the only Replacements in the collection, and from the wear and tear on the sleeve you could tell it got a lot of play. It was a dance club that catered to U of M Greeks mostly. Great beat and you can ...

As a teenager, I heard this awesome song on the closing credits to the movie *Can't Hardly Wait*. I made it my mission to seek it out!

I shared a car with my older sister and she had a mixed tape in it from a guy she knew. It had great music on it including the lead track "Hold My Life" and "Kiss Me on the Bus". I tracked down the *Tim* album soon after.

Heard *Tim* in college on a girl's player. Wasn't ready at the time.

I was sitting in my car in the parking lot of a small office building, listening to the radio and avoiding going into work to start my day. At the time I was a high school kid caught between punk rock, new wave and I guess whatever you'd call "college indie rock," but I always felt like that elusive perfect record hadn't come my way just yet. And then I heard "Alex Chilton". I remember very clearly sitting in the car - stunned. It's cliché, I know - but I felt like my whole musical life had been leading up to that moment. I became obsessed - shows, collecting obscure vinyl, writing "Paul Westerberg is God" in public places; they were MY band.

I'd read over and over in *Rolling Stone* about this awesome band, The Replacements. I couldn't figure out how they could be so great if I'd never heard of them! Understand, I lived on a farm in rural, middle of nowhere Nebraska. I finally found one of their tapes *All Shook Down* at the Wal Mart in the next town. I love that album now, but after reading so often about this incredible band, it was an underwhelming introduction. Thankfully a year later I escaped to college in a much bigger, much more liberal environment where I discovered *Sorry Ma, Stink* and *Let It Be*.
- Erin Hotovy

I worked at WXPL at Fitchburg State.

Living in Denmark it was hard to come across these albums. I loved Hüsker Dü and found out that I would love the 'Mats too. I had a friend from Holland and he got the albums for me and brought them back from the Netherlands. I got all the albums that way.
- Henrik Øster-Jørgensen (Herning, Denmark)

Like many 'Mats fans, I heard *Let It Be* when a college friend played it for me. It was a few years old but brand new for me and I was hooked! - Anthony Antonelli

In 1986, a friend of mine told me I needed to see this band, The Replacements. I had never heard of them, but we drove around in his car and listened to *Let It Be*. I thought it was cool that they covered KISS's "Black Diamond". We went to the show and I was hooked. I believe it was one of the last shows with Bob.

I had a friend in a band "Dicks Wife". He was obsessed with the Replacements.

I was in the local record store and was looking for a Beat Farmers album. They didn't have it but the guy said "If you like the Farmers, you'll love the Replacements." The next week I was back buying *Hootenanny*, *Stink* and *Sorry Ma*.

I rented a Replacements CD from a neighbourhood CD rental shop.

I was in high school and pretty sick of it, I tell you. That time of your life you absolutely hate that world of shitty classes and dickhead students, looked like the whole universe was conspiring against you. So I was researching about music that reflected that environment, when I heard "Fuck School" for the first time. The song said everything I wanted to hear, it was a full transcript of my feelings. Aggressive lyrics plus punk rock, that was it.

Heard a few semi-hits over the years on Live 105 in S.F. and was a bit interested, but when I got *Pleased To Meet Me*, I was hooked. Not as much of a fan of the early stuff, but found a few gems on those records too. Will always be a lifelong fan.

Read an article in the early 90s about Winona Ryder where she said The Replacements were her favorite band. Few years later dated a musician who idolized Paul Westerberg. Made me tapes of all their albums, and I was hooked. - *Jaime Dahms*

I saw "I'll Be You" on 120 minutes in March or April of '89 and flipped out. Great song and they looked and acted like a punk rock Stones! Got *Don't Tell A Soul* as a 17th birthday gift a couple of weeks later and dove into the back catalog from there. - *John H.*

I got into the band The Decemberists and found out their lead singer/songwriter Colin Meloy is a huge Replacements fan. He had written the 33½ book on *Let It Be* too, so I decided to try out the Replacements for myself.

A friend had *All Shook Down*. I heard it and fell in love.

I was in college and a brilliant, funny, drunken floormate turned me on to them. I never heard music that was so funny, brutally honest and catchy before. They're the most talented underdogs the music world has ever seen. I'm thankful that my floormate gave me the gift of the 'Mats.
- *Randy Abramson*

Over a friend's house, he was playing records and we were talking over them. He put on *Tim* and I immediately responded to the guitars, the odd snippet of words ("down on all fives", "hold my life...because I just might lose it"), and the overall attitude. Whatever my friend was saying just faded low into the background and the music took over. Who was this band? What's their story?

When will my friend stop talking so I can ask him?

The wildhearts. 29 times the pain put their name on my radar. Then a friend let me hear "Unsatisfied". Then I bought *Let It Be*. Then I bought *Tim*. Then I. then I.

I snared *Tim* from my older brother's record collection.

I went to art school in 2000 and one of my instructors was Carleen Stinson. I learned about the Replacements then, but wasn't struck by anything I heard until I first heard *Let It Be* a couple years later.

I saw "I'll Be You" on MTV. Went to the store and purchased *Don't Tell A Soul*. After hearing that I went and bought every album. - Tim Jordan

Nothing exciting or especially memorable, just picked up on them from an article in the UK music press and was blown away by *Pleased To Meet Me*.

As a baby boomer from an earlier generation, coupled with the band's own self-destructive tendencies when it came to getting their music to the public, I missed out on The Replacements heyday (if they actually ever had one?). However, a very good friend of mine, William, 10 years younger than me, began putting Replacements tunes on various mixtapes we would exchange in the early to mid-nineties. The 'Mats' rough-hewn, rockin', yet heart-felt energy stood out on the collections. For brevity, I'll just say that I've never looked back. I'm now a Replacement fanatic, placing them among the icons of rock n' roll along with The Beatles and Rolling Stones as my favorites. I was fortunate enough to see them on their reunion tour in 2014, fulfilling a dream I thought unattainable. - Kerry Ferrell (Louisville, KY)

In my early mid teens, I used to follow a band called the Senseless Things around the local London area. They played a lot! On the album insert for their album *The First of Too Many* there is a band photo recreating the famous cover of the Replacements *Let It Be* LP... I investigated based on this and fell head over heels in love with the Replacements never to recover!
- Andy Myers

My friend Robert and I were ready for action on New Year's Eve 1990 which was also a blue moon. Before we hit the bars, two Romeos with hearts on our sleeves, Robert said, "You've gotta hear this song!" and played "The Last," the first 'Mats song I heard and I joyfully went backward in the catalogue. I was also present at what was for a long time the Replacements' last show at Grant Park in Chicago. I have one line in the documentary *Color Me Obsessed* about that show.
- Scott Wickman

Friend told me about them.

It's not that interesting. Loved the Paul Westerberg songs in the movie *Singles*, found out he used to be in a band and borrowed the only two albums the local public library had, *Don't Tell A Soul* and *All Shook Down*.

Rolling Stone review of *Tim*, had to give it a listen.

I was always trying to find something to listen to on the radio. I found college radio in Cleveland. It wasn't too hard because we have four great stations in the area but most people I knew in their early teens only listened to what their parents or grandparents listened to which was the oldies or pop stations. I couldn't take anymore Huey Lewis!

I heard the cover of "Black Diamond" by the Replacements and since I knew Kiss, I had to find out who made the song better. So I went to the scary punk rock record store "Chris' Warped Records" and purchased *Let It Be* and played it over and over and over. And they changed my life forever. - *Joe Sweeny*

In high school I heard *I'll Be You* on the radio. Who *is* this band, I thought. So much better than what I'd been hearing on the radio. - *Kathy*

Was a sophomore in High School but doing a radio show with my older brother at Connecticut College in New London. Back in the day, there were comment stickers on the album sleeves to help you do your job and *Pleased To Meet Me*'s said "This is the fourth copy of this album that this radio station has had to get, if any f@\$%ker steals this album...karma for life." I knew it was a classic before I put it on.

I bought *Let It Be* some time after it came out; a couple of sterling reviews and a funny article got my attention. I had it for a week, comparing it unfavorably to the first Velvet Underground album (I bought the reissue earlier that summer). Then, a switch flipped in my head and I stood there screaming along with the second chorus of "Unsatisfied" (greatest rock vocal ever Paulie, no matter what you think), corrupted for life. And then "I Will Dare" and "Favorite Thing" made me fall in love with falling in love again, "Androgynous" struck me as every bit as brave and compassionate as anything by the VU, "Black Diamond" brought me back to my days as a fourth-grade member of the Kiss Army (seriously, where's my fucking merch, Gene? I've been waiting for nearly 40 years), and I quickly became familiar with how precisely this band could evoke whatever mental state I was in. - *Mike R.*

I was living in Israel in 1988 & reviewing albums for a weekly. The local record importer sent me

Don't Tell A Soul. I was blown away from the first 30 seconds of "Talent Show" and that was it.

In 1982 I moved into an apartment in the Modesto building in Minneapolis. I took over a friend's lease. She said that the Replacements hung out in the building in the apartment above me. I had heard of the Replacements but had not seen them. I checked them out down at 7th Street Entry and thought they were ok but they were pretty loud in the small room. Sometime after that I bought *Stink* at Oarfolk from Peter Jesperson. I was hooked on the music but didn't really follow the band as they had a reputation of being hit or miss live. - *Jim Portesan*

They were the band for an on-campus Halloween costume party at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in 1983. I had never heard of them but a friend that worked at the college radio station invited me out and let me spend lots of time with the guys between sets. They were so nice to me! The crowd hated them, and only a few were left standing by the end of the night. Tommy stopped me as I was leaving to give me a vinyl copy of *Hootenanny*. I was absolutely hooked and still am... greatest American rock and roll band hands down! - *Shelly Johnson*

Not that interesting - read a review of *Tim*, thought I'd like it, bought it back in the day.

I was floored by Soul Asylum's *Time's Incinerator*, which I bought at an Ameoba Records in Berkeley and just HAD to find EVERYTHING on Twin/Tone.

Pretty boring story: saw "I'll Be You" on MTV.

Was introduced by my older brother.

Marietta, GA. In Vandy law school in Nashville at the time, doing a JAG internship for the Army. Picked up *Hootenanny* in 1983 based on rave reviews. Loved it. Persuaded the promoter on Nashville's Alternative Jam to book the group for the 1984 show. They were last on the bill; they were drunk; they were intermediately great/sucky. They'd play Nashville roughly five more times with mixed results.

Summer of 86, I was 18 and just graduated from high school. To that point, my musical tastes were limited as about the only groups/musicians I listened to were Prince, the Police, Go Go's and Fleetwood Mac. Thankfully the MTV craze had not ever taken hold of me. I may well one day be racked with dementia, but the day my friend William put the needle on *Tim* and the feeling of euphoria upon hearing the first few notes of "Hold My Life" is a moment I won't ever forget.

- *Brian*

When I was about 14, my older sister brought home *Let It Be*. She was in New York City for the day (we lived in the burbs) and bought it because people in the record store (might have been

Bleeker Bob's but I'm not sure) were talking about it.

First heard *Pleased To Meet Me* on alt rock radio. Either WLIR or WHTG. - *Gordon Gunn*

High school me always wanted to check them out based on Rolling Stone reviews of *Let It Be*, *Tim*, and *Pleased To Meet Me*; finally in college I found someone who had a copy of *Pleased To Meet Me*. The guitar sound, the beauty of "Can't Hardly Wait", "Skyway", the brattiness of "Shooting Dirty Pool", "I.O.U.", "I Don't Know", "Never Mind" and "Red Red Wine", the angst of "The Ledge" and "Valentine", the coolness of "Alex Chilton" and "Nightclub Jitters" . . . the album spoke to me, it was me expressed through guitars and lyrics that weren't clichés. - *RLM*

In that nice sweet-spot of open mindedness; a 22 year old white-bread candy-assed pseudo-punk from the satin-sheet burbs of Los Angeles. Within the last 12 months had gone from listening to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Van Halen to discovering X, The Minutemen, Violent Femmes, Dead Kennedys, and mosh pits. Nothing was ever the same again. Read a Robert Hilburn review of the 'Mats in the LA Times, which led me to the altar and I never to turn back.

I was around at the beginning but kept my distance -- which I regret and have for a long time...
GREAT MUSIC !

The Rolling Stone "Hot" issue 1986.

Believe it or not I was impressed w/ a *Rolling Stone* review of *Let It Be*.

1985 - first time away from home at University of Chicago. Hung out with a bunch of dorm mates, including an older student by the name of Jack Sparks. No shit. That was his name. As we hung out in his room, he bragged about a band that always played drunk, and had some excellent songs. During the evening, he found his copy of *Let It Be* and began playing it. Once "Unsatisfied" kicked in, I was hooked. Hooked enough to start scrounging used bins for their back catalog. Hooked enough to buy the new releases. And every note that was played, every word that was sung, was meant for me and me alone. That ever-present feeling of despair and hope in spite of tough times. The struggle to be understood yet not quite able to articulate it. In time, I ended up leaving the University of Chicago (too much money + dying grandparents = new grown-up responsibilities), but I continued to follow the 'Mats. Even had a chance to catch their infamous 1991 show....but plans kept me at home, so I recorded it off of the radio. Of all my youthful musical choices, the Replacements are only one of three bands that I continue to listen to consistently - that same universal feeling of awkwardness and mournful hope speaks to me. Maybe, on some level, I never grew up - but if growing up means giving up my love of the Replacements, then I'd rather stay an eternal kid. - *Gordon Dymowski*

I read the David Fricke review of *Pleased To Meet Me* and was curious. Hated it at first listen. Then I discovered the melodies under the noise as well as Paul Westerberg's lyrical genius. Stuck in a northern Michigan ski lodge with 15 drunks. One of them had *Let It Be* on cassette. Life changed. Listened to it over and over again.

I was 18, trying to listen to hardcore bands I never listened to. So I got me *Let It Be* and the Hüsker's *Zen Arcade*. It wasn't what I expected. I never got back to G.B.H., Discharge or D.O.A.. Music reviewer for local paper gave me his press copy of *Don't Tell A Soul*. He was disgusted with it and upon listening to it had promptly broken up with the band. His loss, my gain.

I first heard The Replacements in 1987 from a high school buddy. The album was *Pleased To Meet Me*. I fell in love with the crunchy guitars, the heart on your sleeve vocals and lyrics of "Never Mind." I soon dug into the back catalog. I would go on to front my own band, Truck Stop Love, who would emulate the 'Mats right on down to the boozy, can't hardly play gigs.

- Rich Yarges

Let It Be. In a college dorm room. Drunk.

Probably reading about them in *Creem* magazine around 1984/85.

I was in High School and my older sister was in college. They had rented a house down at the U of M and her roommates were all really cool and they would have great parties. I went to hang out for the night with them and asked the super-cute one if I could look through her records. Her taste was similar to mine in many ways, so I dubbed a bunch her LPs of bands I had heard of but didn't really know well onto cassette. One of these albums was *Let It Be*. I simply could not stop listening to that album.

My best friend said to me they were the best band in the cities. That's it, he was right.

- Brook Harste

I really liked Paul Westerberg's song "Love Untold" after hearing it on MTV and the radio and bought the *Eventually* album during my first semester of college. About two years later, I was in a record store with my mom's friend and she spotted *Don't Tell a Soul* and *All Shook Down* in the used CD bins. She was familiar with the other bands I liked and suggested I buy the Replacements CDs.

Don't Tell A Soul review in one of those rock mags. Seemed like there was something going on there - poetry and drunkenness.

The Shit Hits The Fans was being played at Horizon Records in Oxford, OH. The clerk was familiar

with my taste and told me that even though what I was listening to was pretty awful, that he thought I would dig the 'Mats and he convinced me to buy *Let It Be*. One of the best decisions I ever made. - *Steve Trosin*

I came very, very late to the party! I actually discovered Paul Westerberg in 2004 or 2005, thanks to a friend on the old Warren Zevon Bulletin Board quoting PW lyrics in his profile. It was immediate love at first-listen! I bought up all the PW I could find, and downloaded a ton of bootlegs. Happily, Paul started a solo tour soon after I discovered him, so I traveled to gigs in Memphis, Boston (I lived near Boston), Philadelphia and Orlando within a couple of weeks. Naturally, then I followed the timeline, back to the Replacements. I'm so sorry I missed them the first time around (back in the day, if it wasn't stocked in the "Blues" bin, I didn't listen to it!). It's a dull story, but feel free to use it as a cautionary tale to think (listen) outside of the bin!
- *Meri Farnworth (Tiverton, RI)*

I actually didn't hear them, I read about them.

30 years ago I told a friend I couldn't stand the Stones because Jagger's voice annoyed the hell out of me. He said check these guys out, this singer sounds like shit too. Needless to say, The Replacements and The Rolling Stones are now two of my all-time favorites. Ah , the good taste of youth. - *Todd Pearson*

I saw the video for "When It Began" sandwiched between a bunch of crap videos sometime in 1990.

My friend's older brother (by four years) was turning us metal heads on to "college rock": R.E.M., The Cure, Jesus and Mary Chain, The Cult, The Beat Farmers, The Clash and yes, the 'Mats. *Pleased To Meet Me* had just come out and during an onslaught of "here, check this out!" he played one from "the drunkest band ever!" and it was "I Don't Know". That one stuck out from all the other bands and songs he played that day. I asked him to make me a tape and a couple days later I had a Maxell 90 with *Let It Be* on one side and *Tim* on the other. Holy crap. Changed everything. Then *Hootennany* with *Tales of the New West* by The Beat Farmers on the flip side, along with the "I Will Dare" 12" tacked on to the end. More Wow! I actually didn't hear *Pleased To Meet Me* until after digesting those three, and then finally *Stink* and *Sorry Ma* and *Don't Tell a Soul* when it came out.

A friend made me a mix tape and devoted a single side, 45 minutes, to his favourite Replacements' songs.

Album review of *Pleased To Meet Me* in *Rolling Stone*.

A high school friend kept trying to turn me on to them in 1987ish. After I was indifferent to his badgering for a couple of months, he just gave me his newly purchased cassette of *Pleased To Meet Me* in the late summer. I had it in the car and finally put it in the player and just decided to let it run for a few days. I got hooked after a couple passes through it. “Can't Hardly Wait”, “Valentine”, and “The Ledge” reeled me in. I loved the loose feel, which was much different than the music I was used to listening to growing up (Pink Floyd, Steely Dan, etc). I took the tape to college with me and turned a couple other guys on to it. I stumbled across that tape ten years later while ditching some of my cassettes and finally gave it back to him. The lesson in this story is two-fold: be persistent in turning people on to the better things in life and don't lend anything to me unless you don't need it back for a decade or so. - *Freddy Caple*

I read an article about them in *Musician* magazine in 1988 and had to go out and buy all their records. Life was never the same! - *Kelly Harmon*

I was working on the railroad (all day long) in the Twin Cities circa 1990 and one of the guys I worked with was a musician and asked if I'd heard of the Replacements. I hadn't and he said to go get *Tim* and I'd be an instant convert. He was right. Hard to believe I grew up not far from this scene and had never heard of them. Caught a reunion show in the last year and wished I'd have seen one of the infamous shows from back in the day. - *Pat Jarvis*

High school classmate recommended R.E.M., Hüsker Dü, Smiths, and the Replacements to me after seeing bands I liked written on my Pee Chee folder :) I remember buying *Reckoning*, *Candy Apple Grey*, *Meat is Murder*, and *Tim* at the same time and the hipster guy at the record store (for the first time ever) approving of my purchase!

Let It Be on a cassette lying in the hospital after motorcycle accident.

Shameful to say, MTV. “I’ll Be You” video. Went to record store, and the dude got me to buy *Stink* also. I was blown the fuck away. - *Mike Charter (Milton, NY)*

My college roommates ran the campus radio station at St. John's. *Sorry Ma* and *Hootenanny* were always out.

KROQ - Los Angeles.

Heard and read the stories of their early performances, but was too busy listening to the Grateful Dead to seek them out. Then I heard *Pleased To Meet Me*.

I heard "Can't Hardly Wait" on the radio several times in college, but never caught the name of the band or remembered the song name until I got the album years later.

Think I heard about them when college radio was playing "I'll Be You".

A friend in high school was listening to *Pleased To Meet Me* and raving about it. I wanted to impress them so I bought the album right before (*Tim*) on cassette so I would seem cooler. This album blew me away.

My brother came home from college and played "Talent Show." It was like putting on the perfect pair of jeans. They just fit me.

Hearing "Alex Chilton" on Boston University's flagship radio station about ten years ago. I was 12.
- *Liam A.*

Had never heard a note but "File under power trash" intrigued me enough to take a chance and was instantly blown away! - *Mark Anthony*

A now-ex boyfriend was a fan, and turned me on to them.

Radio. I guess I lived a cloistered existence. Heard of the 'Mats for a long time but too lazy and broke and caught up either studying or getting drunk in college to be enlightened. Yes I missed the boat. Missed them live. Missed the magic and destruction. But gained it back in spades by digging into the recordings, stories, myths and mystery. I don't give a fuck if I wasn't there from the start. THEY were. They were but a seed in my heart waiting to burst forth or better yet vomit out pure raw emotion that was bound to emerge once they caught my attention. I was once blind. Sorry ma. I dunno. It's all over but the shouting.

I was a teenager living in Atlanta, Ga., and attending a high school where Top 40, hard rock and metal were the predominant musical choices. I, however, was on a different path and had discovered R.E.M. and guitarist Peter Buck kept giving interviews where he talked about the Replacements and how great they were. So one night, I was sitting in my car while on break from my lousy job at Baskin Robbins, listening to my local college radio station (Album 88, Georgia State University, Atlanta). At that moment, the DJ announced the next song: "I Will Dare." I was instantly hooked. It's such a strong memory, sitting in my car, wearing that horrible brown polyester Baskin Robbins uniform, and suddenly exposed to a completely different world. I couldn't wait to hear the song again and again. It was excruciating, however, when the band came to Atlanta three times while I was in high school and I couldn't go see them because the 688 Club in Atlanta was an over 21 venue and I was underage. It was three long years before I

finally got to see the band live on the *Pleased To Meet Me* tour, April 30, 1987, at the University of Georgia's Tate Student Center. - *Douglas Wood (Decatur, GA)*

I was in a band in high school and the guitar player gave me a copy of *Sorry Ma*.

I was 6 years old when the Replacements broke up. I was a big Goo Goo Dolls fan in high school and picked up a copy of *All for Nothing, Nothing for All* in part because John Rzeznik wrote a story about touring with the 'Mats for the liner notes. I loved the b-sides because they really captured the personality of the band. I bought a copy of *Sorry Ma* and just kept going until I had them all.

I heard them on a college friend's turntable or maybe on college radio. I thought the band was really cool. I grew up in Minnesota, and these guys reminded me of kids I grew up with. I identified with their sense of humor and loved the irony of naming their album *Let It Be*. But the music was what kept me there. "I Will Dare" was the track you heard a lot, but the album was so much more.

Halloween weekend 1980 the 'Mats were opening for another local band, The Flamin' Oh's and a kid I worked with (Kevin from REMs, who would later play numerous shows with the 'Mats) told us we "had to see the opening band with the 14-year-old bass player." - *Mary B. Johnson*

My name is Kam and my friend brought over *Sorry Ma*. It had just came out and he said "you gotta hear this" so I put on the turntable dropped the needle and my life was changed forever.

College friend worked at the college radio station and had every record under the sun. He turned me on to so many bands but none hit me over the head like the Replacements did (and still do.)

Used to listen to a college radio station in Los Altos Hills, CA (KFJC) when I lived out there in the early 80s. They played tons of good bands, but the 'Mats stood out to me for some reason.
- *Joel (Iowa)*

I don't really remember details since I was very young (in the 9-11 range), but I remember that my friend Dave introduced me to them. He was my music mentor from a very young age & helped to shape my taste in music.

New friend at college recommended them and by the end of "Bastards of Young" I was done.

I was shopping at Hogwild Records circa 1987? and heard "Unsatisfied". I was at the tail end of a failing marriage and the song hit me and still strikes a bittersweet chord. - *Wayne Colodny*

My drummer Nicky played me “Waitress in the Sky” and that was it. I then played the whole record and I was hooked for good. - *Stephen O'Donnell*

My older brother had the records. I'm not sure if *Let It Be* was even the first that he had, but it's the one that registered with me, his little sister.

‘The punkers’ were listening to them in the early to mid '80s but I didn't catch up until '87. An employee of mine introduced me to the ‘Mats in 1987. I bought *Pleased To Meet Me* and then bought all the older stuff.

Mentor in high school was a fan so I heard him playing their music. - *Dennis*

College radio. Hooked from the first hook. - *Chris Ilcin*

The song was “Bastards of Young” and it was in my friend’s car when I was 16. Soon after, I found myself sitting outside of First Avenue trying to listen to the show and bought every cassette tape after that. - *Melissa Portz*

I lived in a small Indiana town and, as a junior in high school, devoured any iota of musical insight the late, lamented *Creem* magazine had to offer, which led me to Black Flag, Hüsker Dü, the Minutemen, et al. One fine day, I read about the shaggy dog, 10 minutes past closing time brilliance of this band called The Replacements and a limited edition tape called “The Shit Hits the Fans” which I heard about too late to get. Arriving at Indiana State University in the dreaded city of seven smells, Terre Haute, for a summer honors seminar for nerds, brainiacs, and other social misfits, I stumbled upon a pretty girl with purple, blue and pink hair who wore homemade t-shirts scrawled with Depeche Mode lyrics and another kid, extraordinarily pretentious but blessed with an amazing music collection, who had “The Shit...” but was enough of a jerk he refused to play the tape “cause it's rare, but they suck anyway...”

Duly obsessed now, I walked two miles to the still-around but slightly diminished Headstone Friends, a musical mecca of obscure and rare masterpieces disguised as a head shop which we youngsters were warned away from by responsible adults, needlessly. It was an amazingly cool place. Didn't find “The Shit...” But did walk away with sacred vinyl copies of *Let It Be* and the newly-minted *Tim* as well as kisses from Miss Purple, Pink and Blue...and they have remained in my record collection ever since and probably saved my life (or at least raised my spirits) more than I care to count. - *Mark Stalcup*

I'm from New Jersey and while living in college-town Missouri, I'd vaguely heard of the Smithereens, a band out of the Garden State. I could never quite remember their name right, though, so while out at a record store one time, I eagerly snapped up a discounted copy of *All*

Shook Down. At last!, I thought. I'm finally going to listen to these guys. This is going to be awesome! It was awesome, of course, but not in the way my dim 22-year-old self could ever quite imagine...

I was a sophomore in high school and my buddies' brother came home from the University of Iowa with *Pleased To Meet Me* and played it for us. I was hooked after hearing the first riffs of "I.O.U." Now 30 years later, I love them just as much and still have that same feeling when I hear that opening. - *Greg Baker*

Not much to tell. I already was an R.E.M. fan, Peter Buck name-dropped them in an interview, I was in a CD club, they had *Pleased To Meet Me*. I liked it, but the timing wasn't right for me yet. No, what really started me was Paul's solo work, specifically *Eventually*. Quite randomly, I caught the video for "Love Untold". I won't go into the whole failed relationship story, but this song struck me. Right song, right moment. I can name three other songs/videos which caught my attention like that. Before Paul it was "Live Forever" by Oasis. After Paul it was "Bitter Sweet Symphony" by The Verve and "Wide Open Space" by Mansun. Oftentimes, the visual connection of the video can be just as important as the song itself. Sometimes that audio-visual hybrid catches you in a way the song alone may not have done. I'm a very visually minded person. That's why album artwork is so important, why titles matter. Reducing songs to audio files rips away their souls. There's a good line here about audio files and audiophiles, a very Westerberg way of phrasing, but I don't quite have it yet. Anyway, "Eventually" got heavy rotation in my car (at least a week straight where I listened to nothing else) and on it went. Next up was *All For Nothing/Nothing For All* - *that* is what made me a Replacements fan and not just a Westerberg fan. Weird, huh? Some really out-there material. Somewhat of a contrast from *Eventually* (don't even get me started about Grandpaboy). Pick a hundred directions to go from there. - *Jonathan Ettinger (Linden MI)*

I was in the 8th grade. While I got ready for school, I'd have MTV on in the background hoping to hear something good and interesting... and then "I'll Be You" popped on and I was floored. It was Paul's voice and delivery that drew me in to check them out and then when I saw how ramshackle they were acting in their little performance and thought they were pretty cool. Not too interesting, I know....but it was the start of my obsession. By the time the summer before 9th grade hit, I had every other release. :)

Snippets in the press around the time of *Pleased To Meet Me* and *Don't Tell A Soul*. Bought both tapes and played them in the boombox, shooting hoops behind the garage. Then getting my driver's license and driving around listening to *Tim* and *Hootenanny*. I saved *Let It Be* for last. A friend said I might like *Pleased To Meet Me* because "it had horns on it". Still no idea what that meant but the record changed my life. Really.

Read about them in the local Minneapolis free weekly newspapers - *City Pages* and *Twin Cities Reader* - back around 1982 (which dates me!) Soon after checked them out live and was an instant convert.

My uncle played it for me and I was in love. None of my friends heard of them for yes and then they had a song on *Friends*.

Left of the Dial...college radio.

A friend worked for a music paper and bought a bunch of records home that were sitting around. The needle landed on "I.O.U." and my life changed.

I heard them while in high school at Academy of the Holy Angels. Me and my sister and her best friend listened to them while hanging out in our South Minneapolis alley. *Tim, Let It Be, Sorry Ma...* soundtracks of my youth. Went to their show at the old met (??) or maybe Roy Wilkins (??) in '91. I was a sophomore in high school and had no idea how epic that show would become. A drunk enough debacle, yet epic. I love this band. Always have and always will!!

Growing up in a small town in Missouri we didn't have a chance at hearing any new music. Our only source of what was new was magazines and shows on MTV like 120 Minutes. Someone would get a tape from a cousin or friend from somewhere else and we'd copy and recopy the tape until no one knew what band or album we were listening to. I had a bright pink sticker with *Tim* written on one side of a black Sony cassette tape. For years (probably 2-3) I thought that my friend *Tim* had just originally dubbed the tape. I finally put two and two together and realized I'd been loving The Replacements a few years longer than my friends when *Don't Tell A Soul* came out. - *Angie Pezel*

Through my girlfriend at the time who worked in an independent record store.
- *Michael Di Tullio*

Friends in college insisted that I listen to the Replacements. Fell in love instantly.

I heard about them in college in the early nineties but didn't end up listening to them until about 12 years later when a downloaded them on BearShare one night. First song was "Color Me Impressed". I remember it like it was yesterday. Just blew me away, I could just see them, so unique in their dirty white t-shirts and plaid in that sea of hair metal and glam rock of the eighties, playing real rock n roll. I have been a huge, huge fan ever since as anyone who knows me will attest. I got to see four reunion shows, it was awesome.

In high school, my best friend's older sister turned us onto them. it was 1989, I was 15. The

Replacements were my first rock show! It was the *Don't Tell A Soul* tour. Aragon Ballroom in Chicago. Changed my life!

I absolutely don't recall. Seriously.

Mike, my boyfriend I was living with in New York City at the time, was from Minneapolis and a huge Replacements fan. I didn't like them at first, but I vividly remember the day I decided to give them one more try. It was during that crazy hot spell in the summer of 1988. Mike was visiting his family in Minneapolis and had left *Tim* on cassette on my desk. I put it in my Walkman and played it while riding the subway to work. Suddenly "Kiss Me On the Bus" and "Waitress in the Sky" and "Little Mascara" just hit me. And I was a goner the first time I really listened to "Here Comes a Regular." I was hooked and have blamed Mike for everything that happened after that. Just kidding, Mike. - *Amy Nash*

I can't remember but it was 99% KROQ I'm sure - growing up in LA, we had the best station!
- *Tracey*

I didn't start listening to them until about 6 years ago when I was 24. Had joined a new band, and friend and member of said band would play them on long drives. That turned me on to the 'Mats. Slowly was converted into a semi fanatic. Possibly my favorite band of all-time now. - *Sam Beer*

A friend of mine told me about them right before they played a concert in Houston in 1989.

The first 'Mats song I ever heard was "Waitress in the Sky" - probably in 1985 or '86. I loved it, but had no idea who it was. In 1987, one of my Temple University roommates picked up *Pleased To Meet Me* and I was blown away. That started my obsession with The Replacements, which continues to this day. Sometime after that, I found that elusive Waitress once again.
- *Scott Downs*

Embarrassingly, it was a commercial that played during an episode of MTV's 120 Minutes show in 1985. I had grown up in a small town in Colorado and had little exposure to anything but mainstream music. At the age of 14, I moved to California in 1984 where I quickly fell in love with punk and indie rock. After hearing the 15 second snippet of "Kiss Me on the Bus", I skated to the music shop the next day to buy *Tim* on cassette tape. - *Darin Brachtenbach*

I was working the door in a live music night club in Austin called The Cannibal Club. One of the partners was a huge fan and would play me records after work....prob '89?

I read a review in *Rolling Stone* and went out and bought *Let It Be*. When I heard "Unsatisfied," I

was amazed that a song that powerful, raw and simple could exist in this world. - Martin Pecial

There is this band from Minnesota that won't go onstage until they are drunker than their audience.

My kid brother gave me *Don't Tell a Soul*.

Read about them in *Rolling Stone*.

Saw *Let It Be* at JR's Music Shop at Brookfield Square mall and had to hear what that band sounded like. - Ken Hartenstein

"I'll Be You", on the radio. I was 16. Went backwards from there.

Was told by the rhythm guitarist of my band in high school that I needed to learn "We're Coming Out" by next week's gig at the high school cafeteria. He said we needed a "punk" song to play so people could slam dance.

Review of "All Shook Down" in Cleveland Scene magazine, bought the CD.

Friends in high school turned me on to them. Life changed after that

I saw the "Bastards of Young" video on 120 Minutes when I was in ninth grade. What a great song. I decided to buy *Tim* at the mall. I thought it may be a bit heavy based on "Bastards." I popped the cassette into my brother's Mustang's tape deck leaving the mall. From the first "razzle dazzle," that was it. The album blew me away. And then I needed all their stuff. As I listened to their albums, I just loved them more and more. MY band. Who were these guys and who, especially, was this Paul Westerberg guy? Talk about resonating with someone. Wow.
- Neil Cleaverhoffer

Was at a punk gig in 84 and heard "Unsatisfied" over the PA between sets. I asked a rather knowledgeable friend who it was. The rest, as they say, is history. - Paul Boudreau

It was the summer of 1987 and I heard a few songs, on the radio (WLIR in NYC), that I fell in love with. One was "Alex Chilton" and the others were "Kiss Me on the Bus" and "Waitress in the Sky". When I finally figured out that all three songs were by the same band, it seemed too good to be true. At the time, The Rolling Stones were my all-time favorite band, but I had a feeling I discovered an even better band. After a while, I bought *Don't Tell a Soul* and loved every song on the album. Eventually, I purchased every Replacements' LP and pretty much loved all the songs. I was so upset when I heard the band was breaking up, since I never got a chance to see them live,

but then I looked at the liner notes, on my albums, and thought to myself, this Paul Westerberg isn't going away. Thank God, I was right. I love Paul's solo work as much, if not even more, than his work with The Replacements. - *Cathy Mulfall*

Hanging around downtown the summer before high school started. Picked up a copy of *Rolling Stone* that had an interview with Paul when *14 Songs* was coming out. Bought *14 Songs* on CD at the record store in the mall across from the high school and thought it was great and shared it with my friends. We then went to the cool record store downtown and started buying all the 'Mats CDs which became staples in our walkmans and discmans and when we hung out at each others' houses. - *Matt S (Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada)*

I can't remember, but it must have been from hearing them on WPGU in Champaign, IL the college radio station of the University of Illinois or from someone at Star Course (the student entertainment organization-I was on the leadership committee). I was a huge R.E.M. fan, and I heard "I Will Dare" with Peter Buck playing guitar. I was hooked. I bought *Let It Be* and when they came to town, they played a room above a burrito stand (Trito's Uptown) and the ticket was \$4.50. Maybe 40 people. Stood in front and danced. Got Paul's autograph "Kiss me and I'll turn into Prince. Paul Westerberg." - *Janet Koren*

In 1985, a 10th grade friend said I had to hear this great band.

My guitar teacher, Snacks Jackson, gave me a dub of *Hootenanny*. Once I heard "Color Me Impressed" my life forever changed...

Nothing momentous, I just heard "Kiss Me On The Bus" on KROQ here in Los Angeles.
- *Dennis Supanich*

My sister's boyfriend made me bootleg copies.

WXRT radio in Chicago had a weekly show called The Big Beat where they would feature new music by indie bands. One song they played was "I Will Dare" and the DJ raved about the new album *Let It Be*. He also mentioned that Peter Buck of R.E.M played on the track. I was really into them at the time so I went to the store and picked it up along with *Hootenanny* that same week in 1984.

Can't exactly remember where I heard about 'em but I do remember seeing a review of *Let It Be* and it was what I needed to buy the album. Remember this was the 80's and I labored for hours in record stores to buy the best album I could for my hard earned money! I can still remember the first time I heard the opening riff of "I Will Dare"! Hook, line and sinker! Like the first time I heard the Ramones, hooked for life!! And I did high school and college in the land of R.E.M. who I

love, but the 'Mats were the only rock band that meant anything to me! - *Kurt Bargas, 52 years old!*

My brother and I caught a tavern show of R.E.M. at Peabody's Down Under (Cleveland) on their *Murmur* tour and The Replacements opened. My brother, Mark, and I had never heard of them at that point. The 'Mats came out blasting on their first song and horrified the mellow audience. After the 90 second song, Paul asked, "How was that?" Following tepid applause, he yelled, "Fuck you!" and kicked over the mic stand and launched into song number two. Mark and I were hooked for life...and we never got a second date from the ladies we brought. - *Mike Gasper*

Tim had just been released and I read a review of it in a local paper. I thought, "Damn, that sounds like something I'd like," and I ran to the record store, bought it, brought it home and slapped it on the turntable. By the end of side two I was hooked. And the more I listened to it the more I got out of it. Still one of my all-time favorites. - *Eric Tufford*

Review of *Tim* in *Spin* magazine.

Brother got me hooked.

Saturday Night Live. I shudder to think what I would be today had I not seen it. It was rock n roll the way it should be done: recklessly, loose, it was awesome. - *Ron Layton*

At a beach drinking beer in 1988 and someone played *Stink*, loved it but took me many more years to finally realize their greatness.

A friend's older brother had *Stink*. That older brother had a LOT of great albums from all the locals which are still my favorites!!

I read an article on them in a giveaway promotional magazine from one of the old chain mall record stores. Same issue introduced me to the Replacements and Steve Earle.

In high school my buddy bought *Sorry Ma* in a record store. He was far more into the punk type scene. I remember laughing because they looked so unpolished. They didn't have the haircuts and fancy clothes I was used to seeing on MTV. I didn't even bother listening because I thought I was the cool one. Two or three years later I went to college and I think I was just tired of the same polished acts. I was outside of the metro area in the most hick college in the state. I decided I needed to hang on to something normal so I began listening to Minneapolis bands. I got into Hüsker Dü, the 'Mats and the Gear Daddies. I first bought *Tim* and then found *Boink* in a record store. It was all over but the shoutin'! Then I went to the back catalog of Twin/Tone. I found *the Shit Hits the Fans* at a garage sale and my brother was a garbage man and gave me one

that was being thrown away. I may have been one of the few people in the world that had two copies. I won *Inconcerated* in a radio contest and grabbed every good bootleg I could find on the internet. Then I started buying the bad (audio) boots as well.

The first concert was on the *Pleased To Meet Me* tour in Nov 87. I had great seats and did not know that Bob was gone. Paul fell off the stage the first song. They crashed and burned some others. Any song they ever put on a record was 100 times better live. That show had a wall of sound that I didn't care if they didn't finish it. I remember thinking they played every song the greatest it has ever been played before they crashed. It is like if you are holding on to a chainsaw on a roller coaster without the safety bar. I have went to my share of concerts and gigs of some of the biggest acts in the world and none of them made me feel like we were on a roller coaster together having the greatest time of our lives. It wasn't a concert, it was a rock show. They were rock stars.

I read the *Rolling Stone* review by Debby Miller of *Let It Be* and the record and band sounded like something I needed to hear. So next chance I had I went in town (Philly), went to my favorite record store The Sound of Market and bought *Let It Be*. I listened to it endlessly for weeks on end. In the meantime I went back and purchased all of their records. It was the first time I bought a record based solely on a review and I am glad I did. - *George Welsh*

Drinking on the back roads of the Illinois Valley.

Three words, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE...nothing was ever the same after that. I imagine it was like when my parent's generation saw The Beatles on Sullivan. - *Stephen*

Article in Village Voice about *Let It Be* intrigued me

I bought my copy of *Let It Be* in my favorite record store, Starship in Tulsa, OK. It came out when crap was on the radio. I thought it takes balls to call your LP that name, since someone else had already used it. I liked the cover and thought these guys look like they could be my friends. I loved it as soon as the needle dropped. I now own all their music plus Westerberg's. They have been in heavy rotation ever since. - *Lance Toineeta*

Rolling Stone review of *Pleased To Meet Me*

MTV

Nothing much, heard them on the radio, who the f@#k is this? I've got to get this.

I heard “Kiss Me On the Bus” on WLIR and went and bought the album at Crazy Eddie in Union, NJ in December 1985. - *John D. Luerssen*

Blasting *Sorry Ma* at a punk rock party almost 15 years ago.

The record store clerk was complaining that there was band that thought they were better than the Beatles - so they named their album *Let It Be* and called themselves the Replacements because they were replacing The Beatles. He played the album and we agreed they sucked. I was 11. - *Jim O'Brien*

Drummer in dorm band had *Tim* in heavy rotation, we listened to it incessantly, fall '85.

Went to college to be an architect, and was fortunate to meet a guy (Gus) who was years ahead of me with respects to music - Replacements, Hüsker Dü, Milkmen, Descendants, etc. Here I thought I was hip 'cause I had the Ramones entire collection. Anyway, Gus would play these mix tapes throughout the long nights spent in Studio, and they just hit the spot. - *Jeff McEntee, NJIT School of Architecture, 1985-1990*

Bored one day and decided to record songs from the radio to cassette like I used to when I was a kid. A Toronto station, CFNY, played “I’ll Be You” and I was hooked.

After reading the review of *Let It Be* in *Rolling Stone*, I rushed out to our local record shop in Kingsport TN and surprisingly...THEY HAD IT IN STOCK!!!
- *Thomas William (towil.bandcamp.com)*

Elkhart, Indiana radio station WVPE 1986 end-of-year top 100. “Kiss Me On The Bus” was the song. But “I’ll Be You” was the one that got me hooked when MTV played it in 1989.

A friend from Minneapolis told me about them.

A high school buddy taped the *Tim* LP from another friend. I lived in a small town and this buddy used to drive me the 10 minutes to our high school. During the drive there and back every day for over a month we listened to that tape and nearly wore it out, often rewinding “Bastards of Young” to hear it over and over again. I dubbed a tape copy of his tape copy, listened to it every day, and we quickly came upon a copy of *Sorry Ma* and the ‘Mats love affair continued from there.

I moved to Mpls. in 1981 to join a band because my life sucked and Mpls. was the place all young Midwestern kids were drawn to because there was something happening. Friends took me out to

see all the bands, the Suburbs, the Suicide Commandos, the Replacements, the Huskers, everybody. It was great for a while but I had no idea how spoiled I was until I moved away in 1988 and there was just a big void to fill. These bands & more were my life, they were just there and we all took it for granted. - *Bob Gill*

A new girlfriend sent me to Northern Lights records to get some “different music” because she thought I would like it. I was 13 and had never been downtown Mpls. alone but took the 25B to the 10A from Northtown mall, dropped off on Hennepin Ave, walked into Northern Lights and purchased *The Decline of Western Civilization* and *Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash*. The first because it was a comp album and the second because it was a local band...at least that is why the guy at Northern Lights said I should buy them. Those albums both changed my life. Going to see X play next week! - *Skip*

A friend made a mix tape of stuff he thought I'd like. He was right.

Went to see X for their Under the Big Black Sun tour and the 'Mats were the middle act after Madison locals, Appliances SFB. It was my first ever club show. I'd just turned 18. It was 1982. The 'Mats just floored me. At the same time I thought “Maybe all club shows are this good?” Ha! Talked to Tommy after the show. Could write a thousand words about it but I'll spare you. Saw them maybe 25 times afterward. Hung out them a couple times, helped move equipment for them. All ended when I moved in 87. Much later saw Paul and Tommy solo but no reunion. Brilliant. - *Ian Baker*

Read *Let It Be's* review in *Rolling Stone* while standing around at Plastic Fantastic in Bryn Mawr, PA. Was told by the owner that was what I was listening to. Bought it.

88.7 FM out of Windsor, ON was the first “alternative” radio station I ever heard. “Merry Go Round” was in heavy rotation and it grabbed me right away.

A friend of mine recommended them to me and I am forever grateful to her for that. They are my favorite band. - *Michael*

During my freshman year at Indiana University in 1996, I took a class titled History of '70s and '80s Rock N Roll. The professor, Andy Hollinden, featured the Replacements in a section on 1980s punk rock and that week's playlist included “I Will Dare.” That proved to be my first exposure to the Replacements, although my deep fandom did not begin until my senior year at IU; guess I wasn't ready yet. - *Peter W.*

I grew up in the Bay Area and was an avid listener of Live105 in the late 80s. They used to have a feature spot called Trippin' Tuesdays in which they would play three songs from the same artist.

This was '89 and *Don't Tell A Soul* had just come out. They played "I'll Be You", "Alex Chilton" and "Can't Hardly Wait" -- I was hooked. I immediately went out and bought *Don't Tell A Soul* (cassette) and had that playing on a loop nearly 24x7. Within about a week I bought *Pleased To Meet Me*, which was when I truly became a super fan. Over the next year, as my wallet allowed me, I assembled the back catalog and never looked back.

I borrowed *Pleased To Meet Me* from my younger sister and never gave it back!

On the bus on the way home from school. One of my friends borrowed his brother's cassette of *Tim*.

A friend's mixtape had "Within Your Reach" on it. 1983ish

Jody Denberg had a radio show Sunday nights in Austin and I first heard "Alex Chilton" and got the album. I think I had it on cassette first, probably summer of 1987.

Let It Be playing in store at Princeton Record Exchange 1984.

I was a student at the University of Florida back the 80's, and it was a magical time for music creativity. It seemed like everyone, including myself, was in or starting a band, and as was the case with punk/college rock/alternative at the time, everyone was doing something different and unique. The college radio station, whose call letters I don't remember, was a great source of new music. Anyway, *Let It Be* had just come out and the college station played "I Will Dare". It was amazing! Instant love! It sounded new, but somehow it also sounded like it had been around forever. Like an old friend that I just met (I know that makes no sense, but neither does the passion I have for the 'Mats)! Long story short, I never looked back. I waited for each new release like I was waiting for the birth of a new child! To bring the story full circle, I got to see them again in Philadelphia on the reunion tour with my daughter, who was 21 at the time! Now keep in mind, my daughters grew up hearing the 'Mats. It was simply a part of their lives. Anyway, to share that moment and to see that she actually knew all the lyrics and sang nearly every one of them at the top of her lungs alongside, me, her dad... Wow. Priceless! - *Richard Levantini*

It was during the summer and I was visiting my friend from college for a weekend, and he had a pile of CDs on his desk (as he always did). I picked them up and looked through them, and spotted *Tim*. "What's this like?" I asked, and he responded by putting it on. The rest, as they say, is history. - *Joe Boden*

Ames, Iowa - I walked into our small, locally owned indie music store and the owner shoved *Let It Be* into my hands and said go home and listen to this right now, it'll change your life. I asked him how much it was (so I could pay for it). He said "don't worry about it, pay me later" and pushed

me out the door. A few months later we drove four hours to Minneapolis with free tix waiting at will call courtesy of his Twin Cities distributor friend - not sure which one - and saw the 'Mats with Soul Asylum at the Entry. I think it was fall 1985.

Read about them somewhere, and decided to check out *Let It Be* in 1984. - *Chuck Evans*

A friend played "Fuck School" in the high school band practice room.

My cousin showed me "Alex Chilton". Loved it .

Went to their first show at the Longhorn and was hooked. Many more shows followed.

Not much to it. My college roommate said you need to listen to this cassette of *Pleased To Meet Me*, it's the greatest rock band in the land! The first note had me. - *Rob Hankosky*

They opened for X in I think '83 and I knew nothing of them. It was hard to forget them after that night. Next saw them at Cleveland punk spot The Pop Shop. That show has been pretty widely bootlegged. - *Chris Riedel 8/4/16*

Totally unexciting story - heard "Can't Hardly Wait" on a Sire Records compilation.

I heard "I Will Dare" in the car. I was northbound on MA-126 waiting for a light at MA-2. Yes it was memorable. I was on my way to barbershop chorus rehearsal.

I first heard The Replacements in 2005. I was 23 at the time, unemployed, dateless and living in shared housing with some friends. I'd had *Let It Be* on CD for a while, but hadn't listened to it yet. Anyway, I was driving my old, brown, beat up 1983 Nissan Pulsar, which backfired every time I changed gear, when I decided to slide *Let It Be* into the car stereo. I now realise the irony of such a shitty car having a CD player installed, it came with the car. So I slipped the disc in and heard "I Will Dare". I started tapping the steering wheel, thinking, this is great. By the time it got to "Androgynous", I was like these guys are way cool, and when "Unsatisfed" finished I was blown away. I arrived at Whitfords shopping centre, which was where I was heading. Instead of getting out, I sat in the car and listened to the rest of the album. When I got home I listened again and again. I then went and eventually got the rest of their albums one at a time, which was no small feat at that time in Perth. The more I listened, the more I felt Paul was singing my life to me..... Anyway, there's nothing to say that hasn't been said a million times before. They're special to anyone reading this. - *Iain*

Friend tacked "Waitress in the Sky" onto the remaining side of a BASF-90 which was preceded by REM's *Murmur* and It's Immaterial's "Driving Away from Home." God bless that spare 1:55!

I think I heard them on WFMU. They were exactly what I needed.

College boyfriend and now husband played *Tim* for me.

I grew up in Minneapolis. Westerberg, Stinson and Mars were older than me. Tommy Stinson was younger. I had known the Westerbergs for some time before I actually heard any Replacements music. I went to grade school with Paul's sister who was always very proud of her brother's band even before they put anything on vinyl. I first heard them when they played at a high school dance near my house. I have to admit, I was more into local art rock bands like the Suburbs at the time. But when I heard Kids Don't Follow on Stink, I was sold. I could hardly believe the local band from my neighborhood made music that was that good. Too bad the rest of the world will never know. So I thought. - *Todd Scott (Minneapolis, MN)*

A former friend of mine was playing *Tim* in the car on the way to do something. That's all I remember about that day.

It seems to me that it couldn't be more fitting that I can't remember the first time I heard the 'Mats, it's as if they had always been there waiting for me to find 'em. It would have been the first record and I almost surely was drunk when I heard it. I do remember first seeing the cover at Cellophane Square in Seattle where Scott McCaughey was working, Scott of course being the frontman for the Young Fresh Fellows, whose paths crossed and became well tangled with the Replacements. Lots of great stories from Scott and a few incidents I was actually party to. One of my favorite stories was Paul calling Scott in Seattle and telling him he had purchased an airline ticket for him to Minneapolis and that he was to leave immediately. Scott flew to Minnesota to find out that Paul wanted to share with him the greatest song of all-time: Maggie Mae and that they were going to listen to it over and over again until the entire bottle of whiskey that Paul had just opened had been drunk. Knowing those two, they probably listened to Rod's classic all of three or four times before their bucket had hole in it. - *Mark Hutchins*

A friend told me to buy *Tim*. I was an R.E.M. freak and I trusted his taste.

My friends in college were DJs at ACRN/Ohio University, with consummate taste of course.
- *Jack Sowers*

My good friend and housemate in college (1984-88) Kurt Leuthold, from Minneapolis, had *Let It Be* in his collection. I was a huge music fan with a great collection of my own, and when I heard *Let It Be* for the first time, the 'Mats instantly became my favorite band. My music tastes were all over the place (from Springsteen to Zappa to hardcore punk to jazz), and these guys just blew me away. - *Tim Zuellig*

Back in the day when muchmusic still played music videos, I saw "I'll Be You" on rotation on the indie video show. I was instantly hooked on Paul's voice and the demeanor of the band. I rushed out to get "Don't Tell A Soul" and then soon afterwards I purchased *Tim*, followed by ALL of their albums. *Tim* and *Let It Be* turned out to be the anthems for me during my high school years. I would come home from school hating life every day and then listen to these albums. The songs made me feel less lonely and that it was ok to be who I was.

I read a review of *Hootenanny* in Playboy magazine, although then I realized they were the band I heard open for X before.

A friend included "Androgynous" on a mixtape.

I got into local music in clubs back in Tempe, AZ around 1985. My pals and I started following this band that played at our favorite club and I developed a crush on the cute lead singer. One night after a show, he came and thanked us for repeatedly coming to their shows. We all chatted for awhile and then he told us "If you guys like our band, you'll LOVE this band called The Replacements". That cute lead singer went onto become one of the most influential people in my life, in development of my musical tastes in those "formative years" so I am forever in his debt. Not trying to brag, but I think I've got pretty damn good taste in music, in no small part to that cute lead singer. Ahh, those were the days. - *Michelle M.*

My brother was a Fan and I would always dig through his records. One day I found *Pleased To Meet Me*. Loved it right away and immediately started to look for and explore all their other music.

WNYU radio

A friend brought a cassette of *The Shit Hits The Fans* home from some vacation.

I saw the video for "I'll Be You" on CityTV's "City Limits" video show which showed on both channel 57 as well as MuchMusic. Good ol' Moses Znaimer and Chris Ward!!

Tim on College Radio, Vanderbilt.

Worked at college radio.

My boyfriend at the time played *All Shook Down* for me, and I was in love by the time PW whispered "Hollywood Cops". - *Samantha Dent*

One of my roommates my freshman year in college was from Minneapolis and introduced me to the Replacements. This would have been in 1982, and we actually got to see them at the Jockey Club in Newport, KY in 1984.

thru friends who knew more than I did

Heard "Can't Hardly Wait" in high school. Hooked ever since.

Riding in my friends' car and they had "When it Began" on tape, circa 1989.

Growing up in Minnesota, I always heard about the Replacements -- always in a semi-scary way for a 13 year old kid from the suburbs. I was kind of fascinated with them, especially after I heard "I'll Be You" on KQRS and thought it was so cool that a local band could sound as good if not better than the Stones and the Who and the classic rock bands I was into at the time. From there, I picked up *Don't Tell A Soul* and worked my way back to *Pleased To Meet Me*. Got up the courage to see them at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in 1989 -- mostly I remember that they covered "Cruella deVille" and "I Can See for Miles".

Buddy in my dorm played "I Will Dare" for me. I taped it and listened to it on my Walkman going to class for about 30 days straight.

One fall evening in 1981 after a Stillwater, MN football game, sitting in the back of my buddy's Subaru 4x4 wagon and in goes *Sorry Ma*. It was like, oh my God, what is this? It was just so kick-ass, fast, fun and topical. I had listened to other punk and new wave bands at the time (e.g., the Stranglers, Dead Kennedys, Suburbs, Ultravox), but this felt entirely differently. It was so appealing, exhilarating and rebellious. My life changed from that point forward and soon thereafter, I saw The Replacements play live at Coffman Memorial Union Hall (Aka, The Hole) on the UM campus. - *Todd McDowell*

Stole a copy of *Tim* from my older brother

Received a copy of *Let It Be* in the mail for review

My best friend's older brother gave us a cassette of *Pleased To Meet Me* and said 'I think you are going to love this'. We did.

I was in a record store and only had enough money to buy one cassette tape. I had *Pleased To Meet Me* in one hand and a Smithereens tape in the other. I asked a perfect stranger which he would choose. He said the Replacements. I went home put it on and I was hooked immediately. Shortly after I had their whole back catalogue and they became my favorite band. I still thank

God that stranger didn't suggest the Smithereens!!! - *Vince from Philly*

The way I first heard the Replacements was when I was 14. I was a bit of a metalhead at the time, and I shopped at the Great American Music in Har Mar Mall, as, it was the best record store that I could bike to at 14. Well, I was in the store shopping, and my friend's older brother worked there, and put *Let It Be* on, when I heard "Black Diamond", I was like "Hey, this is a Kiss song, but not Kiss." So, I asked who this was, and stayed to listen more, and I was sold. I bought it right then and there. - *Keith Morioka*

I first heard the Replacements on WHFS, a free-form station in the Washington DC area. A musician friend had recommended them so I perked up when they were mentioned by the DJ-who was Program director "Weasel," a big fan. I was never the same.

My housemate in college was prone to cranking Hüsker Dü's *Zen Arcade*, *New Day Rising*, and The Replacements' *Stink* and *Sorry Ma* at full volume. This led to me thinking about bands from Minneapolis/St Paul quite a bit. Then *Let It Be* was released and the depth of songwriting combined with the reckless rock playing made me a diehard fan. Like most love affairs, it started simple. I heard them, and that was it. Then the legends of the rumors of the allegations that were actually stories about their shows. Then I got ahold of *The Shit Hits the Fans* and I thought, what band in their right mind would put this out? There was no one else like them. No one else who wore "I don't give a fuck" so proudly on their sleeves. And no one with better songs.

- *Pete Clarke*

Lived in Minneapolis, was a fan of bands like Hüsker Dü, Soul Asylum, Urban Guerrillas. Was bound to stumble upon the 'Mats.

My ex-boyfriend made me listen to "Alex Chilton", which I didn't pay much mind to. A few years later, I looked it up again and ended up curious about the rest of the 'Mats music. And an obsession was truly born after a crush sang "Skyway" to me on a ride home...

I had only heard of them, and blindly bought a copy of *Tim* for \$3 at a flea market. I knew nothing about them otherwise. My then-girlfriend commented that I should let her buy it because she loved that album and didn't own it anymore. I said no and bought it for myself (it was always first-come, first-serve with us finding stuff at the markets) because I really wanted to hear it. I couldn't stop listening for months straight and surprisingly wasn't ready to hear any other 'Mats stuff for a few more years. Just that one album. It stewed in my ears for a long time.

- *Shant Pelley*

The Get Up Kids covered "Beer For Breakfast" (sounds embarrassing, but I was also only born for their Sire years). Ultimately, I fell in love with a live version of Westerberg (solo-era with backing

band) doing “Left of the Dial” on internet radio and I think I had bought every ‘Mats album, *Besterberg*, and the oral history book within the week and never looked back. I've seen them reunited four times now and Tommy solo twice.

Woman said my band reminded her of them. She was clearly high or possibly just deaf.

Present of *Tim* from a cool friend. Had never heard of them before.

Brother's boom box was playing *Sorry Ma*.

A radio station in Iowa started playing some of their songs. Probably “I’ll Be You” was the first I heard, but it was “Achin' to Be” that really caught my ear. Then I saw their appearance on some kind of TV awards show. I vaguely remember controversial lyrics shouted at the end of the performance to evade the censors, probably the pill bit from “Talent Show”. Could be confusing this with SNL, not sure. Ordered back albums from Musicland and BMG (remember those?) Then a slow process of listening, re-listening, and a final epiphany that yes, this is my favorite band. Concert, they breakup, sigh.

Heard *The Shit Hits The Fans* at a friend’s house. Lost my fucking mind!

Freshman year college DJ (WNYU). *Tim* had just come out. “Here Comes a Regular” was unlike anything I ever heard. Life got in the way, my affair with the ‘Mats was interrupted until about 9 years later, someone turned me back on. This time I heard “Answering Machine” and have been die hard ever since.

My friend told me about the song “Fuck School” and I was hooked after that.

Saw an all ages show at Goofy's Upper Deck (is that the name?) right around when I graduated from high school.

I had read about the Replacements probably for 2 or 3 years in newspapers and magazines but didn't actually hear them from what I can remember (remember this is mid-80's with no internet and I was born in 1971 so I was pretty young). I finally bought *Pleased To Meet Me* and quickly bought everything else. I probably heard “Alex Chilton” on the radio on KROQ before I bought the album but I may have just bought the album without having heard a song first, I can't remember.

Friends played *Sorry Ma* for me.

A friend suggested the band to me and to help convince me, made me a cassette. One side had *Let It Be* and the other *Tim*. I was hooked.

I first stumbled upon The Replacements as a 13 year old kid when I was up in my brother's bedroom flipping through his record collection looking for a U2 album when I came across *Let It Be*. The cover completely drew me in as did the title (copy the Beatles?!), and once I played it, the music. Never looked back, favorite band ever since. As I grew up (kind of), so did they.

- Anthony R. (New Jersey)

I had heard of the 'Mats for years, but just never took the plunge to listen. I ordered *Please To Meet Me* from the old Columbia House Music Club, and when it arrived I cranked it! Still to this day my go to album! - David Ritter

I sent this in a while ago but in the summer of '85 I was down at the Jersey Shore and one of the games of chance on the boardwalk was to win an LP. While walking by I heard the 'Mats version of "Black Diamond" playing which hit me like a ton of bricks. The rest is history.

Always the best way to find out about music - a great friend with great taste!

I was home from my freshman year of college and needed to buy a Christmas gift for my older sister. I read a great review of *Tim* in Rolling Stone and bought it for her, sight unseen. She might have played it once before heading back to school, and she never got into them. But one listen and I was hooked. - David Dobson

I was sorta dating this girl in high school and she played "Androgynous" and "Satisfied" for me and I was hooked. - Raoul Duke

San Diego Show 1986.

Lost in the mist of time. Probably some small magazine.

Bought my first house and was wall papering the bedroom. Heard "Can't Hardly Wait". I didn't realize it then but I had heard "Bastards of Young" before and I liked that song but couldn't find who sang it.

At a house party in the 80's. Somehow I remember a discussions who's cooler, Hüsker Dü or the 'Mats. - Mona T

A friend of mine back in high school had *Tim* on tape. I asked to borrow it and was told "pffft keep it, it sucks". Well I took that tape and put into the tape deck in my car where it stayed for weeks and that was it for me I was a fan. Still one of my favorite records. Got *Don't Tell A Soul* the

day it came out on tape and saw the boys in Austin on that tour. I have been told it was a shit performance but I remember them killing it. I have the bootleg and I still say it was a great show.

It was in college in the late 80's. Grew up in a tiny farm town with no college radio (or Internet, obviously!). I didn't actually like them all that much to start with. Maybe my ears were too trained to the shitty Top 40 stuff of the time. But I spent time with the music, sharing CDs with my buddies, and the band really connected with me.

The great Saturday Night Live shenanigans.

Suggested listening from listening to the Goo Goo Dolls.

I read the RJ Smith story in the *Village Voice* and had to hear them after that. A goner after that.

WLIR radio in New York--probably "Alex Chilton".

I used to listen to First Wave (though in 2007 it was called 'Fred') on XM radio, and the DJ would play several of the 'Mats later songs on the channel. I collect records, so I decided to start searching for some of their stuff. I found a copy of *Pleased To Meet Me* for \$15 and the rest was history. - Jason (Dallas, TX)

It's embarrassing. I was listening to REV105 in the mid 90's and the DJ (Mary Lucia, who didn't know was Paul W's sister) had played "Alex Chilton." I said to my brother, "That is a great song! Who is that?" He said, "It's the Replacements, you idiot." (We are from MN.) Voraciously consumed the 'Mats after that. - Danny Contreras

I picked up a *Village Voice* paper and saw that The Replacements' *Pleased To Meet Me* was voted #1 album for 1987 in the Pazz & Jopp poll.

Influenced by my younger brother's playlist in college. I was more into classic rock and british punk.

The local high school radio station in Eugene, Oregon played "I Will Dare" and said that the band would be playing at the University of Oregon the next week. I went to the show and life has never been the same.

As an angst ridden teenager I was into Green Day in a big way. I dyed my hair and truly (embarrassingly) believed that I was a punk. I watched a Kurt Loder interview on MTV with Green Day in 1995 which name checked a few bands, these included The Replacements and Hüsker Dü. I'd heard about both before but never actually heard them, so this was now my queue to go out

and digest as much as I could. That weekend I hit the city and trawled around the second hand CD stores, picking up *All Shook Down* by the 'Mats and *New Day Rising* by Hüsker Dü. Looking back I probably thought the album was quite different to what I expected, but I stuck with it and fell in love, before tracing back to the other albums and acquiring Westerberg's solo output from then on. "Sadly Beautiful" was the song that stuck with me most and it wasn't long until I was playing and singing it on my guitar in my bedroom, sandwiched between Green Day and Nirvana songs. - *Rob Sampson*

Actually bought *Let It Be* from a review in *Rolling Stone*. Loved the title and cover, bought it the next day.

In Spring 1985, I started volunteering on the set crew for the high school play. I started getting rides home with Pat C, a senior. *The Shit Hits The Fans* was one of the tapes in his car. I remember listening, reading the liner notes, and thinking these guys are like nothing else. When I bought *Let It Be*, I was astonished at how comparatively 'professional' it sounded. - *Rick Varco*

Fall of my freshman year at Linfield College (1988), a guy two doors down, Jeff Hanson, was playing *Tim*. A fan ever since. - *Kevin Curry*

My cousin told me about them.

Born late to this party and raised out of range of most left-side-of-the-FM broadcast signals, so my first glimmer was the "When It Began" video. The MTV VJ had a big wind-up presentation about who these guys were and topped it with some claim that the band had promised that "if this one doesn't sell, they're breaking up." I listened, I watched. Bought the record. They broke up anyway. Bought the rest while the years passed, which let me digest them at my own pace. Knowing they were doomed didn't spoil it but a little.

My roommate brought home *Tim* so he could learn "Here Comes a Regular".

Roommate kept blasting them over and over, until years later I realized they were brilliant.

I first heard about the 'Mats from an online article about their shows during the earlier years, and it mentioned a semi-official bootleg called *The Shit Hits The Fans*. I looked it up on The Skyway, saw it was cassette only, found a 'copy' and put it on my phone and listened to it, and it was everything the article promised. Drunken, sloppy, yet endearing. The article mentioned that "Sixteen Blue" was an original, I had liked it, so I listened to the album it was off, and well, here I am. - *Sam Purdham*

The owner of my local record store (Pier Platters in Hoboken NJ, sadly gone now) had a good sense of my tastes and would occasionally recommend new LPs to me. I bought *Let It Be* on his recommendation the week it came out. - *Ken French*

Posers in high school kept talking about “Gary's Got a Boner” in high school. Scared me away from the band until I heard “Alex Chilton”, “Unsatisfied”, and “Achint' To Be” on WPGU college radio in Champaign, IL in 1989.

Worked at community radio station KBOO in Portland OR. In 1985 I was auditioning records before my show. Dropped the needle on “I Will Dare” and went, “HmMMM, this has a cool hook.” By “Answering Machine” I was a fan. - *David Benedetti*

Older sister's friend had *Don't Tell A Soul* and he brought it over to play “I'll Be You”. I was hooked!

Peter Buck said I should check out the Replacements. I was in Home of the Hits in Buffalo the next day and saw that he played on their new album, so I immediately purchased *Let It Be* without hearing a note. His endorsement was good enough for me. R.E.M. were tremendous ambassadors back in the day for other bands and their batting average was very high. - *Adam Y.*

I heard them on Danish national radio over Christmas 1988.

When I first bought the *Singles* soundtrack in the early 90s, I really liked the songs Paul wrote. Those songs stood out to me so I did some research and found out he was in this other band called The Replacements. From there it was all downhill. Straight to Newbury comics to find the first album. - *Kevin Parkhurst*

Began hearing songs on college radio and where I worked. I remember thinking where has this been? It was an immediate attraction and connection. - *Michael Niehoff*

In college, *Pleased To Meet Me* had just come out.

I read a review of *Let It Be* by Pete Buck in a magazine and had to hear it. Ordered it through Twin/Tone and I was hooked for life. - *Anita H.*

I had heard their stuff before on the radio and in the parties, but somehow managed to ignore them when it hit me: this must be the best band ever. I was at my friend's cabin drinking beer and just having a good time. The said friend had made a playlist, and as music was something we were both heavily into we basically just listened the songs and made comments about them. “I

Will Dare” was one of the first songs that came that night, and I just couldn't get it out of my head. He happened to have the *Let It Be* CD with him, and that was it. There was no coming back after that. - *Mikko from Helsinki*

I bought the CD at the Warehouse in the early 90's when I was in Junior High. The guy checking me out told me that “Waitress In The Sky” was one of his favorite songs.

My high school bandmates played “Black Diamond” for me--standing outside a shitty Chevy Impala on the street outside my house. That was all I needed to have them supplant The Ramones as my new favorite band.

A high school buddy introduced me to the music.

Friends of mine slightly older than me were listening to *Sorry Ma*. I got swept off my feet with *Pleased To Meet Me* years later.

Apropos of the band, I have no recollection at all. Think it was *Let It Be* (should have been) but may actually have been *Tim*... - *Layne Murphy*

I believe in 1993-94-95, *Guitar World* magazine had Dave Pirner and Dan Murphy on the cover, so I bought it. Inside there was a write up on Minneapolis punk music. From that, I got into The Replacements and Hüsker Dü.

Working a summer internship near Chicago circa 1989. A cooler older dude that played guitar in an “alternative” band cited the ‘Mats as his favorite band, so I had to check em out. My first show was their last show. - *Petrillo Music Shell/Chicago '89*.

I was listening to KCOU in Columbia MO. Driving down the road, “Unsatisfied” came on and I was hooked. I went home called to find out who it was and went out and bought *Let It Be* and *Sorry Ma*. Never looked back. They were my favorite from then on.

In the summer between my junior and senior year in high school, my best friend and I did a lot of listening to music at her house. Our tastes were deviating from each other with her getting more into R.E.M., New Order and of all things, Canadian alternative (whatever the hell that was) and I getting into more rock and 120 Minutes modern rock. Anyway, I bought Stone Roses first album and just didn't dig it, not one bit. I brought it to her place and she greeted me at the door with “Hey, I just bought this album and it really isn't me but I think that it is something that you could be all about.” She put on *Don't Tell A Soul* and from the opening notes of “Talent Show”, I was hooked. We proceeded to swap the Stone Roses (which I still don't much dig) straight up for

Don't Tell A Soul and as the announcer said, the rest is history. I've been a 'Mats fan ever since, somewhere around 27 years. - *Kris Basile*

A good friend and band mate of mine made me a tape of *Pleased To Meet Me* and said he thought I would dig them. - *Ken Reeve*

Let It Be, drunk in a bar one night.

I heard "I'll Be You" a few times on the radio in the late 80's when I was 13. Loved it but had no idea who it was. A few years later I bought *14 Songs*, so I actually found out about The Replacements after getting into Paul's solo stuff. At the time I had recently started playing guitar and wanted to start a band. When I heard The Replacements albums I was blown away and simultaneously discouraged. I thought "these guys have already done everything I wanted to do musically, and with their songwriting -- but they did it better than I could have." I almost stopped playing the guitar. - *Bryan S.*

They opened up for R.E.M. 1983.

Heard "Alex Chilton" on a high school radio station and was intrigued.

Saw the cool *Don't Tell A Soul* LP in my uncle's stack of records. Later, tracked down the CD version at the public library. Real watershed moment for 15 year-old me.

Haha, it was actually from the movie *Airheads*. I remember hearing "Unsatisfied" and thinking it sounded great and didn't really fit in with the rest of the soundtrack music. - *Derek Robertson*

My parents would make a yearly trip back to Nebraska, where they were from, and drop me off with family for a couple of weeks each summer. My favorite was when I got to spend a week or so with my cousin, who was a few years older than me (and could drive). He would drive us around town in his 442 convertible and blast music that wasn't your standard pop drool on the radio those days. He'd have his own mix tapes with The Cramps, The The, etc. One in particular he had a couple Replacements songs. Now I'm getting them confused as I believe we'd also listen to whole albums, but I know for sure that "I Don't Know" was on that mix tape, though I want to say so was "Kids Don't Follow", "I Hate Music", and who knows what else, but I do remember "I Don't Know". At the end, he'd give me the mix tape to take home, and I would try and grow my cassette collection song by song. I'd have to travel to Bill's Records and Tapes hidden away in this strip mall, run by a character named Bill who is his own story. But over time he started to recognize me, I think he saved me a copy of *Let It Be* once when I showed up. So I remembered "I Don't Know" and so I believe my first purchase was *Pleased To Meet Me* so I could find that song.

I was driving in LA to a big outdoor show someplace to hear the 'Mats opening up for Tom Petty, but being new to LA, new to driving, new to the USA, I got hopelessly lost. This was their last tour for *Don't Tell a Soul* and I was obsessed with "Here Comes A Regular", one of the most fragile, beautiful, hopeful and hopeless songs I'd ever heard. Eventually I found the venue and pulled into the massive parking lot just to hear literally the last crashing notes from the Replacements. I still went in to hear Petty, who interested me less, and was consoled by random concert goers that the Replacements were a drunk mess who let their roadies play much of the set. Which of course was what I was hoping to see. I've seen about a zillion gigs where bands act professionally and there are no surprises. Amazingly, as an old man, earlier this year, I saw the Replacements at the Masonic Hall in San Francisco, and I even remember a tiny bit of the show! Redemption!

- Ari Vais

I first heard of The Replacements because a friend of mine joined the R.E.M. fan club, and they sent her a list of bands that we should check out, one of which was The Replacements. A couple of copies of *HOOTENANNY!* had just showed up at our college radio station, so I grabbed one, and the rest is history. - Jim Connolly

I was in junior high in rural Western Pennsylvania, and one of my best friends introduced me to the Replacements. Over the years I've gone back to listening to the Replacements, especially when I'm in certain moods and/or going through different things.

My friend Gary and I used to exchange box full of cassettes to turn each other on to new music. In one of these music swaps Gary included *Pleased To Meet Me*. At the time I was listening to whatever drivel radio was jamming down our throats and was looking for something new and exciting. I remember that day vividly as if it happened yesterday...placing the cassette into my Walkman(circa 1988), and listening track by track I could almost feel my musical taste changing in the moment. From the call and response of "I Don't Know" through the dark lyrics of "The Ledge", I knew this was something I was gonna fall in love with from the first listen...from "Valentine" to the rocking "Shooting Dirty Pool" ("you're the coolest guy I ever have smelled"), to the ending coda of the beautiful "Skyway", and the opening chords to "Can't Hardly Wait"...little did I know that this piece of plastic and tape would forever change my taste in rock and roll. When Gary passed a few years after this, I asked his sister at his funeral if I could place a CD of *Pleased To Meet Me* in his coffin. She asked me if I wanted it back when they closed him up on the last day before he was buried. I said absolutely not, he was to take it with him on his journey to rock and roll heaven. I have since bought this disc many times for friends in an effort to pay his kind gesture forward. Gary left me with a gift which is priceless and cannot be fully explained, as to how you know a piece of music is going to connect with someone in such a influential way. Little did he know that day when he handed me that crappy case full of 10 cassettes what was

about to happen. Nor did I... and it is without a doubt one of my most cherished discs in my music collection. - *David Megrey (Cleveland, OH)*

I live in the Washington, DC area which has always had a vibrant and rich music scene. I am a guitar player and have always loved rock, punk, and many other musical genres. Back in the early 80's the 9:30 club opened and I attended shows there constantly. What a great club for music! Heard about the Replacements when *Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash* first came out in 1981 from a good friend who was also a 9:30 Club regular. I was totally hooked the minute I heard them. I then proceeded to buy all of their albums and saw them in person every single time they were in the Washington, D.C. area. Have been a big follower of Paul and Tommy's post-Replacements solo work over the years as well. Saw the Replacements on their recent 2015 tour when they stopped in D.C. Then went to Philadelphia to see their last show of the tour. It was awesome and brought back many good memories. All we can do is hope they may get together again. Just saw Tommy Stinson's solo tour here in D.C. the last week of July 2016 at the Black Cat. That was a great show and Tommy really seemed to be enjoying himself even though the crowd was fairly small. Finally, have been a subscriber to Skyway forever. It is always a great read and really appreciate all of the hard work that you have done putting it together all of this time. Many thanks!! Best Regards, *Mark J. Chambers*

In college, I got involved with the TA of my Psych class, despite having a steady boyfriend and him having a steady girlfriend, chiefly because he looked like David Bowie on the cover of *Low* and he made me laugh. He turned me on to the Replacements' *Tim* album and we listened to it during our clandestine hookups. We split up after three months but the Replacements & I never have.
- *Valerie*

Heard them through my girlfriend's American friend who gave me a tape to bum round France with. I fell in love with them both....still love the 'Mats though. - *Ger*

A friend of mine told me to pick up *Tim*, he said I would love it and I did.

Was a teenager and read in *Rolling Stone* magazine that they were the best rock band in America. What red-blooded American boy could resist that sort of endorsement? I enjoyed *Don't Tell A Soul* but it was digging backwards that I truly understood the title *Rolling Stone* had bequeathed on The 'Mats. *Hootenanny* followed by *Pleased To Meet Me* and then *Tim*. Joy.

Reading about their show in the local alternative weekly.

I took a chance on an album and band I had never heard and picked up a used copy of *Don't Tell A Soul* at a pawn shop. That was all it took for me to become a lifelong fan. - *Ted James*

Down In The Valley- 1985 Had another album in my hand, put it back, grabbed *Stink*- no regrets.

I read about them in *Sassy*, and bought a cassette at the gas station. Got into them backwards, with *All Shook Down*, and they had already just broken up.

I read about The Replacements before I heard them. At age 14, I asked for and received *Tim* (on cassette) for Christmas 1985, immediately fell in love with the band and took my Christmas money and bought the rest of the catalog a few days later.

Local college radio station - no glamor here!

Lost to the mists of memory.

It has to be the local college radio station, KJHK. Blake Gumprecht was a major booster in the early days.

I don't really remember, but it must have been while I was a DJ at KTSB, the student radio station at UT-Austin in the mid-1980s. KTSB started as cable only but is now live as KVRX.

Lived in a smaller town, had a friend insist I listen to the cassette

Was a college radio music director and got a call from the Sire rep. She wanted to know what song from the new Replacements album we were hot on. I lied and said "The Ledge". Didn't even know the band at that time but I did add it. Took the album home with me, made a cassette copy and after a few listens, I knew this music was speaking to me.

A friend gave me a cassette with *Let It Be* on one side and a Long Ryders album on the other side.

Friends of mine in high school introduced me to the 'Mats and Hüsker Dü.

I was working in a record store when *Pleased To Meet Me* came out. Aware of my love for the Who, Clash, Kinks, Pretenders, et al, a co-worker said "Oh, this is gonna be your favorite band ever." The next week I used my employee discount to buy up the whole back catalog.

Heard one or two of the songs, and decided to buy the cassette. Immediately got their back catalogue after listening to it once.

I was watching MTV one day just after *All Shook Down* had been released and caught the video to

'Merry Go Round.' I'd seen the disc advertised in my BMG catalogs but hadn't heard the band until the video. I was hooked immediately.

A friend played "Here Comes a Regular" on the radio. It was a college radio station that - ridiculously - mostly played top 40 crap, but his shift was the alternative show. (Did we say "alternative" back then?)

I had read the infamous [1984] *Village Voice* article and thought "this sounds like the worst band ever". I really didn't think about them until Rolling Stone published a rave review of *Pleased To Meet Me* which I bought and listened to it in my car all summer long. I had to have more and ended up buying *Tim* and *Let It Be* and fell even more in love.

Although it was many years ago (1985, when I was 16), I remember exactly where I was when my buddy, Bo M., said "check this out" and played "Unsatisfied" at full blast through the cassette deck in his Delta 88. Everything changed after that.

I don't remember the first time I heard them, but I bought *Tim* the afternoon before my first date in high school. I remember listening to "Kiss Me on the Bus" while I was getting ready. - *Brian*

My brother worked at the Longhorn Bar and snuck me in to see them in 80 or 81.

Met a girl at the rat in Boston, she made me go to her place and listen to *Hootenanny*. I bought the first 3 records the next day. - *Doug*

John Cusack turned them up past the red line in "Say Anything." - *Chris Willett*

Sometime around 85-86. All my friends kept telling me about how much I'd like 'em. I snuck *Tim* out of my brother's room and gave it a very quiet listen. I was unimpressed. One friend told me to listen to "Kiss Me on the Bus." Still kind of underwhelmed, but I made a tape of it anyway. One day, I popped it into my car's "tape deck" (actually, a boombox I kept in the backseat). I finally heard "Bastards of Young" on full volume...and everything made sense from that point on. -*Steve Scollard (NY)*

My older brother played them for me. It was *Tim*, 1985. I was 13.

I was a big tape trader back in the day and a friend of mine hipped me to them around '84. I heard live tapes, and did a mass album grab around *Don't Tell A Soul* time, so that is probably the first one I played, but had heard the live tapes prior.

I got into them due to being a huge Soul Asylum fan. I wasn't old enough to be left at home on

my own without supervision when our boys were on the go first time round and being in the UK we never really got to hear much about the 'Mats. Now being a completeist I had to own everything I could get my hands on that had Soul Asylum or someone from SA appearing so when I heard about this band that Dave Pirner allegedly shouts at the police I had to track it down and I'm so glad I did. Haven't looked back since.

Buddy of mine

Quizzed rock critic friend about bands I might not know about in 1985. He referred me.

My name is Tim and I saw *Tim* in the new release section of my local store. Totally bought on a whim because it had my name on it.

I discovered *Pleased To Meet Me* during my freshman year of college. There was a group of us on my floor who were all music nuts, and were constantly swapping tapes with each other. I swapped my copy of the Smiths *Louder Than Bombs* for *Pleased To Meet Me* and never looked back. I was in a heavy Stones phase at the time, so the dirty, grungy sound was immediately appealing. And during repeat listenings, Paul's excellent songwriting really started to click and I fell totally in love with the 'Mats. And much to my detriment, "Red Red Wine" became my drinking anthem for the rest of the year. I ended up bombing my freshman year. - *Rick Shoup*

"Talent Show" on a mix tape.

I grew up in Duluth, MN during the late 70s through the mid 90s- not exactly a music hot bed for bigger acts back then, but the city was the beneficiary of many of the great Minneapolis/Minnesota bands from the time and the Replacements played there several times (including the Saints Roller Rink!) At the time my best friend was very into indie music and introduced me to the Suburbs (A Minneapolis punk/new wave band on Twin/Tone) which I remember as being the most popular "local" band at the time. We loved the Suburbs and they were a gateway to several of the other Twin/Tone bands (Soul Asylum, Safety Last and ... the 'Mats). John and I tried to listen to any new wave and indie bands we could get a hold of. Thanks to John's older sister, I was able to first hear *Let It Be* and many other great albums. We were too young to go to any shows at the time (13-14) we tried to search out anything we could about out music heroes. We saw the 'Mats on SNL (as a rerun), we watched the PBS special about the Minneapolis sound, read clippings and we always listened to whatever music our cool friends and older siblings were playing (including *Hootenanny* and later *Tim*). Being too young to really be a part of the scene back then really pushed me in my later years to collect whatever Replacements items I could get my hands on. I now proudly display some of my Mats posters/flyers in my home and I take great pleasure listening to them together with my own kids. - *Chris Loken*

Older guy in HS spray painted the band's name outside our school and got busted for it. Made me want to check out the band. - *Mark Brent*

My dad who is a huge music lover had CD copies of *All Shook Down* and *Don't Tell A Soul* along with *14 Songs* that he would spin on our home stereo and on car rides in the early 90's when I was in elementary school. I always dug them and as I got older I started to dig back into the rest of their discography. They went on to be one of my favorite rock & roll bands ever and Paul Westerberg quickly became one of my all-time favorite singers and writers. - *Sam*

My friend bought *Tim* to learn "Here Comes a Regular" and then it began.

Bought *Tim* on a whim after reading good things about *Let It Be*. - *Matthew Y*

A bootleg tape north of Duluth

My best friend in grammar school went to some prep school for high school. First time I saw him when he came back for some vacation he had *Let It Be*...which I thought was a stupid title. Played "Unsatisfied" for me. Mind. Blown.

I heard "I Will Dare" on a college radio station when I was 16 and they have been my favorite band ever since.

Record store guy recommended

I first actually heard The Replacements when I bought *Let It Be*. But I first heard of The Replacements by reading an R.E.M. interview in which the members of R.E.M. mentioned The Replacements, Jason & The Scorchers and Hüsker Dü.

One of my best friends (and strong influence on my musical foundation) told me to give these guys a listen. About 30 seconds into "Hold My Life" I was hooked. Things weren't quite the same after that. - *Rob Pannell (Richmond, VA)*

High school; maybe 1985. Nothing special to share here. Heard something, felt something, and had to know more. Been a fan/addict since. - *John P. (Toledo, OH)*

A friend loaned me the CD *Tim*. I was blown away and never had the same take on music ever again. Lyrics became even more the focus for me then they had ever before. Paul changed this aspect of music for me forever. I heard the lyrics of many, many artists and songs before I ever heard The Replacements of course but Paul change it all for me. Wow! After all these years I can still say it... Wow!

An article...all it was was a small article in CREEM magazine by R.E.M.'s Peter Buck, who was a self- professed music lover and somewhat of a guru of good taste. He was raising the roof over two bands: Hüsker Dü and The Replacements. I headed down to the "underground" record store I lived near in Freehold New Jersey, and had just enough cash for one purchase. They didn't have Hüsker Dü, but they DID have *Sorry Ma*. I went home and I played that album about 20 times, drove my parents crazy and will always be thankful to Mr. Buck. - *Linda Bradley*

Radio

Honestly, I cannot remember. I know I heard them / of them shortly after *Pleased to Meet Me* came out - so I was a late-comer. But hearing them changed everything for me. Prior, I was listening to a bunch of punk rock, skate rock and The Beatles. The 'Mats put all of that energy, talent and spirit together into a perfect package for me. I've been playing in bands and listening ever since.

Same way we all did if we weren't from MPLS--the cassette deck of a friend's car!

A girl played me their records and then we went to see them at The Rat in Boston.

No grand story - just heard them "left of the dial" back in college. Loved their sound and the songs!

My brother gave me *Don't Tell a Soul*.

A co-worker and high school friend that I used ride to work with corrupted me. He has a POS car that had one incredible add-on feature; the entire back seat was a mountain of cassette tapes. A rolling library of great music. I had been a top forty geek until one morning on a half asleep drive to work when I heard "Kiss Me on the Bus". It was an awakening. When I heard "Waitress in the Sky", I was transformed. The awakening to a serious passion. - *Kerry Nicolaus*

Going to skate with friends and one says "You've got to hear this."

Favorite bands of my favorite bands. I was a huge Superdrag fan. Then they covered "Bastards of Young", and I had to hear the guys who wrote such an amazing song.

The movie *Say Anything*.

My friend Tim had some 'Mats tapes. He played them. That's my story.

Read about them in *Rolling Stone*.

The first story, when I started to interest about Replacements, was about their passion for alcohol. Actually it is not story, but I found out, that this band is nice bunch of boozers. And there then started every story I read about them. - *Michal Maliniak*

WFNX in Boston. They were the only commercial station in New England to play the Replacements.

Through the *Rolling Stone* "Hot" Issue. When Paul said he liked both Elton John and the Sex Pistols, I was in.

I don't have a great story. I was just a great Beatles fan and read somewhere that their *Let It Be* was better than the Beatles'. I immediately fell in love with the Replacements. - *Alexandre*

Live 105 out of San Francisco was my station of choice in the late 80's. They would do a "Trippin' Tuesday" set where they would play 3 songs from the same artist. The 3 songs they played were "I'll Be You", "Can't Hardly Wait" and "Alex Chilton". I was hooked. - *Scott*

Read that *Pleased To Meet Me* was voted #1 album of 1987 in the Village Voice Pazz & Jopp poll. Bought PLEASED TO MEET ME, popped the CD into the car player and was hooked 5 seconds into "I.O.U.".

In my buddy's '74 MGB staring at the sky in Wyoming.

I checked *Tim* out of the Library in 1986. - *Michael*

I was 12 in 1987. 7th grade. My older brother was a senior. We had just moved to a new (bigger) town in Iowa, and he had the unenviable task of dropping me off at the Junior High every morning in his convertible orange MG. Our morning rides were amazing to me, though. He's been turning me on to music since I could remember, everything from Bowie to Zeppelin to the Dead Kennedys and back again. But that tape. THAT tape, though. That was something different. He kind of came and went with the 'Mats, but I was hooked. I quickly got in to Soul Asylum and Hüsker Dü as well, but nothing was like the Replacements. I used to think it was a regional thing, but know now that it was so much more. - *David Lee Garver*

Writing this makes me nervous, only because I have such a deep appreciation for this band that it's almost as if writing my little story isn't worthy enough to do them any justice. How's that for an opener? I first had heard of The Replacements (first song: "Bastards of Young", first album: *Sorry Ma*) through a friend of mine in high school circa 2007. I thought wow that's a great song

but never decided to dig deeper. That is until one day I was at our local record store in Fargo, Orange Records, and just wanted SOMETHING. I was young, bored, lived at home and actually had money. I thought, 'well, I've heard some of their stuff before so I might as well'. So home with me it went. I popped it into my DVD player (yes you read that right), and it began. I remember looking over and seeing it was on track three. My first thought of this whole album: 'I'm never going to be able to tell these songs apart'. Still I let the whole thing run until the end. The next day I came home and put it on for noise. And the next. Until within about 4 days I had the lyrics down. I had tasted blood and wanted more. That's when I went out and bought *Hootenanny*. Boy, was I in for a treat! - *Kelsey Hoovestol*

Was listening to a lot of R.E.M. and learned that Pete Buck played on "I Will Dare". - *Jay*

Driving with a friend in his VW bug on a cold winter night in northern Minnesota back in '84. He popped in a tape and first song I heard was "Unsatisfied". - *Patrick*

My college English professor mentioned them along with R.E.M. as new "literate" bands. I went out and got the *Let It Be* LP same day.

We went to my friend's house because his parents were not home. His big brother was there. He was blasting *Stink* and let us hang out and listen to it. It was a life changer for me.
- *Eric Schoenhard*

I found a copy of *Let It Be* in art class in 7th grade. "Answering Machine" was the first song I heard. Changed my life. Still my favorite song of all-time.

Like, I suspect is common for a few who became ardent 'Mats fans in the grunge-era, I first heard Paul's songs on the *Singles* soundtrack and this more or less coincided with reading Gina Arnold's *Route 666: On the Road to Nirvana*. Anyone too young to have known about the 'Mats before they broke up (the first time round) could hardly fail to fall in love when hit with that double-whammy.

Fall 1984. Can't quite remember, was either uber cool girl in calculus class or local alt rock radio playing "I Will Dare". BTW, also at that time, I was an avid *Rolling Stone* reader, and they'd provided a little buzz about the 'Mats and their musical/extracurricular hijinks. Song I heard was more poppy than expected based on my reading, but I was impressed: this smart ass bunch of punks managed to crank out drop dead catchy jangle pop ear candy, kinda like the Sex Pistols doing the Cowsills. I was hooked.

My friend Molly made me a copy of *Let It Be*, and I fell in love on my first listen.

When I started with my ex-wife. Her BF had just moved out. He left his record collection. I spent hours. Never heard of the Replacements. But saw the album titled *Let It Be*. Thought, 'cheeky little bastards'. Listened to it. Heard "Here Comes a Regular". Everything changed after that.
- Gord

My buddy Aaron popped it on while we were smoking.

I was into mostly hardcore as a young teen. My older sister was going to Minneapolis for the weekend and was planning to hit some record stores. She asked me if there was any particular albums I wanted. I said, ask the record store employees, what is good locally. She bought me *Sorry Ma*, and it changed my listening ear. - Peter Hoeffel

Too many stories! But a huge fan for many years and many more to come.

Referred by punk rock friend.

I was invited to the St. Croix Boom Company in Stillwater by a friend, Nate. Got totally wasted, stood on a table and tried to steal a two-man saw that was wired to the wall. It all fit the mood of the night. Nate had some kind of cherry cigar? So we smoked and I threw up. Don't remember the band being great but I love the memories. Saw them whenever I could from that time forward. - Laura Bossart Hanneman

My big sister got me the *Tim* cassette for Christmas, I think. It made me want to get the other Twin/Tone albums, which I did and waited for their new releases to come out and snatched them up when they did.

I was managing a record store right out of high school. I remember *Pleased to Meet Me* coming in the new release Tuesday shipment, we opened a copy on vinyl and played it. I fell in love with it and the 'Mats right then and there. I bought up every one of their past releases after that and they remain my favorite band three decades later. - Kara Martin

My senior year in high school (86-87) the guy next door to my room at my boarding school was from Minnesota and introduced me to them.

A friend of mine gave me *Don't Tell A Soul* to listen to.

My best friend's sister worked at the student radio station at UW-Oshkosh. She would make him mix tapes and bring them home to him in Germantown. These tapes were filled with seismic shifts to my rock music paradigm. The first time I heard The Smiths, Bad Brains, The Dead Milkmen, The Sex Pistols, Descendents, Hüsker Dü and...a little band named The

Replacements...were on those tapes. I know I heard "I Will Dare," "We're Coming Out," "Unsatisfied," "Sixteen Blue" and "Answering Machine" and after reading about them in *Rolling Stone*, *The Village Voice* and *Creem* Magazine, I was hooked. The music, the method, the madness...all of it made sense to my sixteen-year-old mind. Two years later, I started a band with my friends. Six years later, I left the band to graduate college. Six years later, my old band played with Green Day, The Offspring and NoFX. Turns out that I've got a little bit of the Westerberg "take one step and miss the whole first rung" magic in me.

- Brad Michel (Germantown, WI)

I grew up listening to Westerberg from my dad. I used to get a broom, and strum the straw pretending it was a guitar, and pretending I was Westerberg. I had to have been less than ten, but it was albums, such as *Mono*, *Stereo*, *Deadman Shake*, etc. Heck, I even did it when "Jingle" came out... I knew Westerberg was part of the Replacements, but never gave them much thought. Then one day, I was digging through a bunch of old records in the garage, and I came across *Tim*. I figured, hey, it's Westerberg, so I had to like it... right? Oh man, I couldn't have been more wrong. I didn't just like it, I LOVED it. Needless to say, I quickly found all the Replacements albums and listened to them. Then I got a hold of a real guitar, and would actually play along with the albums! Oh man, and it all paid off, when I turned 18, I got tickets to see them in Atlanta at Shaky Knees. Had a rain delay, but, when Westerberg and Tommy walked out, I had to hold back tears... my musical inspirations were mere feet from me. Best concert I've ever been to.

I heard *Sorry Ma* on a cassette boom box in a dorm room in Philadelphia.

College radio here in Philly ... WKDU 91.7.

A fellow punk rocker in my freshman year dorm had *Let It Be*, Fall of '84. I was instantly in love with it! - Michael

Lived in their neighborhood.

I first heard The Replacements' "Alex Chilton" in 1987, I was 13 years old and I was in awe. I was listening to a college radio station, WSOU out of South Orange, NJ. I had never heard anything like it, and I was drawn in by the sound, the emotion and I remember thinking how I've never heard anything so real. - Maureen O'Brien

I was living in Seattle in the late 80s. My best friend, who was living on the East Coast, sent me a Mats mix tape (cassette) that I never even listened to. Then I moved to L.A. in 1990, and a musician from Minneapolis played "Unsatisfied" and "Valentine" on acoustic guitar for me. He then told me that "The Ledge" literally saved his life. I went home and directly dug out that long-lost cassette mix tape, which from then on became pure gold. I bought every Mats cassette I

could get my hands on. It was all I listened to for the next several years. - *Suzi Mattox*

MTV.

Finding a copy of *Sorry Ma* in a local record store, reading the '86 article in *Rolling Stone*, and then buying *Pleased to Meet Me* when it came out. Accumulated interest between ages 13 and 14. - *Zak Boerger*

Saw the video for "I'll Be You" on City TV in Toronto--it was on a Friday night on the City Limits show hosted by Christopher Ward.

Friend and I swiped his brother's cassette. - *Andy*

I was living with Tom Mason (a local Minneapolis musician) and another guy and he had all of the local vinyl. It was the 80's, so it was all vinyl and cassettes. We had very little money so spent a lot of time in the living room listening to records. That was my Replacements initiation.
- *Carolyn Cone*

College friends.

I heard "Unsatisfied" in that *Adventureland* movie and become obsessed. I started listening to whole albums starting with *Let It Be*, then back to beginning with *Sorry Ma*. I love discovering that band that blows you away, and this was that band. RIP BOB STINSON YOU LEGEND!
- *Robert Miller*

My older brother's friend brought the record over when I was 13 and was hooked from the first note!

Heard "Unsatisfied" as I walked into a house party 1985-86. Blew me away.

Was given a free cassette at Wherehouse Records where I was working.

Late night/early morning on way home friend of mine decided to tell me about The Replacements. He went home and got albums, brought them over to my house. Played them all morning, never forgot that morning. Thanks - *Paul Dowling*

A guy in my dorm August 1985 I met first day at college was listening to the 'Mats, thought it sounded amazing.

I loved the movie *Singles* and was introduced to Paul Westerberg's two songs in the soundtrack. I learned he was formerly in the Replacements and had to check them out. I bought *Hootenanny* at a record store and immediately liked it.

Read a review of *Tim* in the local paper and thought, "that sounds like my kind of music!" Bought the album the same day and then it rarely left my turntable for the next month. – *Eric*

I honestly don't remember when I first heard them. They've always kinda been the soundtrack playing in my background. – *Dennis "Jay" Johnson*

Friend in film school turned me onto them.

In the mid 90s, I was getting into the whole punk rock/alternative music scene. My favorite band in 1994 was Green Day. In interviews, Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong kept mentioning The Replacements and Hüsker Dü as the bands that inspired him. My sixteen year old self thought, 'If Billie Joe from Green Day likes these two bands, maybe I might like them.' Besides, I had never heard of them before. I picked up *Tim* and *Zen Arcade* and never looked back.

Can't remember really - probably read a review in *Rolling Stone* and decided to, try out the new band.

My friend, Thom Sherpa introduced me to them. Best gift I ever got from a friend. – *Jim Thurman*

My first is the reason why I even knew of the Replacements. Steve was a fan, but definitely not in the obsessed way, more of the "hey, these guys are pretty good" kind of way. But Nick - an upperclassmen buddy of mine, he was the one that lit the fire of obsession with Paul. I vividly recall the day Nick brought his acoustic guitar to high school and played "Black Eyed Susan" in the FHS alcove we all hung around during lunch. He played with the unabashed croon so similar to Paul's... man was I in love (with Paul, not Nick - ha!). I picked up *14 Songs* and never looked back. – *Jen Pisky*

I worked security for a show in college with the 'Mats and X in late '84. I was supposed to kick people off the stage if they got on there, but I was having too much fun watching the bands from three feet away to even care!

Heard about them while in college around 83 in GA, the land of R.E.M. who I loved. Their album was coming out I believe in '84 and I'd heard about them but never heard them. Bought the record and Pete Buck was on one song, made feel better about my purchase. Listened to *Let It Be* and I never bought another R.E.M. record again! The 'Mats were Rock n Roll!!! – *Kurt Bargas*

I grew up in Grinnell, Iowa and often hung out at the college. Their May '84 appearance was my first taste of the band and an accident of epic proportions that lasted for what seemed like a blink of an eye. It was complete chaos ending with a police escort out of town. How could a kid not love that scenario?! - *Kirk Garwood*

Heard "Alex Chilton" in a college radio station (University of Illinois) and had to know the song and band name. When out that day and bought the album. They went out the next day and got *Tim*. Been a fan ever since!

Friend's house, not that great of a story.

I was at a party drinking. - *Jim Melanson*

My older cousin loaned me *Let It Be*.

I heard of Paul Westerberg because of the *Singles* soundtrack (1992). I thought Paul sounded great and when I looked him up, I found out he was a part of some band called The Replacements. So, I decided to listen to their music and my first choice (good choice) *Tim* (1985) indoctrinated me into their cult. - *Alvaro*

I bought *Tim* at a used record store after recalling I had read a good review. Before that, I had been only vaguely aware of the Replacements, having seen *Let It Be* in the racks and appreciating the joke in the title, but never having heard of the band I wasn't brave enough to take the chance on it. I also realized years later after getting my own bootleg copy that I had once heard *The Shit Hits the Fans* playing in that same store, the late great Rhymes Records in New Haven, CT. - *Mark Timmins*

During the mid 90s, I was chatting with a group about music and one guy said he listens to The Replacements. I proceeded to sing the entire They Might Be Giants song "We're the Replacements." He laughed and said I have to go buy *Tim* right now. I did. And it was amazing and I am forever indebted to him. - *Kevin Shiner (Richmond Hill, NY)*

My favorite high school teacher gave me a mixed cassette. Had the 'Mats on it...fell in love!
- *Kip Jekel*

My friend Carl played it for me.

A friend's band covered "Favorite Thing" and I had to find out more....

I was turning the dial of the stereo and heard a instantly addictive song "Alex Chilton". I couldn't get it out of my head. I was about 17 and I started working with this incredible girl in a music store and she heard the song too, loved it but had no idea who it was. One day I came in to work and she had it ready to play at work. at that moment I fell in love with her and the Replacements.
- Paul Ebien-Pesa

Heard *Sorry Ma* in a car at school.

I heard them on a compilation tape a friend made for my wife. It had "I Will Dare" on it as well as "Black Diamond" and "Customer". *Let It Be* was my first album I bought though. Then on a local university station in Toronto you would hear them along with the other big Minneapolis bands. It took a number years before I saw them in '91 but by that time every band I played in had to cover a few of their songs. I still play them regularly and they have been a huge musical influence.
- Ian Thomson

First song was "I'll Be You" via MTV. I remember thinking Tommy looked like Daniel Ash! Later, my then girlfriend played me "Unsatisfied" and the rest of *Let It Be* and I was hooked. A lifelong love affair born. – Peter

Live somewhere in Minneapolis like 1982 or something I don't remember.

Brother left for work, the cover of *Let It Be*, laid there waiting, placed it on the turntable, and the voice, the guitars, the brash, subtle, scowl, scream, humor, sorrow...done.

When our band decided to cover "Valentine"... We also later covered "Seen Your Video".

The first I heard the Replacements was via MTV - "I'll Be You" made a semi-regular rotation. It hooked me, I wanted more like it. I tuned in to WXRT radio in Chicago because it was on their playlist. I bought tickets to see Petty that summer at Poplar Creek in Illinois because the 'Mats were opening. That scared me away briefly (you can't unhear the opening act getting booed as they whistle the theme to The Andy Griffith Show for an unwanted encore), but 'XRT pulled me back in when 9 songs from *All Shook Down* made their heavy rotation list. - Steve

I saw Paul playing with a cover band in the basement. He was playing lead guitar. Tom Byrnes was singing. Around 1977 maybe. I was hanging with Jeff Johnson and keg there. I was drunk and punk high school kids were kicking my feet from behind. The kids were sitting on chairs on the perimeter. I ended up getting kicked out. I knew PW was a force back then as a lead guitarist. I think later on I heard about the Replacements from Jeff Johnson or Gary Campion. I heard their interview on the radio for the *Stink* album, bought it and I was hooked. - Steven Howard

I read about them in some music magazine (1984?) and went out and bought *Let It Be*. It hit me pretty hard and the rest is history.

My dad had the *Tim* cassette in 1985. I thought they sounded like a local Beatles.

Read about *Let It Be* in Midnight Music mail order catalog. Had to have it.

I was in college drinking with a friend when he put on "Kids Won't Follow" at an extremely high volume. I thought the police intro was humorous and I wondered just what I was about to be subjected to since his taste in music wasn't exactly aligned with mine. I don't know if I was just really drunk but when the song kicked in, it was almost like a light shined down from heaven smacking me right in the face. It took me nearly a year to find *Stink* in a record store. - Jay

In 1986, I was 15 years old. My cousin Patrick of the same age had two dubbed cassettes; one *Sorry Ma*, the other, *Let It Be*. The first go round on *Let It Be*, I was hooked after I heard "Black Diamond". I thought it was like punk-Kiss. - Jeff S.

I was a freshman in college in the fall of '87, I lived in 206. I was hearing a lot of cool music in room 202. Introduced myself and started dialling in to the 'Mats. My brother sent me a mix tape in college in 84.

A Phoenix radio station was going to do a program on a Minnesota band back when I was in high school. Being from Minnesota, I had to listen. The DJ played a song from each of their earlier records, and gave little tidbits about the band in between before playing all of "Don't Tell a Soul" in its entirety. I've been a fan ever since. - J

A friend gave me a copy of the *Tim* CD.

Heard them on radio KUNI 90.9 FM in the mid 80's. My buddies in the dorm also had *Tim* on cassette.

can't remember.

Work, I'm a stagehand and I was running a spotlight, it was so loud I couldn't hear the cues. First time I heard them was on purpose when I was in a bar and "I'll Be You" was one of three "punk" songs on the jukebox

I don't remember exactly how it happened, just that I was suddenly hooked.

Someone copied the *Let It Be* album to cassette for me when I was in 8th grade thinking I would love it. They were absolutely right.

A friend told me about a band from MPLS my home town and we went and saw them at the Cubby Bear in Chicago.

I worked/DL'd @ WEGL... the college station at Auburn University -- where they were a staple.

A friend of mine handed me a cassette of Let It Be and I was instantly in love.

Older brother bought it.

My first job was an usher at a movie theater where Say Anything was playing. "Within Your Reach" was love at first listen. - *Chris Willett*

I saw the album *Stink* in Borders and thought it looked cool and the songs seemed to jibe with a 16-year-old boy's life, so I bought it and haven't looked back since. -*Jack C.*

I heard "The Ledge" on the radio. Loved it and bought *Pleased to Meet Me*. After that I backtracked and listened to *Let It Be* and *Tim*.

My first year in the military (1983) A friend who was into punk also gave me a mixed tape with *Stink* on it.

Heard "I Will Dare" somehow, somewhere -- maybe on college radio or something.

I heard "The Ledge" (and quite likely others but they didn't immediately register) on WOXY, but didn't hear a whole album until a friend from my Freshman dorm came in with the then-new *Don't Tell A Soul* which became my gateway to the more classic records. - *Neal Smyth*

Had an uncle that managed a record store back in the 80s. After school I would hang out with him tell my Mom got off work. Best education ever!

It's kinda sad, but I don't remember. It was during my sophomore year in college, which was when I completed the transition from a guy that listened to a lot of metal and a lot of Prince to a guy who was fairly into the alternative scene. One of my roommates introduced me to all kinds of stuff, and no doubt it was him who first showed me the light.

I saw their Gary and the Boners show for NYC record execs.

Read about their wild shows in the Los Angeles Times right about when *Tim* came out so I picked it up.

Sadly, the "I'll Be You" single on the radio. I say sadly only for the fact I was late on discovering their awesomeness. - *Mark P. Weber*

My band put out a cassette and the entertainment writer for the local paper said I sounded like a cross between Paul Westerberg and Dave Pirner. - *Dan Kaspari*

Borrowed from a mate.

My first memory of hearing the 'Mats was in September of 2007. I was watching VH1 Classic and the video for "Bastards of Young" came on. I don't even remember really giving the video a second thought, I just thought the song was great. It defined an era that I wasn't around to see happen. For me, it was romanticism for a time and place I never was. - *Anthony Merchant*

By reading the record reviews by Jim Walsh in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. I don't know why it took so long to finally buy an album (*Don't Tell A Soul*), but I'm happy I did. - *Todd Iverson*

Reading reviews in Cleveland Scene magazine

A friend gave me the *Let It Be* CD and I never looked back.

Bought *Pleased To Meet Me* because a friend recommended them. I think he said they gave "the worst performance I've ever seen on Saturday Night Live."

Was promoted to Music and Program director at a small community college radio station. The A & R rep for the bands label was very good and she pushed us to get "The Ledge" in rotation early after the album release.

I saw the "I'll Be You" video on 120 Minutes in March/April '89 and thought they were the coolest guys in the world. Great song, too!

I heard "I Will Dare" on the radio and I was blown away

I was in high school and went to visit my older cousin for his college graduation. This was in 1994 or so I believe. He lent me his copy of Tim and Jesus and Mary Chain's *Psycho Candy*. I had just started getting into punk rock by way of Nirvana so I was into the Sex Pistols. All this came after a very unhealthy hard rock and heavy metal habit. The discovery of the 'Mats changed everything. I loved everything about them. They rocked yet had the sensitive angst and longing that my then teenage heart was feeling. I was hooked. Upon returning *Tim* he lent me *Sorry Ma* and *Stink*. Thus began my lifelong obsession/love affair with all things 'Mats. - *Luke*

I don't remember, only that was hooked immediately.

It was watching the movie *Say Anything*. Hearing "Within Your Reach" for the first time left more of an impression on me than "In Your Eyes". Lloyd should have played that on his boombox!

I first heard the Replacements when "I'll Be You" was released as a single in '89. From that moment I was a fan and started buying their catalog beginning with *Let It Be*. - *Chris Mora*

Friends said, "This band is playing at the Uptown tonight, you better listen to this first."

A clerk (Greg) at the long defunct Rock Head's Records in Downtown Saint Paul suggested it to my pals and I and we never looked back. - *Tony Palermo*

Pleased To Meet Me from BMI or Columbia record club's discounted albums.

Late summer 1981, 15-year-old me walked into Wax Trax in Denver CO and *Sorry Ma* had just arrived in stock. Displayed in the front new arrivals rack, I dug the cover and grabbed a copy. Changed my life.

Through a car I bought. Someone left a tape of *Let It Be*.

Via the *Singles* movie soundtrack around 1997 (I was 12 or 13). I went to the library to see what other music they had of Paul's and they only had *Don't Tell A Soul* which I did not like much. I didn't fully get into the Replacements until around 1999 when I saw the old SNL.

Borrowed *Sorry Ma*.

My shrink (who was in a local band) recommended them to me during my freshman year of college. I was already a HUGE Hüsker Dü fan, but had never really given much thought to The Replacements. - *Seth*

I bought *Tim* on CD in 1988. I was just about to enter the 9th grade. That album spoke to me, even as a 13-14 year old kid. I had a job cutting grass at a cinerary in the spring and summer. I used to ride the bus there, wearing my grass stained, stinky work clothes. I'd look at all the girls who were out of my league and blast Kiss Me On The Bus on my headphones. The line "There's never much to make anyway in the fall" from Here Comes a Regular still makes me think of that time in my life.

I first heard the Replacements when a guy named Scott Hudson would talk about them incessantly on his podcast about the TV show *Big Brother*. The morning after the first Riot Fest

show in Toronto I decided to look on YouTube and see if there were any videos from the show and I pulled up the boys walking out and playing "Takin' a Ride." Seeing the smiles on everyone's faces and how into it Paul and Tommy were had me hooked from that moment on! - *Chris Martz*

I was 15 and through my skateboard friend I was introduced to Black Flag and other SST bands. Included on a mix tape he gave me was "Makes No Sense [At All" by Hüsker Dü] and the b-side "Love Is All Ground." Every time I read an article on them, the Replacements came up. Finally in the spring of '86 I went to the mailbox and there was the hot issue of Rolling Stone containing David Fricke's brilliant piece on the band. Within weeks I owned their entire catalog.

- *Jarrold Tyrrell*

106.3 WHTZ.

College roommate was a fan. I liked a few songs but didn't really get hooked until a road trip in early 90s when we played "Unsatisfied" about 9,000 times.

Working in the shipping department of a local department store in Pittsfield, MA, a friend played a compilation tape of a girl in advertising from NYC. It had "Androgynous" on it

Relaxing with friends listening to music.

My older brother Ted Mattes tried to get me to listen to them. Then they played a show at the Airport Music Hall in Allentown and I was blown away.

They were on a show called 'Whistle Test' here in the UK. They played Kiss me on the bus. The day after I bought Tim and that was it, I was hooked

Through friends.

I used to work at a greeting card and news shop as a teen, Sunday mornings you'd have to assemble newspapers and your hands would get and gross from the newsprint. So 6 a.m. Sunday mornings and all we had were YOO HOO to drink, I heard "When It Began" on a mix tape I got from a senior in high school. Wanted to hear more, went out and found *Tim* on tape (it was my name, a sign from the rock gods) heard the opening chords to "Hold My Life" and was hooked. Every record purchase was an "event" for me. I couldn't believe such perfect music existed for me and 25+ years later I STILL can't believe it!

Prison.

I hired a college kid who asked, "Have you ever heard the Replacements?" He loaned me *Tim* and *Pleased to Meet Me* and I was hooked.

My dad played them while I was growing up. I never stood a chance. - *Calvin Lipetzky*

A drunken night.

Peter Buck in an article mentioned how great the Replacements are. That was good enough for me to go out and buy *Let It Be*.

Friend from high school ('83) had moved to my hometown in northern Minnesota (Cloquet) from Twin Cities and turned me on to them - been a huge fan ever since.

I honestly can't remember but most likely reading a review in a music mag.

Saw a video on 120 Minutes.

Friends hipped me to them.

I think I saw a video on MTV for Alex Chilton, maybe .

My friend's older brother had an extensive punk/new wave record collection.

Robert Christgau cover story in the Village Voice had me curious.

A friend made me buy the record, *Tim*, which I initially disliked because I thought it was recorded in a garbage can. This record eventually taught me how to actually listen to songs and be wary of the seduction of over production.

"Radio Free Europe" caught my attention on the radio (KQRS) as the times were a changin' musicwise and one night on the way downtown from the north suburbs "Within Your Reach" played on the college station. I could only hear the click track and the shooting chords but it grabbed my soul apparently.

The college radio station I worked at played Alex Chilton and I was pissed because we (the DJ's) got one song per hour that we could pick unless someone called in with a request and I had Powerslave by Iron Maiden all ready to play and somebody called in requesting "Alex Chilton". The rest is history, as I went on to become one of the biggest Replacements fan in the universe.

Friend taped a copy of his LP to listen to before seeing them play in Sioux Falls SD on the *Pleased to Meet Me Tour*. - *Chris Hanzl* .

I was working in this bar called the Ratzkeller in a faculty/staff dining room (Blue & Gold Club) at the University of Delaware. This would've been '96, but I had somehow missed out on the 'Mats to that point - way too caught up in the post-punk thing in the UK. Anyways, we used to have these late night sessions where the staff and selected friends could hang out after work and drink beer for pretty much cost (\$1/draft) cuz our manager, Herb, was brilliant. I'm pretty sure either Mary Jean O'Neil or Nancy Hopkins turned me on, and I've never been the same...

My uncle gave me *Pleased to Meet Me* and R.E.M.'s *Document* for my birthday in 1988.

Heard that Pete Buck played on "I Will Dare".

I lived in a 4 person dorm room my freshman year of college. My bunkmate was big into Bobby Brown, smoking cigars and Eddie Murphy. A roommate on the other side who had a wider taste in music saw me and handed me a tape and said, "You play music. Listen to this. I think you'll like it." It was *Don't Tell A Soul*. He was right. - *Jim Lehmann*

I said to a friend one day in early 2005, "I need something new to listen to." The next day he handed me his copy of *All Shook Down*. I listened to it solid for a week and then proceeded to buy up every single 'Mats piece of music I could get my hands on and haven't stopped listening since. - *Linda Ridenour*

My dad was dating a girl who I didn't like very much at the time, mostly because she was much younger than him and I thought that was really weird. When I turned 13 and was starting to get into rock n roll and punk music, she introduced me to the 'mats as an attempt to bond with me. It worked! The Replacements are now one of my favorite bands and even if that girl is not dating my dad anymore, we went to see the 'Mats together a few years ago at Osheaga. It was awesome!

Party.

I first heard "Answering Machine" on Drexel University's radio station in 1984 and immediately went to the radio station to find out who the band was. I never heard of The Replacements, but I knew I had to get all of their albums ASAP. Of course, they were instantly my new favorite band and still are to this day! - *Steve D.*

The 'When It Began' video. - *Jim Clarke*

I was a late comer. I'd heard of the Mats since at least 1984 (*Let It Be*) when I went to college (god knows it'd be difficult to be exposed to him in my hometown), but I stupidly didn't attempt to hear them until '87, when *Pleased To Meet Me* came out. I bought that and quickly the others. I'm really embarrassed to admit this to this day. - *Jim Seavey*

Introduced to it by some cool older kids when I was 14 and in bands. Blew my mind that they were also from Minnesota.

A high school classmate turned me on to them.

Read a review in *Rolling Stone*.

It was 1984 and I was in college and it was around.

My brother went off to college and left a tape of *Tim* for me. He pestered me by postcard for a year to listen to it. I finally did and was lucky enough to see them in 1991.

Went to see X in Pittsburgh, Pa in 1984. I didn't know who X was, but their manager was Ray Manzeriek, former keyboardist of the Doors. I was a huge Morrison fan so that tells you where my musical tastes were in 1984. Anyway, I go to this show thinking X is going to be a band in the image of the doors and this opening act comes out, drunk is being kind, the lead singer dives into the drum kit, show over, I'm hooked.

Buddy played 'em for me in his car 13 years ago. It was *Sorry Ma*. Been a fanatic ever since.
- *Jimmy Mahoney (Chicago, 29)*

THE SURVEY

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE REPLACEMENTS?

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SHOW

ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO SAY

WHY IS _____ YOUR FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM?

SORRY MA, FORGOT TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH

STINK

HOOTENANNY

LET IT BE

THE SHIT HITS THE FANS

TIM

PLEASED TO MEET ME

DON'T TELL A SOUL

ALL SHOOK DOWN

SORRY MA, FORGOT TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Was the soundtrack of an entire summer of typical teenage shenanigans of when it came out.

It was very hard to choose a favorite Mats album. I love *Let It Be* almost as much as *Sorry Ma*. However, I had to pick that one because it was one of my first introduction to punk music. But for some reason, I never got over that album and I still listen to it weekly. Also, "I'm In Trouble" and "Shiftless When Idle", which are in my Top 5 favorite 'Mats songs, are on it. I agree that it might not be their 'best' album, but I really think it's my favorite one!

The sense of humor, enthusiasm, musicianship, lyrical sophistication (for such a young writer), overall cleverness, cover and sleeve photographs, hand written liner notes and that it fucking rocked - that's what makes it the best album (ever).

Amazing variety of songs.

It's amazing from start to finish. It's raw and immature and full of energy. It also the best CD I own for an indoor cycling session.

I lean toward fast, ramshackle music so it's really a perfect album for me.

It's got everything I ever wanted to hear on a debut album. The lads simply nailed it -- it's pure and it's real.

Just moves me like no other music.

Ultimate teen angst and maximum energy

Hearing it first and being blown away. Just the raw, unrelenting energy it gives off. It's like my first girlfriend. - *Carl Haakenson*

Epitome of teen angst, explosive, exciting, not a bad cut.

Original raw 'Mats. It's the gold. - *Tony (Wisconsin)*

Snotty exuberance, Chuck Berry and Johnny Thunders having a baby and letting it done a shit-ton of speed.

IT'S FUCKIN AWESOME.

Perfect mix of songs.

I went in reverse order. I heard *All Shook Down* first and then somehow backtracked in chronological order over a year's period to get to *Sorry Ma*. When I heard that record, I felt young. It was a feeling I hadn't felt in a while. I was 22 at the time. - *Rob Lefever*

Nostalgia.

Short, raw, angry and live.

First love. - *Mark Anthony*

Eighteen songs in 36 minutes. Hearing that album was like seeing them live.

Fast, raw.

It's raw and awesome!

Kicks ass.

Sorry Ma is my favorite album for its wildness, silliness, and sincerity.

The energy and power.

It's fast, it's slow, it's rocking, it doesn't care if you like it, some really cool arrangements that I had never heard before, sums greater than its parts.

It came out when I was 17. The perfect album for that perfect age.

STINK

Nada.

HOOTENANNY

Nostalgia.

It being a diverse collection and it doesn't sound over rehearsed or produced.

It's a car accident that never happens--careening from sloppy to tight, funny to serious. It is a fun album. I use the analogy of a late night drive while snowing - the car starts to lose control and begins fishtailin', driver tries to correct but oversteers, control is lost and right when it looks like the car is headed for the guardrail, an otherworldly force or dumb luck allows the driver to correct and carry on. All in the car are safe and look back with elevated heartbeats agreeing "well, that was fun!"

Hoot feels like they just didn't give a shit about expectations and just let it fly.

It seems silly to say perhaps but this album is almost like The Beatles' equivalent of *Sgt. Pepper*. It's vast array of musical stylings and lyrical genius almost make you cock your head and go "what the hell is this?" upon first listen. That's also sort of how I live my life. I firmly believe my purpose is to make people question exactly what I'm doing. And heck, I think I'm so good at it, it makes me question myself. - *Kelsey Hoovestol*

"Treatment Bound" is probably my favorite song, but overall I like it because it sounds like the band had a lot of fun making it. - *Jack C.*

The different styles of music played: punk, surf, use of drum machine. - *Chris Mora*

You always remember your awkward first with a certain untouchable fondness. Plus great songs and energy.

I think it's classic 'Mats. Some barn burner rock and roll, some heartfelt songs, some pure pop, some fucking around. - *Jason Loeb*

Ah, man...I can't explain it. Each album is a gem in its own right. I think this is my fave for these 3 reasons: 1) "Hootenanny in E" 2) "Within your Reach" on the jukebox at the CC Club while my buddy Tim and I owned the pool table 3) "Fucked 'em up" at the end of "Treatment Bound". - *Tom Dotray*

It has elements of what was and what was to come and is pure fun.

I don't really have a favorite album, but I think *Hootenanny* has the truly wild and honest sound of a band working hard and living free.

Best mix of loud/fast and punk/melancholy.

This is an impossible question. I love them all for different reasons, but my sentimental attachment to *Hootenanny* has me choosing it.

I love the cover and all of the songs, especially 'Treatment Bound'. I still laugh to this day. "...take it Scotty..."

Everything, but especially the in-studio banter.

First exposure, I suppose. *Stink* comes in a close second. The beginning of "Kids Don't Follow" makes my heart skip and instantly brings me back to basement shows.

The fact that it's all over the place. Just when you think it's going left, it goes sideways. Excellent album!

You know, this is an impossible question because they made so many brilliant records. *Let It Be* blew my mind but it was *Hootenanny* that the cat got out of the bag. Gallons of style indeed. I'd never heard anything like it and was stunned by the passion that permeated the thing in spite of itself. "Within Your Reach", to me was the first hard evidence that Paul was a major songwriting talent dialed into something unique. "Lovelines" anyone? - *Mark Hutchins*

Hootenanny may not be their greatest album, but I think it very well may be their most definitive album. It's certainly my personal favorite, and nothing in their catalog sounds better blasting out of your speakers on a crisp Saturday evening. Shit. Maybe it is their greatest album.
- *Jonathan Hoyt*

The fact that an indie band made something that willfully eclectic in 1983.

Lots of versatility on display - with a side of drunkenness. Unlike anything I had ever heard at the time.

It's got everything.

LET IT BE

It's the best one over time.

"Unsatisfied."

Let It Be is rowdy, fun, sing songy, funny and heartbreaking all at once. It's life's music.

The sheer quality of songwriting & the warmth, honesty & energy of the performances.

This seemed to be the album when it all came together as far as PW's songwriting and the band willing to move on from their punk/hardcore period.

Straight through great. It flows perfectly.

Love the songs.

The variety of styles of the songs. Westerberg really advanced as a song-writer.

It's just too perfect.

"I Will Dare", "We're Comin' Out" "Androgynous", "Unsatisfied", "Sixteen Blue", "Answering Machine." Oh yeah, and "Gary's Got a Boner."

Best balance of songs. Overall sound of later albums too "poppy".

I think it is a bridge between the more punk loud fast days and the more polished rock songs that came after.

Love the lyrical growth but still with Bob's dirty sound.

Piano in a punk song!!! How can you NOT like that!!!

This is a tough question - there are bits of brilliance and bits of 'eh' on every record, but for me, *Let It Be* is a transition record - connecting the energy and attitude of the earlier works with the more thoughtful, crafted work of the records that came after.

The best archive of the band--everything from the schlock covers to Bob's energy to Paul's heartfelt songwriting.

“Unsatisfied”, and just the capturing of that moment in time.

“Androgynous” is a beautiful and, still, culturally relevant song to this day.

Probably because it's my first 'Mats album.

This made me feel included, like someone understood me and the bullshit going on. My first copy was a made tape copied over. The last 3 minutes after the album ended was a bit of Steve Martin talking about cruel shoes. It seems like the perfect end to the album.

“I Will Dare” and “Unsatisfied”.

Pound for pound, it's the best one. From beginning to end. So different than anything else I was trying to comprehend musically at 14 or so. I was just starting to play, and always kind of liked that I could never quite figure out what they were playing. The brilliance of this record is well documented, but it's all true. “Answering Machine” is still to this day my favorite song of all-time, even more so as time goes by. Feels special to have to describe to a youngster what an answering machine even was. Or the fact that the ethic behind “Seen Your Video” seemed dated at one point, and now even more on point. When I married, I had the words “My Favorite Thing” engraved into my wife's wedding ring. Learned about how I was feeling about myself through “16 Blue”. And “I Will Dare”. Well if there was ever a theme song for a band, that was it.

- *David Lee Garver*

First year of college, a lot of cool memories.

It's inscrutable and catchy, with its feet in both punk and classic rock.

“Favorite Thing”. “Seen Your Video”. “Answering Machine”. You can't beat, “I got a handful of friends; one needs a match, one needs some ice.” - *Jay Russell (aka jaytaco)*

Has stuck with me like little else over the years. First bought the cassette back in 1985, methinks. Repeated listenings got me into it like nothing else - as a moderately depressed, mildly awkward young man at the time, my faves were “Unsatisfied” and “Answering Machine”. Totally got the emotion and sentiment of those tunes. Also loved the goofier stuff like “Favorite Thing” and “Gary's Got A Boner”. Stupid nice pop songs wrapped up in a nice punk wrapping. Fast forward all these years to 2016, this album has flowed in and out of my life and I keep falling sway to its emotional power. Today, I'd say that the song I cared least for on the album back when I was a teenager - “Sixteen Blue” - oddly enough is easily my favorite song on the album. Those heartfelt, compassionate lyrics coupled with that stunning Bob Stinson outro guitar solo just break my heart, but in a good way. Oh, and “Gary's Got A Boner” still kicks ass after all these years. 😊

It always reminds me of the first time I heard them.

The lyrics are pure, deep and lovely and the melodies are sweet and stinky.

The highs are higher than the lows, pre super production, last with all four fully contributing, still sloppy but gorgeous at same time. - *Scott Truelove*

I love *Let It Be*, but like anything you really love, it goes deeper than words. It just "fit" me at the time - and still does. A long-lasting affair. - *Laura Bossart Hanneman*

"Answering Machine".

This was the album is where I discovered The Replacements. The message was appropriately confusing - were they a band truly daring or are they convinced they'll get it all wrong? Are they wearing their hearts on their sleeves and unsatisfied or are they wiping the blood off their sleeves after they rip out Tommy's tonsils and hit the links? Are they making fun of Kiss with "Black Diamond" or paying homage to them? For that matter, who has the balls to pay homage to the opening of Kiss' "Hard Luck Woman" (or steal it) with the song that follows "Black Diamond" on the album ("Unsatisfied")? The sound was beautifully rough around the edges and amateurish, not the polished tin that followed with "Tim", which is just as good and would be better if they included "Nowhere Is My Home" instead of "Lay It Down Clown" or "One Good Dose of Thunder." But they didn't. My message is very plain. I love "Let It Be."

- *Brad Michel (Germantown, WI)*

It has everything I love in music and songwriting... and in perfect order, in perfect balance, and performed in perfect imperfection.

They were still rough and raw and loose. There are so many great songs and it really sounds like an album in the old sense. "I Will Dare" and "Unsatisfied" just capture a certain era of Minneapolis for me...well they all do, really. I was in my twenties and the music seemed to matched my energy and emotions at the time. They express the longing, the looseness, the disillusionment, but at the same time the beauty and possibility of things. There's anger and sarcasm and love and some all out searing punk energy. It's the only album that I know all the titles and lyrics of the songs. - *Carolyn Cone*

I like the mixture of punk and straight up rock n roll songs. I think this is the best starter album to show someone what the Replacements are all about.

It's just perfect, and ballsy. Who names their album after a Beatles song. Simply awesome!
- Dennis "Jay" Johnson

The Replacements became the band that got me through my twenties. At the time I had discovered *Let It Be*, I had just survived my first year in college and a lot of things were changing in my life. The day I brought this album home, I had been thinking a lot about then-recent events in my life. "So, that was college, eh?" was the big thing on my mind as I heard "Unsatisfied" for the first time. The songs on this album had a far bigger impact in touching my soul and hitting a nerve. It's a feeling I will never forget. - Jason S.

Best mix of snot-nosed attitude and awesome song writing.

Three words: "Seen Your Video" - Jim Thurman

The one album that has it all, rockers & ballads. That & I'm just Unsatisfied.

Probably because it was the one out at the time when I discovered them. Some of Paul's most heartfelt and memorable songs for sure. And the last complete record with the original band.

"Unsatisfied", "Unsatisfied", and "Unsatisfied".

"Favorite Thing" is rockin' with abandon. "Tommy Gets His Tonsils" out is hilarious. "Unsatisfied" captures yearning better than anything I know. And then I heard "Answering Machine" and I knew this was the band for me.

The lyrics to "Unsatisfied".

Kind of depends on the day, as I bounce between *Let It Be*, *Tim & Pleased To Meet Me*, but *Let It Be* drops me back into a particular time, place and mindset that is pretty special. That run of three albums is impeccable.

That's impossible, they all mean something different at different times to me.

Great collection of songs.

So hard to pick. Could be any record prior to *Don't Tell A Soul*. But, *Let It Be* is a perfect blend of raw energy, emotion and beauty. Songs, lyrics, performance and production all in sync. *Pleased To Meet Me* is darn close, but the unpredictable Bob factor is missing. *Sorry Ma* is another close second and one of my fave punk records of all-time but too one-dimensional to be best. And *Tim*

may be the best anthemic song collection but the record is a production mess (bass and guitars are often not really in-tune with each other, too much reverb, etc.)

Got it when I was young and ragged and living in South Minneapolis and the songs meant something then that caught me and still hold me.

Partly it's the "still indie" nature of it. And it's the one that made the biggest impact on me.

Why mess with greatness.

It perfectly encapsulates everything that was great about the band - right at a time when they were firing on all eight cylinders. The band sounds like they're having a great time putting this record together - and they're not taking themselves too seriously. Bob sounds terrific, and Paul has some pretty significant songs...and some rather silly ones too. Fun for the whole family!

The songs on *Let It Be* are just too good.

I love it.

I love all of The Replacements albums, but *Let It Be* was the album that introduced me to the band, so it will always be considered my favorite.

Because it encapsulates what I like about the Replacements.

I bought it when it was released and it cemented my LOVE for the Replacements. (I already owned *Stink*, *Sorry Ma*, and *Hootenanny*.) It was a great time to discover new bands (mid-80's) but the Replacements have always been my favorite band since this album was released to present day.

First one I heard and still the best one! "Unsatisfied" is an inspiration!

I don't have a compelling story here. They're all good. Frankly, the cover and the name boost *Let It Be* a lot.

The variety of styles but all with heart on sleeves. The dual guitar attack. But mostly, the shout on "Unsatisfied" right before the drums come in. A catharsis that has lasted a lifetime.

[Because it's what I] First Heard.

Side A & "Unsatisfied" is a run unlike none other.

I thought it was pretty audacious to name an album after the classic Beatles album. But it was that album and those songs that made me feel the most. And still do. Sure they rocked, too, but the emotions you'd get stirred listening to "Sixteen Blue", "Answering Machine" and "Unsatisfied" still leave me shaking.

Best time of my life (living in Uptown right after college in the 80's) was encapsulated in that album.

I like the stuff before and after but to me, *Let It Be* is perfection. It's still got Bob's all over the place soloing and the songwriting has become more complex. From the first notes of "I Will Dare" to that powerhouse ending of "Answering Machine," no album makes me feel more happy, sad, elated, depressed, or thankful to be alive than this one. - *Drew Tomko*

The songs are great, and it sounds like a band who has finally hit their stride.

It is the first Replacement album I heard and still listen to it today.

Perfect balance between their earliest and final albums. It has the great songwriting but still has the edge I think Bob Stinson had a lot to do with. - *Tom G (St. Louis, MO)*

It captures how a lot of us felt hanging out in Mpls in the conformist Reagan 80s in our 20s. Poor, arrogant, lonely orphans, nobody kids, not sure why we're here, where we fit in, and what we're supposed to be doing, but having a seriously good time.

Let It Be captured that Midwestern-graduate school-growing up-figuring out what to do-vibe that I was dealing with at the time, as a twenty-something graduate student in Plant Biology at the University of Illinois. The record was smart, raucous, sweet, and funny, all at the same time, and, of course, it rocked. I loved "Sixteen Blue" and "Androgynous" and the hilarious Kiss cover "Black Diamond" (having gone through a serious Kiss phase as a 14 year old in 1975 when Kiss Alive came out.) I spent many cold nights in my apartment on Race St. in Urbana IL, listening to that record, over and over, with the lights out in the depths of a Midwestern winter...

Some of my favorite songs ("I Will Dare", "Unsatisfied", "Sixteen Blue", "Answering Machine", "Favorite Thing").

Maybe because it was my first ... I just love the juxtaposition of fast and slow.

"Unsatisfied", "Answering Machine", "Sixteen Blue". It's just fucking great!

The albums all have a variety of song styles, but *Let It Be* makes them flow together better than the others. It captures some of PWs best songwriting, while managing to complement it with some of the spontaneous passion that Bob brought to the songs, in a balance that the other albums didn't quite reach. Despite the other albums highlighting those and other qualities of the band & their songs. - *Phil Clayton*

It's perfect.

The first take is always the best take & this was the first 'Mats album I heard & owned.
- *Joe Wooden*

The strength of the songwriting – “I Will Dare”, “Androgynous”, “Unsatisfied”, “Answering Machine”, and especially “Sixteen Blue”. Amazing songs. I love the jagged edge and the feeling that the songs could fall apart at any moment too. Fucking magic.

The moment of exposure, the swagger and humor. Profound sadness as well.

It's the best one.

Variety of songs “Androgynous” compared to “Gary's Got A Boner” ..I just love the whole album.

Perfection. The poppy "I Will Dare", the crunchy "Favorite Thing", the wistful "Sixteen Blue" and the sad/angry/hopeless filled "Answering Machine". Being 15 years old and realizing that I wasn't alone. I had this record and all of the feelings that came with it.

My favorite song is on it, along with some other songs that just hit me in the gut. It's the first Replacements album that I ever bought. It's a tough choice, *Pleased To Meet Me* is 1A, I could listen to either one over and over. - *Tom Garside*

I think from top to bottom it has the best songs. It gives me a bit of where they came from and a glimpse into their future. Song writing is incredibly sharp on a number of songs for just a punk band. I hear “Androgynous” now and think how relevant it is at this moment. I don't if I could pick another song from '84 that can say that. - *Scott Raschke*

Just great songs one after the other.

The music, duh. Seriously, was released at an important time in life, also.

Cause it has "Favorite Thing".

Let It Be grabbed me from the first sounds of "I Will Dare". The entire album from that point just pulled me in. - *Dave Romary*

Just feels right.

Best songs overall.

Listening in my car on a dark night and zoning into "Unsatisfied" and it just felt like this band ain't joking. - *Ted*

To me, there are no filler songs on *Let It Be*. The whole album blends well together & it has "I Will Dare", my favorite 'Mats song. The cover is great too!

Great from start to finish.

It's got my favorite songs, but it's also the perfect blend of their punk and softer sides, more than any of the other albums.

Sounds so spontaneous and authentic.

Great mix of punk and songwriting .

Someone once said, if I have to explain, you don't understand! I'll go with that and the fact that this record changed my life. *Let It Be* is sheer unadulterated brilliance from start to finish. I never tire of it, it's timeless. Westerberg's songs and their impact provided a catalyst in so many ways. Everything about it.

There is such a variety of great songs on this album. The songwriter is supreme. *Let It Be* and *Tim* just have some of the best songs I have every heard on them. Just great.

Let It Be is pure classic Replacements and one of my top 10 all-time favorite albums. What more can I say?! - *Brian Lux*

It's the first album of theirs I got into and it's basically a perfect album, sounds great, is diverse in sounds, but still is cohesive, not too grandiose, not too simple... you feel like they perfectly conveyed what they were trying to get express.

It's an album that has everything. Punk attitude, great songwriting, chemistry. It makes the hairs stand up on the back of my neck. It's real and doesn't pretend to be something that it's not. It's the definition of rock n roll.

Five absolutely A1 songs. And a bunch of fun crap too.

Let It Be is the greatest album ever released. All of the 'Mats albums are my favorite, but *Let It Be* is untouchable. I first heard this album when I was fifteen and it changed my life immensely. "I Will Dare" plays in my head every time I see a girl and think I'm in love, as does "Favorite Thing." "We're Coming Out" is the soundtrack to every adventure of stupidity with my friends. "Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out" and "Gary's Got a Boner" are exactly the kind of songs a 15 year old needs to get through a long day of school and their humor is gold here. "Androgynous," "Unsatisfied," and "Sixteen Blue" are some of the most beautiful songs ever written. "Seen Your Video" is the perfect song to put to an awful band that is totally phoning it in and is only in it for \$\$\$\$. Now, that only leaves "Answering Machine," the best ending to any Replacements record. It perhaps is the best song Paul Westerberg has ever written, sang, or performed. It is absolutely perfect. It's quite tragic that this song was forgotten during the reunion tour because I absolutely am in love with this song. It is the perfect way to sum up all that is *Let It Be*. Four dudes that drank way too much, but that were and still are fucking magic. - *Christian E. Boyatt, 19. (Modesto, California)*

I don't know, it just is.

It's actually a toss up, between *Let It Be* and *Hootenanny*. I also really love *All Shook Down*. I know a lot of their fans don't, but I love how it's so damn sad.

"Androgynous".

It's a classic.

Unpolished, emotional, melodic, soulful, great lyrics that mirrored my dysfunctional experience, witty, funny, insightful writing, looked like scruffy loveable mutts that you would like to feed once in a while. With a long stick. - *Tom Collins*

The rawness, and honesty. So Mpls too.

Let It Be is everything. It's the greatest rock record of all-time. If you listen close you can hear everything that came before it, and it inspired everything that came after. - *Erin Hotovy*

Best mix of songs!

The songs are the strongest.

“UNSATISFIED”. - *John H.*

Song variety. Paul's evolution as a songwriter. Everything coming together and being ripped apart.

“Unsatisfied”.

My history and the fucking great songs.

“Unsatisfied” may be the greatest song of all-time. “Answering Machine” captures every guy's fears in the 80s and 90s. “I Will Dare” rocks! “Sixteen Blue” and “Gary's Got a Boner”. It's got everything! - *Scott Wickman*

Best performances of their career, and it's also a careening mess. And I identify with those songs so much (even now) that it's almost frightening.

The dynamics.

It's their best overall effort. I really like *Hootenanny* a lot too. On Sire, my fave was *Pleased To Meet Me*.

“Unsatisfied”, “We're Comin' Out”, “Favorite Thing” and nostalgia.

Let It Be has the snarl and the heartbreak and the humor and the pathos and the edge and the weariness that makes The Replacements so utterly awesome and incomparable.
- *David Bierman*

It's actually a pretty hard choice, because I love *Hootenanny* and *Tim* just as much. But since you needed only one I'll go with the first one I listened. And since you need an explanation, I'll say that it's an album that finds them in transition, just like *Hootenanny*, but a little more serious.

Best mix of sweet & sour, hard & soft, crunchy & smooth.

The songwriting, the tone, the diversity of the styles from song-to-song, the way the guitars play off each other, the layers of percussion, the way the studio recorded it, the tone of every instrument, and just the perfect imperfection that is woven in. Also it was my first, so that always has some weight. I believe if I had heard it first, *Sorry Ma* would be my favorite for different

reasons though, with it being so raw and incessant and real. It is fantastic dirty ol' rock and roll but with hooks and melodies of something even greater.

The absolute brilliant songs of raw emotion. Not all brilliant but you can play the whole LP over and over the variety is there.

It was the first Replacements record I heard and helped me transition from being solely into hardcore. I've always loved a good melody and *Let It Be* is full of 'em.

I only picked that one because you forced me too. My favorite changes weekly due to mood and ambient temperature. - *Todd Pearson*

Let It Be was the first full 'Mats record I heard, and it was also one of the first records I remember hearing that felt like you were in the room with them playing: lots of pops, tape hiss, room noise and it was not a wall of compressed noise. It was loose, fun, powerful and vulnerable.

The imagery of the band on the roof: you want to be hanging out there with them. Of all the Replacements' records, though, I find it to be the most consistent, songwise.

Best combination of songs and attitude.

The songs!!!! Heck, it was my first Replacements album; I even like the murky production. It was a big step forward in 1984, but it still had the punk edge and Bob's influence was strong. *Tim* is a close second.

The cover puts it (*Let It Be*) just ahead of *Tim*.

It's an up-and-down experience that combines agony and ecstasy, an experience we all know too well as a bunch of punk rock misfits (myself included - 'happy yet depressed' is my resting state). Between the laidback, more acoustic based parts on songs such as "I Will Dare" and scorches such as "Seen Your Video", it really captures the whole spectrum of human emotion well - especially at the parts where they combine. That takes true talent, which this bunch had in spades. The highlight of the overall band history and especially the Bob Stinson years. Rest in peace, buddy. - *Liam A.*

Let It Be. It's got everything that I love about the band. Great songs, silly songs, fast songs and everything in between. "Sixteen Blue" is the best song ever written about being a confused teenager. It perfectly captures the essence of the frustration and confusion of adolescence. Other albums have great songs but I always return to "Let It Be." It never gets old. Even the outtakes from the record are great, like their cover of "20th Century Boy." Mere words just

cannot explain the magic that the band captured on tape. - *Douglas Wood (Decatur, GA)*

Songs.

An album that seamlessly transitions from the silly glee of "Tommy Gets His Tonsils Out" to the poignancy of "Androgynous" is a masterpiece in my book.

Big chords and melodies too. I felt like this record was made just for me. Anguished hours playing "Unsatisfied" and "Answering Machine" and thinking about girlfriends and life. Laughing. Sarcasm. Attitude. Tenderness. Kinship with my Replacements-loving friends.

I love every song.

It's the best one, of course! It's got great tunes, still has one foot in the punk years, but you can hear the development and direction of Westerberg's songwriting.

Production , content.

"Unsatisfied." It can apply and transcend as well sometimes at 47 as it did at 16. - *Mark Stalcup*

A fantastic leap in song-writing from their previous albums...such a great mix of heart-on-sleeve pathos, humor and balls-out rock. It was so amazing to see all the promise shown in their previous albums come to fruition.

No reason maybe it was since I had a hard time in my life with the death of my mom, puberty, etc.

From the cover to the content...genius.

Let It Be is my favorite. Why you ask? Because of the songs on it.

As a teenager, I'd listen to *Let It Be* on my Walkman. I can't tell you how many nights I went to bed listening to "Sixteen Blue" over and over. Of course, there were tears. But also joy. "I Will Dare" is akin to "Rocks Off" on *Exile*. What a great way to start an album! Still have my original cassette and will never let it go.

For the longest time I would say *Hootenanny* was my favorite because "Within Your Reach" is my favorite 'Mats song. But over time, I have come to realize that *Let It Be* is a masterpiece of classic 'Mats tunes that I love dearly: "I Will Dare," "Sixteen Blue," "Unsatisfied," "Answering Machine,"

etc. Perfection. And the album cover ain't bad either. - *Amy Nash*

Everything.

The first you love usually remains the one you love most. *Tim* and *Pleased to Meet Me* are just as good or better, depending on the day or mood. - *MP*

So many great songs, really find a sound in this one.

My answer changes all the time! I loved *Don't Tell A Soul* for a really long time, but that seemed to change in my 20's. My answer could be different all the time. I think *Let It Be* is perfect. It captures so much - rebellion, partying, sadness, confusion, etc. It's got everything. But the others do, too, I guess. But I guess *Let It Be* is the most captivating to me. For today!

- *Neil Cleaverhoffer*

You never forget your first love. But ask me tomorrow and it would be *Tim* or *Pleased to Meet Me*. It's kind of like asking which is your favorite child.

The thrash of the early band mixed with the emotional wallop of Paul's maturing songwriting.

- *Dennis Supanich*

First off, the cover photo really struck me because the guys dressed just like I did. There was no pretense whatsoever. Paul's voice, the way he sang from his heart was something I wasn't used to. It is funny and heartwrenching and rocked like a M'fer. I fell in love with it and especially wore out the grooves to my favorite – “Answering Machine”.

It was the first I heard but man *Tim* is a very close second! The songs on *Tim* mean more to me but there is nothing like the year I spent listening to *Let It Be* when I was 21-22 years old!

Variety of approach. Raw music and lyrics. A great band snapping into sharp focus at the peak of their powers. Never to be matched or bettered. A plus... plus. - *Mike Gasper*

“Unsatisfied” is on it.

It is my life at that moment. I both love and hate it for all the emotion it never fails to stir in me. Every song means something. Every song takes me to specific place. And every song is part of my soul. I can't listen to it when certain people are around because they will never understand.

When I first heard it it was like nothing I had ever heard before. The songs just touched me and meant so much to me for that time in my life. Very powerful. It still means so much to me.

- *George Welsh*

It reminds me of my senior year in high school. I bought it a week or two after *Tim*. It just spoke to me then and I have cherished it ever since.

It's just perfect (no pun intended). Not a thing wrong with this album. A+ - *JTM*

It's the most ambitious album and seems to be before the band thought of themselves too much as a certain something... before they became for better or worse 'THE REPLACEMENTS.' And Bob is off the hook on the album, the guitar is so wonderful... songs like "Androgynous" and "Sixteen Blue" versus "Gary's Got a Boner" and "We're Coming Out"... such a raw, adventurous, energy to the album... an honesty beyond designs.

My first taste of the band in their prime...in their heyday!!! Instantly a fan of their dynamics and sweet sweet songwriting. The fact that Westerberg mixed a piano into this hardcore tune, immediately sold me that there was something incredibly special about this band.

- *Thomas William (towil.bandcamp.com)*

Every song is a classic.

Let It Be is loud, yet has subtleties. It's raucous, yet mature. It showcases Paul's writing, but isn't pretentious. It's a staple in my collection. - *Brian Wheeler*

That point of exponential growth in songwriting and as a band - and knowing that moment doesn't last.

Eclectic mix. A spectrum of musical styles.

Raw, powerful, yet beautiful.

Not one bad song and there is a wide variety. "We're Coming Out" and "Answering Machine" are two favorites.

The diversity of styles, the lyrics, the emotion, the passion, the energy, and on and on and on.... There's literally nothing about this album that I don't like! - *Richard Levantini*

It's the perfect balance of wit and pathos, and it shades *Pleased to Meet Me* by having Bob on it.
- *Joe Boden*

First album I really got into. Lots of great songs.

The songs and feel are just pure Minneapolis.

The songwriting took a big leap forward.

Everything. The bridge from punk to something a little more refined. The maturation of Westerberg's lyrics and the haunting and longing in his voice in tracks like "Unsatisfied".

- *Chris Riedel*

If *Tim* didn't have "Dose of Thunder" and "Lay it Down Clown", that would probably be it - but "I Will Dare" and "Unsatisfied" are two of the greatest rock songs ever written, so *Let It Be* by default. But it changes - next week it might be *Pleased To Meet Me*...

In retrospect it features the goofs associated with their past with hints of heartfelt ballads they'd be known for in the future. GGAB and "Sixteen Blue", respectively. - *Jack Sowers*

wow. everything.

You always remember your first love with a certain fondness, don't you? Honestly, "I Will Dare", especially the mandolin solo in the middle. If I could only have one song of the "Raucous & Rowdy" genre on that desert island, that's the song I'd choose. (NOTE: I'd hope that the "Stranded on a Desert Island Powers That Be" would also afford me the opportunity to choose a selection from the "Sad & Weepy" genre as well . . . it might be a Westerberg solo tune though). I can be having a shite day (week / month / . . .year?), and all I need to do is press PLAY on "I Will Dare" and I can't help but bop, shake & shimmy myself back into some semblance of a smile. It's for certain going to be the "walk-out music" at my memorial service, the last song on the "M's Funeral Mix" playlist. I'd prefer more rump shakin' and less tears. - *Michelle M.*

"Answering Machine", I remember being totally confused by this song from a band like The Replacements. I was like, is that a fucking drum machine?!?!?! Still a favorite song.

Just one of the all-time great rock records.

you know, it's got a nice beat and you can dance to it.

It is perfection from start to finish. The Replacements at the height of their powers. Plus I think "Unsatisfied" is their best song.

Fans can make solid arguments for all of these albums. If I'm stranded on a desert island, I'll have *Let It Be* playing on the coconut stereo.

One of the first punk rock albums to bridge intelligence with power trash. The album's ability to evoke a powerful emotional response is second to none.

Best start to finish, nothing I don't like.

"Sixteen Blue", "I Will Dare", "Answering Machine" and "Unsatisfied".

It was the one that first got me into the Replacements, and *Tim* really is a very close second, and really changes when you ask me. Tomorrow, it could be *Tim*.

It's quite simply the songs, and where I was in my life when it came out. I was 20 years old. Every song related somehow to some experience or connection. My best friend's girlfriend was named Donna, who really didn't deserve "Favorite Thing" but we sung it to her anyway. And as much as I worship at the altar of the first three releases (*Sorry Ma* is quite possibly the best punk record ever made), *Let It Be* has "Unsatisfied" and "Answering Machine." And I think Bob's guitar playing was damn near perfect on "Sixteen Blue." That one note melting into feedback puts him in the pantheon of the best touch players of the instrument. Then combine the sublime with "Gary's Got a Boner." And it has a Kiss cover. And the greatest college radio single in history "I Will Dare." It's a perfect record. - *Pete Clarke*

First album I bought. Went to the 1st Ave release party.

Great songs, great energy, great melodies, wit.

Iconic songs.

The sheer brilliance and connection. That's true with many 'Mats songs, and I don't have kids but think of this question as akin to choosing a favorite child. I just was really "changed" when I heard this album.

This album is a masterpiece. It covers so many styles and almost perfectly captures my teenage life. The production, cover art and packaging are a snap shot of that moment. I have listened to this a million times and it never grows old. I have given it to many friends curious about the band and converted them all. This is the album I measure almost every piece of music I've enjoyed since spinning for the first time. - *Ralph*

It's how it all started for me.

Perfect melding of early punk/late songcraft.

It's the most professional, varied goof of album ever made. Absolute classic.

The angsty tone to the album.

"Answering Machine"/"Unsatisfied".

Let It Be is just perfect. I can totally relate to "I Will Dare" and "Unsatisfied."

An album released in 1984 which was still as relevant and poignant to me as a 17 year old in 1995. Being a teenager isn't easy at all, but having a "crutch" like *Let It Be* to lean on helped me to realise that I wasn't alone. Listening to it now still takes me straight back to those days where I was pretty much messed up and at times it felt like only my rockstar heroes understood anything I ever felt. - *Rob Sampson*

Captures that point in their career where they aren't too polished and aren't too loose. Great song and music writing. And just rocks like a beast. - *Kevin Curry*

I just think it's the best representation of what the Mats were. I enjoy *Hootenanny*, but it's a bit too White Album-y, and I think *Tim*, while in terms of songwriting, is the best, the production lets it down, so *Let It Be* defaults, but it's by no means a bad default at all. It has heart on the sleeve moments, and song about a kid getting his teeth ripped out and some other kid getting a boner. The personal, vulnerable songs like "Answering Machine", "Unsatisfied", "Sixteen Blue" and "I Will Dare". Plus, it rocks. - *David Benedetti*

First album from them that I heard. "Unsatisfied" pretty much summed up my life. They felt like friends who got me. - *Anita H.*

The songs, the sound and the overall attitude. Sloppy yet tight. I don't give a fuck, but still I care a lot-attitude. There's no weak link in it. The sound of a band that is hitting its peak yet they still sound raw and fresh enough. No weak link in it. - *Mikko from Helsinki*

Could pick *Let It Be*, *Tim* or *Pleased To Meet Me*. *Let It Be* cause it's the breakout album I guess

All possibilities on the table.

ALL the songs are great.

I bought *Let It Be* at the Record Collector in Iowa City . . . couldn't get that one from the Ames Public Library. Settled on *Let It Be* after searching through old reviews in magazines to see which 'Mats album I should check out next (having only heard *Don't Tell a Soul* and *All Shook Down*). Clerk at the record store sold me *Let It Be* but then stopped me at the door as I left and asked me to hold up my new purchase so that the owner of the shop could see. "See what the kids these days are still into?" This was 1996. Shop owner gave me the thumbs-up.

Still a bit punk, but enough heartbreak to make it last.

It perfectly sums up the 'Mats unique combination of balls, brain and heart.

Great songs, loud and edgy.

Remember getting *Tim* first and then *Pleased To Meet Me*. Love both but was really blown away by the writing on *Let It Be*.

I don't really have a favorite. I love them all for different reasons, but question 3 in the survey required a choice. - *Ted James*

"Unsatisfied," "Androgynous," "Sixteen Blue" and "Answering Machine" are a quartet of songs unequaled on any other Replacements record.

Just love the quality and change of pace throughout the album

After hearing most of the album in my buddy's car, I went out and bought the record that day. There's nothing like hearing the 'Mats for the first time.

My favorite really is *Hootenanny* through *Pleased To Meet Me*. Those before are great, those after are also great, but on a different level. The middle five were the soundtrack for my life at that time. Girls, drugs, booze, bands, bars, and difficult relationships on all levels. The later records were great listening for the hangover caused by the mid 80's. The early ones captured the concept, that with rock and roll, free beer is possible! - *Doug*

It's just perfect.

Ragged and polished. Promising and frustrating. Fun and sad. - *Tim*

I bounce back and forth between *Pleased To Meet Me* and *Let It Be*. *Pleased To Meet Me* was my 'first', and is special for that reason. *Let It Be* though feels like things started to gel with the band

(and with Paul's songwriting). There's still plenty of sloppy, stupid stuff on the album, but "Androgynous", "Unsatisfied" and "Sixteen Blue" all feel like Paul is finally becoming the writer we know and love. Plus "Favorite Thing" ended up on just about every mix tape I made for a girl back in the day! - *Rick Shoup*

"Unsatisfied". That fucking song was all about my life at the time.

THE SHIT HITS THE FANS

Raw, loud and nasty.

TIM

Tim. Some of the worst times of being a teenager, *Tim* was best friend.

The blend, the sound, the way it makes me feel.

Let It Be is very good but it has a number of songs at the time that I didn't care for. Over time I've come to enjoy the whole album but back in the 80's it wasn't that way. When I bought *Tim* I thought every song was solid. Now I wish they had kept "Dose of Thunder" off but not at the time. So I listened to that album so much I wore it out. Plus the last three songs are just incredible. Albums that end on such a high (even if they are sad) always resonate with me. So many records start strong but are front loaded and peter out. Not *Tim*.

Great songs that I could relate to.

The band was the best live band on earth around this time and everyone in town knew it and that made the whole scene somehow buzzed. I recall them trying to choose the tempo for "Can't Hardly Wait" at the live shows and that was always a highlight. I think "Hold My Life" is such a great song. Came out late summer/fall like most of their records and just fit the time, season, town, feel, world. - *Ross*

No album made more sense to me up until then or since then, someone else finally saw the world the same way I did. - *Pat O'Neill*

Rocks.

"Bastards of Young" and "Here Comes A Regular". If you need an explanation you'll never understand. - *Jim Lehmann*

I got drunk to it. A lot.

Mellow songs mixed in.

"Bastards of Young", "Swinging Party", every song on this album is great. - *Steve D.*

It's a close call, REALLY close, but *Tim* is my favorite. Why? Probably because I spent a whole lot of time commuting with that in my car when I first bought it. Noting like driving and music to set it in my mind.

"Left Of The Dial" and "Little Mascara" back to back. - *Matthew Y*

How can you go wrong here?

"Left Of The Dial".

The songs, obviously.

Because it was the first 'Mats album I heard, it holds a special place for me. Oh, and it also kicks colossal amounts of ass. - *Rob Pannell (Richmond, VA)*

It came out the year I graduated high school and entered college. So many great songs: "Left Of The Dial", "Kiss Me On The Bus", "Bastards Of Young"...

The entire songlist is amazing. Not a single song that I've grown tired of.

Just...the...whole...DAMN...thing! And the time it my life/stage I was in. Relate much ;)

Tons of great songs- and the 1-2-3 punch of "Little Mascara", "Left Of The Dial", and "Here Comes A Regular".

Just so many great songs. Hard to pick a favorite album. Could have said *Let It Be* or *Pleased To Meet Me*.

You only let me pick one. I picked one. Now leave me alone.

Every single song is a number one in disguise.

It's *Tim*. Duh.

"Kiss Me On The Bus" is the truest teenage unrequited lust song. - *Joe Brooks*

Tim is a great road trip album.

Every single song is amazing!

Was the first CD I ever bought. The sound was soooo BIG and when "Bastards of Young" kicks in, I felt saved. Like some kids in Minneapolis were able to put into words the emotions that I, a kid in Phoenix, was feeling but couldn't articulate.

"Here Comes A Regular".

I love the mix of emotion and many songs feel timeless. The variety of quick tempo versus slower songs are wonderful.

Great songs. "Bastards Of Young", "Here Comes A Regular", "Waitress In The Sky", "Little Mascara" ... the list goes on. And very nearly had "Can't Hardly Wait" too!

Great writing. Strong playing. Classic.

It's such a tough call. Every album post-*Hootenanny* corresponds with specific years in my life and memorable moments that still feel so real all these years later. Each album is so entangled that it almost makes me sad to have to choose between all of the most important events in my life. That said, *Tim* and *Don't Tell a Soul* are actually tied. *Tim*, because that album represents one of my best friendships I have ever had (Pam) and *Don't Tell A Soul* because it will forever be associated with my first real love (Brad).

The songs were by far the best especially at that time for me. Hearts on their sleeves, rockers, a little country, "Left Of The Dial" and probably the best drinking song ever written especially for a 21 year old wanna be punk! Production wasn't that good but at that time it just didn't matter. I still think it sounds great on vinyl! - *Kurt Bargas*

Excellent production (sorry, the band members who've slagged the production over the years are just wrong), the variety of the songs - soft, hard, loud, mellow, and the fantastic lyrics. It also features their best song ever, "Bastards of Young". Oh, and Paul's voice is amazing on this record, like always.

It is the first I heard, but it is also has some of the best songs. The thing about *Tim* is that the songs are so good, that they can shine through the shitty production of the 1980's. Overdubbed guitars and hollow drums can't keep this one from standing out, although I have always preferred bootlegs anyway. – *Alvaro*

Pleased To Meet Me is a close second (and occasional first favorite, truth be told). *Pleased To Meet Me* and *Tim* both have the perfect Westerberg blend of heart on the sleeve sentiment, piss and vinegar, one liners, and witfulness, all wrapped in (mostly) intelligent lyrics. – *Mark Timmins*

It is raw and catchy and incredible.

I loved listening to it all the time and still love it. – *Steve Howard*

First one I heard. Best collection of songs. Some say the production is bad. I don't agree. The production takes me back to the late 80s indie sound I grew to love. I'm from Georgia so Athens had a big influence on my taste in music. That record sounds like it could've come out of Athens.

Attitude.

It is 1, just ahead of 1A, 1B etc. *Tim*, *Pleased to Meet Me*, *Let It Be*, *All Shook Down*, *Don't Tell A Soul*, *Hootenanny*.

Best of their songs and my own name is Tim, so there's that.

The songs are great!

Personal reasons having to do with a rough spot in my life.

Best songs.

It's a tough call between *Tim*, *Pleased To Meet Me*, and *Let It Be*. All have great stuff, it just seems like the good songs/weak songs ratio is best (for me) on *Tim*. – *Neal Smyth*

Not the production, I never cared much for the sound of the recording. I always felt it kinda sounded tin can-ish, but the songs, holy shit. The thing is it nearly impossible for me to say it's my favorite though. *Sophie's Choice* but with more to choose from. I bet I listen to every album from *Let It Be* on, equally. – *Mark P. Weber*

Simple, why wouldn't the best album of all-time be my favorite? - *Todd Iverson*

Not a bum in the bunch.

Best blend of slow sad songs and fast, catchy sad songs.

The songs just resonate with me. It was the point of them going from this indie act sound to a little more polished on *Pleased To Meet Me*.

I love all their albums.

Mostly because I had to choose one. It was the first one I heard so it will always hold a place at or near the top. It has some of my favorite tunes on it including "Kiss Me On The Bus", "Bastards of Young" and "Left Of The Dial".

It could very well be thanks to the fact that it was the first NEW Mats' record I purchased right when it came out.

The songwriting on this album fits me best.

Partially because it was my first, but also the sentiments of the songs are especially hard hitting on this one for me.

There's nothing like your first time, right?

It's the first one I heard. It's full of great songs that are aggressive (sometimes aggressively dumb), sweet, funny, shy, and longing. It was a great soundtrack for adolescence and trying to figure shit out. It was good to know these guys didn't know what the hell they were doing either. It was a refuge. - *Eric White*

It's an impossible question, but *Tim* is the peak just before the original lineup fell apart. I love every single 'Mats album for different reasons & different moods. I've love some more than others and had some that I didn't care much for (*Don't Tell a Soul*) become a beloved favorite. The point is that there is so much heart, blood, sweat, blah, blah, blah in each album and they truly mark the evolution of the band and its members. They're all great. - *Tom Minarchick*

The Replacements, I think, captured the ineffable on *Tim*. Westerberg is at his wittiest and most tender, often in the same song (see "Swinging Party"). The band rocks like murder and then ends the record with a bonafide tear-jerker. Its eleven songs are a journey through desperation, loneliness, longing and twenty-something angst; a moment captured, imperfect and bewildered,

but with so much naked honesty and soul. All of their records, to me, are perfect in their own way, but Tim stirs up a wave of emotions and feelings that, on some days, convince me it's the most sadly beautiful record in the world. - *Connor Dinnison (Spokane, WA)*

Most consistently great.

It changed my whole outlook on how I heard music up until that point in my life.

The video for "Bastards of Young" is a huge plus, but for me, it all comes down to the songwriting. "Hold My Life," "Waitress In The Sky," and "Kiss Me On The Bus" are all greatness--but there are two that go way beyond that. "Left Of The Dial" might be my favorite song from the entire decade, any genre, whatever, and every time I hear "Here Comes A Regular," I get chills. It still moves me 30+ years later. The whole album, to my taste, is perfectly-produced and seems to have aged quite well. I still find myself listening to this one almost as often as I did back in the day. And sometimes, it still makes me wanna shotgun beer and damage patio furniture. I like that.

It's too tough to pick just one!.....

Incredible songwriting.

Strongest songs overall. I agree the mix is terrible but it became part of the charm.

It was a bold album going out in 10 different directions at once musically and hitting all the notes. Lyrical wit demurring anything and everything. There's the big debate between *Tim* and *Let It Be*, and if "Can't Hardly Wait" and some cut tracks made it on there'd be no doubt that *Tim* was the stronger period for the band.

It was the first one I heard. However, I immediately had to listen to the rest and loved them almost as much. *Let It Be* is a close second (1a, 1b). When *Pleased to Meet Me* came out in 1987, it about matched my love of *Tim*.

"Left Of The Dial", "Little Mascara" and "Here Comes A Regular" are the three greatest songs in a row on any album.

I learned to play guitar in high school and knew only a few chords, but just enough to play "Here Comes A Regular". It was an anthem my friends and I would sing over and over, late at night, several beers in, like shaggy alley cats. We had the opportunity to meet Westerberg in front of the Pine Street Theater in Portland in 1987 and realized he wasn't so much destined to be a rock and roll icon, he was really just one of us (albeit with freakishly great songwriting talent) and for

one fantastic 15 minute period of time, my friends and I and Paul Westerberg were musical and spiritual peers just walking down the street to get smokes and beers at 7-11. The crazy thing is, I'm 47 years old now and still feel just as moved by that moment as I did 30 years ago. I'm still a regular, God bless my guts.

It is really a tie between *Let It Be*, *Tim* and *Pleased To Meet Me* but, in the end, I think *Tim* has more of my favorite songs.

The songs, the urgency, the humour.

I think it has the best collection of songs. Everything on the record is good. But my favorite often changes between *Tim*, *Hootenanny*, and *Pleased To Meet Me*.

It's just so unhinged. Rock music the way it was always meant to be. Simply one of the greatest albums of the 20th century.

The prefect blend of greatly written songs and the band's sound at that time.

Lyrics and overall sound.

The contrast between rockers and ballads.

Perfect songcraft-- right melodies and great lyrics really came together on this record, as the band was just barely holding it together.

It's called *Tim*. And uh, it has like seven of my favorite songs of all-time on it. It's great! - *Nolan*

It really could have been any one out of *Tim*, *Let It Be*, *Pleased to Meet Me* ... But I chose *Tim* because some of my go-to songs are on it: "Left Of The Dial", "Little Mascara" and "Here Comes A Regular" (possibly the most heartbreaking song ever!)

First one I listened to. Also the most complete album with the least amount of filler. "Left Of The Dial", "Little Mascara", "Bastards Of Young", "Hold Your Life", "Waitress In The Sky", and "Here Comes A Regular" would all be huge rock hits if any other band released them.

"Bastards of Young" is on it.

Such a tough choice but *Tim* was (& is) such a beautiful and cohesive groove for me. From "Hold My Life" to kick it off to *Regular* to wind it down I feel it's very nearly perfect.

I love every song, the diversity of them, but I guess it's the killer trifecta of the way "Left Of The Dial" Leads into "Little Mascara" into "Here Comes A Regular" to close the album. Three moods that evoke different emotions and various stages of ennui. - *Rhys Wade*

I loved *Let It Be* and eagerly anticipated the next album and it floored me. Especially side two starting with "Bastards of Young" and the trifecta of "Left Of The Dial"- "Little Mascara"- "Here Comes A Regular". I wore out two cassette tapes within 2 years and *Tim* was the very first CD I ever bought, even before I owned a CD player to listen to it. - *Scott Fry*

My first.

The last three songs.

Was my first Replacements purchase and was my first CD.

One great song after another.

My brother Tim told me too "listen to this shit!!!!!! They're the next Great Train Wreck!" Tim's been gone 8 years, but anytime I hear the Matts, it brings back the great memories.
- *Kerry Miller*

Just so good.

I saw them for the first time in Lincoln, NE at the Drumstick during the Tim tour. Blew my mind. The melancholy that runs backwards and forwards always feels like a memory, like it was shot on Super 8 film. Like you're on a road trip at home.

The songs finally matched the raw desperation of the band for an entire album (hinted at with *Let It Be*). Also last record with Bob.

Fuck the haters. This has the best songs, period. If it had "Nowhere Is My Home" and the fast version of "Kiss Me On The Bus" AND "Can't Hardly Wait"? No brainerrrrr.

I think the high points are just as high as the other celebrated albums, and there are more of them, and the low points are still pretty good, too.

For me it's just the most consistent album. It also helps that it includes "Bastards of Young" and "Left Of The Dial" my two favourite songs. - *Nick Bryant (Taunton, UK)*

Love them all. But *Tim* is always my go to.

Best collection of tunes, best balance of rockin/soul-baring....and BOB!!

Every single song on this album spoke to me in 1985, and every song still does today, at some level. It's the one I put on repeat. (*Let It Be* is a close second.)

Something about it hangs together so perfectly, I love listening to it start to finish. It has eight of my favorite songs on it.

History. Personal and otherwise.

It was my first. That has forever endeared it to me.

The first one I wore out I guess.

It's just got everything. I can put that record on any time - happy or sad - and just the raw emotion almost overwhelms me. It gives me goose-bumps.

First album always makes an impression.

Any one of them could be my favorite on any given day, but *Tim* is consistently great throughout.

So many great songs. Rockers and then the mellow stuff intertwined.

Songs. Songs. Songs. Songs. - *Steven Wright*

The range - from "Bastards of Young" to "Here Comes A Regular" (probably my favorite song by the 'Mats).

The songs and the order they are in the album.

I can't think of an album that I ever felt closer to emotionally. Still today.

I know *Tim* brought their first commercial success but to me it was the last full one with Bob. *Let It Be* would be a close second in my book. - *Jason S.*

Can't put my finger on it. It was really a tough call between *Tim* and *Pleased to Meet Me*. It just seemed like Paul was speaking directly to me.

Tim was the first Replacements album I've ever heard in its entirety. After listening to "Fuck School" I immediately started looking for the band's albums and *Tim* was the first one I picked. There is that feeling that the first album you hear becomes your favourite no matter what, but after listening to all the albums over and over again, after being a huge Replacements fan, *Tim* continues being my favourite because it is definitely the apex as Paul, Bob, Tommy and Chris as a band. Paul composed his best lyrics, Bob his best riffs and solos, Tommy his best bass lines and Chris captured all the three and transformed it in big beats, conducting everything as never before. The album has everything: an anthem that every punk band must have: angst, emotional frustration, a love song, powerful lyrics and riffs. The soul of the band was being constructed with the first albums, and with *Tim* it was set free.

This was a pretty difficult question, but I went with the record (*Tim*) that's given me the most of everything over the years. It's a perfect platter of what makes the Mats great.

The songs are the perfect combination of being sensitive and soft but with the Replacements' punk-ish edge of the early days.

My favorite 'Mats album changes all the time, but I'll always have a special place for the 1st one that I devoured (*Tim*). Maybe it doesn't sound the best, but it's got some their best songs and I'll always remember how each song surprised me and how I lived with this album for so long.

The most consistent, tuneful, and edgy collection. Wish the production wasn't so damned muddy though.

I am partial to the songs on this album. they were song with amazing hooks that still let the wires show.

All killer, no filler. Just an immense selection of great songs - fist pumping anthemic stuff right through to the heartbreak melancholy of "Here Comes A Regular"

"Left Of The Dial"/"Bastards of Young".

It's just wall to wall fantastic, great songs, produced well.

Diversity, emotion and songwriting.

"Left Of The Dial".

It was the album that changed me. - *Brian*

In spite of the muddy production and lack of Bob's involvement during the recording (if the written accounts are true), it contains some of Paul's best songs. Just for shit and giggles, *Hootenanny* is my second favorite.

The cover. Just bull shitting ya! The songs and the singer's voice.

Although I was introduced to the 'Mats with *Let It Be*, for me, *Tim* is where it all came together. OK, it has that big obnoxious '80s production, but the songs are pretty much straight-ahead. No wacky covers, no drunken obnoxiousness, just wall-to-wall goodness. For years (including now), it was one of my go-to albums when I was having a tough time with things. Even now, I can think of some great Westerberg lines - "You and I fall together/You and I sleep alone", "Time for a decision to be made - crack up in the sun/Lose It In the Shade", "God, what a mess on the ladder of success/you take one step and miss the whole first rung..." *Tim* isn't just a great album - it's the Great American Novel in musical form. And I'm sticking by that proclamation.

- *Gordon Dymowski*

I know *Tim* is probably not most people's favorite. While the production is lacking, the songs are the best written of Westerberg's career. You might think well, "Left of Dial" is the one that drew me in. Nope. "Little Mascara" is the one. Again probably not most people's top choice for favorite 'Mats song. I just love the lyrics and that intro with Bob's lead! This is the song that showed me you can write a great rock song about everyday things. Rock doesn't have to be this groundbreaking, change the world, political message. To a young, budding, songwriter this was a revelation. - *Rich Yarges*

I enjoy blasting "Bastards of Young" in my car, in particular Paul's opening yell, especially if it's been a long day. "Swingin' Party" is one of my favorite Replacements songs and I relate to the lyrics.

Because I could only choose the one! My mental answer was "all of them!"

Nice combination of heartfelt songs, uptempo rockers and never-were-but-should've-been anthems.

It has everything. Paul was probably 25 when he wrote a lot of the songs, they had left Twin/Tone...so many things going on! - *Kelly Harmon*

While it was my first Replacements experience I do believe it is that band at the height of their powers. Solid album start to finish. No filler all killer! - *Pat Jarvis*

Westerberg at his writing peak, Bob still in the band.

All the songs are good.

"Left Of The Dial" and "Bastards of Young" and "Here Comes A Regular" - probably the single best three songs ever written on one album.

The perfect mix of songs.

"Here Comes A Regular". And everything else.

The contrast of harder songs with the Westerberg angsty songs. - *Joel in Iowa*

A lot of people can't get past the production issues with this album, but to me, this album has some of the greatest 'Mats songs ever written. I'm here for the songs, not the production value. Let's be honest, if I were looking for great production, I would have never gotten into the 'Mats. :D

It's a complete album. It amazes me how much more I enjoy it when I listen from start to finish rather than getting a song or two here or there in a random iPod play. - *Chris Ilcin*

Tim is the one that got me hooked on the 'Mats. I still find myself playing just about every song on this one over and over from "Little Mascara", "Left Of The Dial", Waitress in the Sky, "Hold My Life" - all so good and mean so much!

No big reason. It has my favorite songs.

My older brother bought it for me. He passed away at 47, way too young.

Tim was like the life story of the missing kid on the milk carton that ended up in the trash from "Nowhere Is My Home", whether or not that kid got to live it or not...we did. The shadow of "real life" now looms large over the stock pile of teenage kicks.

Everything. It works as an album, tracks back to back-as well as stand alone songs. It brings me right back to my youth in South Minneapolis. This band represented me. Angst. Irreverence, intelligence with tongue planted firmly in cheek. It was deep with out drama. It was perfectly my youth.

It reminds me of a pure time. Before adulthood, before responsibility. Things were easier when

you just popped in a tape and sat in your room. Who can deny the masterful musings of "Little Mascara" and "Bastards of the Young"? - *Angie Pezel*

Every song on it is awesome!

Hard decision. *Tim* was the first album that I listened to from the band. Just front to back solid 'Mats stuff.

It's damn near perfect, the exception being "Dose of Thunder." If someone asked, "who are The Replacements?", *Tim* answers the question. - *Scott Downs*

Poor sound on the original recording, but the still the best collection of songs put together on any of their records.

It captures the 'Mats at their best, not worried about making an album that would "fit in and need to have a hit" or "fit in to the musical environment" of the time. They were somewhere between "we don't want to be who we were" and "we never wanted to end up like this".
- *Patrick O'Neill*

"Here Comes A Regular".

So good all the way through.

Best writing. "Left Of The Dial", "Little Mascara", "Bastards of Young"...enough said.

So hard to pick, but I think it just really spoke to me the most at the time. My roommates and I played the shit out of it for a year straight!

"Here Comes A Regular", Waitress in the Sky, "Bastards of Young", "Left Of The Dial", "Little Mascara". You could make a pretty strong argument that all of Westerberg's best songs are right here on this album. I mean, "Can't Hardly Wait" was an outtake for Christ's sake! Wrap your head around that motherfuckers! *Pleased To Meet Me* comes close, but feels a bit unfocused compared to *Tim*. Plus, Bob is on this one. - *Eric Tufford*

Perfect combination of insight-"Swinging Party", "Here Comes A Regular", great rock and roll-"Bastards of Young", and punk trash- "Lay It Down Clown"- that makes them great.

The dirty ramshackle feeling of the rockers and the heart on my sleeve vibe of the slower stuff. Plus "Left Of The Dial". Greatest song ever!

The songs, the sound, I've never heard anything like it.

It could be any of the high triumvirate on any given day. Today is *Tim's* lucky day.

- *Ray Infussi* aka *hit_it_bob*

Aside from the great tracks? Probably the timing, more than anything, i.e. listening to it at that age.

First album I heard, so it sticks with me the most. It was so different than anything else I had heard before, but had an inexplicable familiarity at the same time. So many of Westerberg's best songs are on this record.

Every song hits that sweet spot between your gut and your groin. - *Bob Gill*

Its beautiful, heartfelt and epic songs.

The songs resonate with me most.

Start to finish a great LP. Still has the rough edge I loved about *Let It Be*.

Rockers Rocker Rockers!! Oh yeah with "Here Comes A Regular" - *Rob Hankosky*

First one I owned. Has more of my favorites than any other.

"Waitress in the Sky".

I think *Tim* is my favorite because it had that perfect blend of hard rockers and heartfelt ballads, a cover song that rocked, tongue-in-cheek tunes, serious longing, just everything. And the lyrics, I think, are among Westerberg's best.

From start to finish I could listen to this album for eternity. The guitar hooks from the rockers to the ballads kill me every time. Layer on the lyrics and the entire experience just goes straight to my heart like a bullet. By the way it was very hard to pick just one album - all are equally excellent in their own different ways. No two albums were the same - there is true beauty and honesty in that. - *Elaine Pan*

It's the one I became most familiar with.

Fantastic songs.

It contains my favorite song by any band, "Left Of The Dial".

It's tough because the masterful trilogy of *Let It Be*, *Tim*, and *Pleased to Meet Me* is really impossible to pick a favorite. *Tim* was the middle release of those three and had a perfect blend of everything I love about them. Great songwriting, just enough grit and the last time we got to hear Bob with them.

The most obvious and truthful answer is that *Tim* was the first Mats album I owned, so of course it's gonna be my favourite! - *Shant Pelley*

Great songs, sentimental value.

Great middle ground between wild early years / "mature" songwriting.

"Bastards Of Young", "Left Of The Dial", "Here Comes A Regular", "Little Mascara"

Such great songs and over 30 years later the last 3 make the hair on the back of my neck stand up. Every time.

Stand out song for me was "Here Comes A Regular" Sorta reminded me of the company that I was keeping way back then. - *Mona T*

First one purchased and every track a killer.

It's a moving target, but *Tim* seems to stay #1 most of the time. "Here Comes A Regular" is my favorite tune.

There is a moment when "Left Of The Dial" has just faded out and you know "Little Mascara" will start in the very next moment. That is as close as I ever come to pure bliss. - *Rick Varco*

Though *Let It Be* made me a 'Mats fan, *Tim* solidified it. Just so many great songs including my favorite "Bastards of Young". - *Ken French*

The last three songs on *Tim* just are so brilliant it was always fun to listen to that album knowing it was going to end on such a high note. Overall the whole album is great with only "Dose of Thunder" and perhaps "Lay it Down Clown" being a few rungs below that. I've heard complaints about the production, but my original vinyl copy still sounds great. There are other comments about song selection and not having "Can't Hardly Wait" or "Nowhere Is My Home", which may be valid but overall this is their best work in my opinion. Lots of albums start out great, but tend

to fade out. Not *Tim*.

Tim, to me, really is the most consistent Replacements record. It's the last one with Bob and to me, really captures the band at its finest. Yeah the production isn't great but the songs are there and some of the most classic Mats songs are on that record. - *Kevin Parkhurst*

It's hard to choose one. I think *Tim* was so important. Yes, it was the major label debut, but it was really going further. It really stretched. It was intense and everything else at once. Ultimately, I think the songwriting was at a peak in so many ways.

It's the perfect mix of great songs and great energy. Earlier albums were more raw but were inconsistent in terms of the writing. Some of the later albums were a little too produced, even if their songs might have been better crafted. But *Tim* had it all.

"Swingin' Party" and "Bastards of Young". Rough and heartbreaking.

"Bastards of Young". That is all. - *jrs*

When *Tim* came out I listened to it every single day for months even though I might not like some of the production values it'll always have a special place for me. Saw them on that tour and every tour after that.

The last three tracks.

Four words: "Here Comes A Regular"

Well for so many different reasons. It's the first album I got from the 'Mats (on vinyl too), and I was 18. Before this I was solely listening to punk rock and hardcore. This album opened me up to so many other genres like power pop and alt country. I also had just started dating my then girlfriend now wife around the same time too so it holds so many wonderful memories. It still remains (after more than 13 years now) not just my favorite 'Mats album but my favorite album of all-time period. - *Derek Robertson*

The song "Kiss Me On The Bus" - it taught me that songwriting can be both incredibly catchy and even touching (when the chorus opens up with a key change, I feel a lump in my throat), super radio friendly, while still being truly underground with loose stray riffs, and slice of life images like a bus or a kiss on said bus. Even this song, with its happy theme, feels like it's sung by the ultimate anti-heroes and that it wasn't a particularly nice bus. No one nailed that beautiful loser vibe like the Replacements, no one's ever even come close. - *Ari Vais*

First, it is hard to pick one Replacements album that is your favorite. But, being pressed it would be *Tim*. There are so many great songs on this album that showed how much the band had matured from their earlier albums. The songs are well crafted with a balance of different sounds and moods. This album should have received much more attention and acclaim than it received at the time. In general, I think the Replacements never got their due and the recognition they truly deserved. Their catalog of music will stand the test of time and has the power to keep inspiring new fans. - *Mark J. Chambers*

For one thing - that amazingly perky (but just the right amount of sarcasm) song - "Waitress In The Sky" plus a few others.

"Swingin' Party", "Little Mascara", "Left Of The Dial", "Bastards of Young".

Late nights in grad school, sitting in my student office, listening to "Here Comes A Regular" and "Swingin' Party" and watching it rain. Never gets old. - *Valerie*

Just chose it at random.....really cannot choose a favourite.

Memories mainly. Hard, fast driving accelerated by a break up with a first love (asshole!)

Just love the vibe!

There is an immediacy and passion to the lyrics, and they speak to everyday life. "Playing makeup and wearing guitar" is about as amazing an image as there is in all of Paul's lyrics. And the guitars rock.

The songs the songs the songs.

Tim - best and most consistent songs.

I find that most bands strike a mid-career period when they're still ramshackly (is that a word?) enough, but they've figured out a bit more about songwriting (and playing). I think *Let It Be/Tim/Pleased to Meet Me* is that period for the 'Mats.

The songs are great and I never get tired of it.

"Left Of The Dial" and "Nowhere Is My Home".

Just love it, but that's trying to pick your favorite kid... - *Jeff Hillyard*

PLEASED TO MEET ME

It's really a three way tie but I've probably listened to *Pleased To Meet Me* the least of the big three so it feels a tad fresher.

It's a full effort and every song is a keeper.

This album feels like the coming together of all the elements that I love about The Replacements. Kick ass, tender, don't care / care too much sort of thing. Not over produced but not demos either. - *Nigel Banks*

I feel like this is what every other album lead up to- and fell away from. Not that they're not all phenomenal! This one happens to be their pinnacle. - *Calvin Lipetzky*

Most consistent songwriting, no throwaways.

The song "Never Mind".

It just is. I keep coming back to it more than the others.

Time in my life, it just was the perfect narrative.

It kicks ass start to finish.

Pleased To Meet Me is my favorite only because it has "Can't Hardly Wait" on it!

The memories of the time.

"Alex Chilton".

It's not. It's a trick question and I had to pick one.

It's always a close call between the trinity, but *Pleased To Meet Me* is the album I most often want to go back and listen to. The album sounds great, Paul's writing is at its peak, and the songs rock - especially Paul's guitar. But ask me next week and I might say *Tim* or *Let It Be*.

Best songs + the best production of any 'Mats album.

I lied. I can't pick a favorite. - Gord

The songs, the production, the look of the band at this time.

I think it's because it has a good mix of rockers and ballads and always has been the album I play to let friends hear and fall in love with the band like I did.

Pleased To Meet Me was the first 'Mats album I heard in their collection, it was what began my love affair with the band. It's nostalgic and perfect. I can listen to it today and it takes me back to

some of the best times of my life. To this day, it's my go to album, my deserted island album and one that I could listen to on repeat and never tire of. - *Kara Martin*

I just love how much it rocks. Just a straight power album.

Pleased To Meet Me is perfect. It is just great from start to finish. It runs a whole landscape of emotion, is thoroughly honest, incredibly upbeat and full of joy, hilarious and playful...but also touching, reflective, lonely and haunting. And it all just fits together so perfectly. Of course it's also very raw, like all 'Mats compilations. *Pleased To Meet Me* is pure and heartfelt and it's just my very fave 'Mats album. (BUT...I love them all!) - *Suzi Mattox*

First thought best thought. - *Zak Boerger*

Cool.

First one.

The connection to the music which really cover all the records. There was something very easy and honest about connecting with their music.

I played a number of these songs so it stuck with me. *Tim* and *Let It Be* follow closely though.

It was the record that proved they could continue on without Bob, and they all threw themselves at it. Literally and figuratively.

All killer no filler!

All Shook Down hooked me in, then I worked my way backwards through the catalog. I've never done that with any other band. *Pleased To Meet Me* has an energy that I love, maybe it's the underdog truly overachieving – three guys trying to sound like four? Trying to justify a big contract after *Tim* flopped? Trying to justify working with Jim Dickinson? Whatever it is, it stands out to me as the best of a solid bunch. - *Steve*

Best songs start to finish.

All killer, no filler like some of the others.

Consistently great songs. Hard pick between this one and *Tim* and *Let It Be*.

It was the first of their albums (or in my case, cassette) that I went out and bought myself. The opening lines of "I.O.U." made me feel a little rebellious. As a 14 year old "smart girl," I felt like maybe I was listening to something I shouldn't be!

An instant knockout for me. I'd never heard pre-*Pleased To Meet Me* albums so I wasn't familiar with Bob but I loved Paul's writing, singing and guitar. Especially his different guitar tunings. It was all new to me. - *Dan Kaspari*

The album showcases all of the things that made the Replacements so great. Angst, humor, confusion, love as well as so much more is found on that record. The production is top notch too. I absolutely love the sound of Chris's snare drum. I don't think they ever wrote a bad record, but boy did they step it up on this one. - *Anthony Merchant*

Thanks for making me waste ten minutes toggling in between *Tim* and *Pleased to Meet Me*! :)

It's the greatest (white? American?) rock n' roll album made in the '80s. Name one that's better. It could be the best ever. The songwriting; the production; the performances; the spirit of it... All of it! And I still hear new things from it. One day I might know all its lyrics!

"Can't Hardly Wait". Beautiful lyrics. Great Westerberg rasp. Horn section. It's got everything. I can listen to it on a loop for hours. And you have to love that it gets an assist on guitar from the guy for whom track two is named. That's Charlie Kaufman shit.

A little more refined than earlier but still has that garage band feel to it.

Pleased To Meet Me kind of has it all. You get the catchy pop majesty of "Can't Hardly Wait," the rocking homage of "Alex Chilton," the great mid-album 1-2 of ""Never Mind"" and "Valentine" (and who could forget the wonderful line "Well you wished upon a star... that turned into a plane"?) and the beautiful and tender gem "Skyway". The title of the album is great too... sort of the 'Mats at their snarky best. - *Gregg G (Fairfax, Virginia)*

"Alex Chilton". - *Trevor Jones of Trevor and The Joneses*

There is something utterly joyous about *Pleased To Meet Me*. The energy feels lighter, the songs more spirited, the production brighter. Not to mention inclusion of the most brilliant "Can't Hardly Wait" (despite the strings!) I should confess that around this time I found myself falling in love and the guy I was falling for likewise had a connection to these songs, so my fond memories of the relationship also left their mark on the music. - Andy (S.F.)

Memories from the time it came out. Was never without it nearby.

So many good lines. "Can I use your hairspray", "get me out of this stinkin' fresh air", "Jesus rides beside me", "my stupid hat and gloves", and on and on. Mixed bag of everything. And of course "I owe you nothing". I would vomit if they were really famous.

I always felt that this was the best produced album of the Replacements. I also liked how diverse the songwriting was.

The sound.

I just love it from beginning to end. It's true Mats with an extra touch of romantic loneliness. "Nightclub Jitters" is perfection. - *Kim Lockwood*

Right now it's because "Skyway" and "Can't Hardly Wait" are on it. Those two songs are two of my favorites at the moment. Also, *Pleased To Meet Me* is to me their most true rock album. I love all the songs. I like the production, I love Tommy's playing. Paul's vocals are cutting, compelling, and moving. "Valentine", "I.O.U.", and "I Don't Know" are incredible songs. But, this changes all the time. Catch me at the right time and I am killing my car's MP3 player with *Let It Be*. There are times when I find "I Will Dare" and "Unsatisfied" to hurt so good and to cut so close to my soul. It can be painful and yet extremely therapeutic to sing along with those two songs. My 19 year old daughter loves "Sixteen Blue". It's her favorite Replacement song. So, we listen to that together a lot. Also, "Sixteen Blue"'s guitar solo at the end is right up there with the greats - it's soaring anguish at its best. *Tim*: to me is lyrically the best one. The music is not quite as strong though and I wish Alex Chilton had produced it. It's the album full of Gen X anthems. Brilliant songs. So, sometimes that can be my favorite. Finally, if you had asked me this six years ago, I would have said *Don't Tell a Soul*. Great songs on this one throughout. But, recently, I don't play this one as much. Do I have to pick just one? - Rick R.

Tough call between *Pleased To Meet Me* and *Tim* - both brimming with amazing songs, but the performances, and especially the production provided by Jim Dickinson and the folks at Ardent, just nailed it. - Chris Champagne

Its variety and its sincerity. Its sound. Its rawness. "Can't Hardly Wait". "Valentine". "I.O.U.". Nuff said.

Still sounds great (they all do) start to finish ... So I guess it'd be Jim Dickenson's fault.

"Alex Chilton" says it all.

Their two best albums are *Tim* and *Pleased To Meet Me*. What separates the two for me is the production quality. Both are legendary, tremendous albums though.

It makes my heart feel full.

Perfect songs, perfect production. A little bit of everything they did well.

Hated it upon first listen, grew on me with every subsequent spin.

Just great songs...produced really well.

The songwriting started to peak here as well as production and musicianship. - Kevin L.

It was the first full album I listened to and I loved the mix of slow songs and the angry punk stuff.

No skippable songs. Not the best songs ever, but no songs like "Gary's Got a Boner" which I never really need to hear again.

Don't know, I think it's how they came along and just sounded polished.

Really?

It's professional like their later albums, but still rocks and has the edge of their earlier efforts. Plus, the songs are great.

It was the first album I was aware of.

Quintessential 'Mats at their peak. Many of their best songs on it together.

So many of them are excellent albums, *Pleased To Meet Me* just has slightly more awesome songs than the others, but *Tim*, or *Let It Be* or *Don't Tell a Soul* could also be my favorite on any given day. - *Don N*

Still raw but with just enough production.

Strong set of songs.

I like the range from crazy, defiant, smart, sloppy, and deep.

Every song on it is a keeper. Some of my favorite tunes are on earlier albums, but as a whole, *Pleased To Meet Me* has the best continual flow from song to song.

My favorite 'Mats song ("Can't Hardly Wait") is on it.

This is such a hard question. I love *Tim* and *Let It Be*, and songs like "Androgynous", "Little Mascara" and "Bastards of Young" are some of their best, but at the end of the day I think the songwriting and structure really came into itself on *Pleased To Meet Me*. I probably like the energy of *Let It Be* more, and I might have more favorite songs on *Tim*, but *Pleased To Meet Me* is, to me, the only album that is fucking great and sounds like an incredibly powerful band front to back. There are very few weak moments on *Pleased To Meet Me*. - *Brian Brownell*

Well, I think it was the time of my life I bought it/listened to it, which was the summer and fall of '87. I was 21 years old. It was the right time for that kind of post-adolescent ennui. I'll just say that although it was a short album (33 minutes) it had everything I needed and liked and that resonated with my life. Kickass rock'n'roll ("I.O.U."), glorious power pop ("Alex Chilton", "Valentine", "Never Mind"), deeply depressing songs ("The Ledge"), and a kind of melancholy love ("Skyway", "Can't Hardly Wait"). The production values have made it strange now but I still go back to that album as one that essentially defined by early 20s, leading me to much other good music. More important, it helped soundtrack those lonely moments when anger, loneliness, and confusion converged at 2 am in the morning when with no hope of sleep on the horizon. - *Asif*

For a directionless, suburban San Fernando Valley kid of the Reagan era, the spirit and lyrical themes of *Pleased To Meet Me* clearly reflected both my own, and my friend's lives. - *G. Kurbikoff*

They went from a punk band to artists. Also, they had the huge challenge to record as a three piece. Lastly, it makes me feel 20 again!

On that album the Band sounded liberated and at that age and time, so felt I.

Stories of its recording, Jim Dickinson getting what he got outta the boys thru spite not respect and he was just fine with that. Love the guitar sounds on this album and really Jim D.

Love the overall sound, and "Can't Hardly Wait", "I.O.U.", and "The Ledge" are among my favorite songs of All-time.

It was the first one I heard and I played it over and over again. I really liked "The Ledge" from the start, and the rest of it quickly grew on me. I could relate to a lot of what they were saying, and I loved the music.

From beginning to end this album has great songs.

Very hard to choose. *Pleased To Meet Me* is just the most consistent from beginning to end.

The songwriting is top notch. Diversity, tenderness and fun all rolled up into one. It just notches out *Tim* for me.

Because it's perfect from start to finish.

It's changed over the years. Right now it's my favorite because my kids love "Alex Chilton" and "Can't Hardly Wait". The love driving and singing along.

Just great songwriting. I like every album in the later years.

Hard to choose just one album, but *Pleased To Meet Me* is just so diverse. It covers jazz in "Nightclub Jitters," has glorious horns in "Can't Hardly Wait," flicks the finger in "I Don't Know." And "Alex Chilton." Unstoppable, I say.

It's a good-rockin', hard-hitting, thoughtful-funny record. A breath of fresh air in the era of formula hair bands.

It's the best one. :)

Well, to begin with, it's next to impossible for me to choose between *Pleased To Meet Me*, *Tim*, and *Hootenanny*. I'm going with *Pleased To Meet Me* just for the opener, "I.O.U.". The rest of the album's great, too, but that tune just sets the mood right off the bat.

It is difficult to pick but it was the first I heard so my favourite. Paul's songwriting was at career defining best at this time.

It depends on my mood! I can't pick a fave :). I picked this so I could move onto the next question.

Lordy...

I really loved the addition of the horn section on this album. I felt like it showcased the depth and breadth of their collective talent, and I never took it as a sellout. Lyrically, it's brilliant. Musically, it appeals to so many moods and tastes all in one record. If I had to live on a deserted island for the rest of my life with only one set of songs to hear... yep, this is it for me. - *Shelly Johnson*

Simple - highest percentage of songs I really love.

The songs. - *Gordon Gunn*

Consistently strong. Nothing close to filler in my book. While *Let It Be* might have fit early high school emotions, *Pleased To Meet Me* spoke to 19 year old me. Or more accurately, it said what I wish I could express, all the disparate parts of me.

The right place, the right time. The sheer unbelievable knockout punch-in-the-balls power of the first three tracks, one right after another. All subjective, but for me it's arguable my favorite three tracks in a row of any album, ever. Still gives me goose bumps when I crank it up to unreasonable sound levels...

Pleased To Meet Me was my first 'Mats album and the one that has stuck with me. It's noisy and melodic, with a bright, clean sound. The record has so many great songs that I can't pick a favorite. But I can't imagine a world without "Valentine". Paul's singing throughout is some of the finest; his voice is raspy, wistful, heart-shredding, soulful... I always thought he had the perfect rock n roll voice. This album always features Chris Mars' finest performance on record. His playing is fiery and propels the band forward like a punk rock Charlie Watts. That click track served him well! My only complaint remains what they didn't do, and that is to include "Run for the Country," one of Paul's best ballads.

The combination of songs and sound. The songs on *Let It Be* and *Tim* are just as strong or a bit stronger but I've been more likely to listen to *Pleased To Meet Me* over the years due to its clarity of production

Great from start to finish.

I wrote a 'love letter' to the album on my blog a few years back. It says everything that I feel about this album. It just spoke to me as a 19 year old getting ready to leave friends and family and go away to school. The way Paul Westerberg sang with ragged desperation. The way Tommy Stinson and Chris Mars drove the music through your soul like a hammer slamming a nail into wood. The sensible, sometimes fun, and sometimes sad song writing. This album led me to become a full-fledged Replacements addict. I collected everything I could find, from music, to

magazines, to VHS tapes of them, and finally into an underground tape trading circuit where (I also met some neat people and still correspond with them today; Rob, C9) I collected tons of great live music, demos and outtakes from my new obsession and it stemmed from falling in love with *Pleased To Meet Me*. - *Freddy Caple*

<http://freddysopenmind.blogspot.com/2012/06/replacements-pleased-to-meet-me.html>

"Can't Hardly Wait" and "Valentine".

All the songs are good and the atmosphere when I play it, which I still do.

It is impossible for me to pick a favorite. I already wish I had selected *Tim*.

Jim Dickinson managed to bring out the best and worst in them and the songs are all classics. That being said, *Tim*, *Let It Be*, *Hootenanny* and *Sorry Ma* are all outstanding.

The 1-2 punch of "Never Mind" and "Valentine" would be worth it alone. But Westerberg pulled me out of a crowd to slow dance to "Nightclub Jitters" when I was 18, so I guess I'm kind of partial.

This is a tough one. There all great! I think pleased to meet me is when they hit their stride and could of catapulted them to stardom. Thank God that didn't happen.

I could have answered *Let It Be*, *Tim* or *Pleased To Meet Me*. Simple answer, the songs, the writing and the emotion.

Maybe the mix, because the "Mats are in your face with this one; great songs, "The Ledge", especially; also I remember rooting for it to be a great album when it came out; it would have sucked if Bob was kicked out and then they came up with a clunker. - *Stephen O'Donnell*

Songwriting, spirit, production.

Sort of my first love but I also like *Let It Be* and *Tim* equally as well.

"The Ledge" was a pretty big deal song for me as a teenager struggling to make sense of the bullshit around me. Though it was clearly about suicide, I made it more of an anthem of mine about being alone, 'ignored', totally confused, frustrated and giving everyone a big FU. My father was a total drunk and shit was starting to fall apart for our family this record especially got me though many years of pain for sure.

It has horns on it.

Great production and takes me back to a specific time and place.

It's one great song after another and seemed to capture the style that The Replacements had been developing in their previous records. It's a cohesive collection of songs. - *Michael Di Tullio*

It's so hard to pick one. My favorite three are *Let It Be*, *Tim*, and *Pleased To Meet Me*. Those three are the best records ever made. I chose *Pleased To Meet Me* over the others because I think it's the tightest album with the best production with the least throwaway songs. But I could pick one of the other tomorrow for an equally legitimate reason. - *Matt Farr*

I am not sure why. I think there is something about *Pleased To Meet Me*... those first three songs, just bam, bam, bam. Plus, my most favorite song in the world, "Valentine", is on it. I love all of them. They are all great albums, I always seem primarily drawn to this one. - *Beth Deblois*

"Alex Chilton" and "Can't Hardly Wait" are among my favorite songs.

"I.O.U" is such a throw down of an opener. And "Can't Hardly Wait" is my favorite Replacements song.

Perfect balance of pop, punk, songwriting and chops.

i just couldn't believe how rock n roll it was compared to the crap and drivel of music at that time. hair bands? oh god no. - *Ron Layton*

Pleased To Meet Me has a little bit for everybody and little more of it than *Hootenanny* or *Let It Be*.

Most consistent songwriting. Most fun.

Every note feels needed.

Best songs from start to finish, best sounding album (although I suppose it's heresy to say "best sounding" when talking about The Replacements).

I like that the guys were branching out a bit. It flows well from top to bottom. The only song I ever skip is "The Ledge," because sometimes it's just too sad.

It's a tough call for me between *Pleased To Meet Me* and *Let It Be*. While I appreciate that *Let It Be* probably has a lot more significance to the band and most fans, *Pleased To Meet Me* was the one that really hooked me in given that I discovered the albums basically in reverse order.

Every song is great. The album is very high energy and you gotta love love "Skyway"!

Toss up between this and *Tim*. Just think the stronger songs on *Pleased To Meet Me* are a little better, AND... "Alex Chilton"! - *Chuck Evans*

Because it's the best fucking rock and roll album of all fucking time! (Except for probably *Who's Next*). - *Dan Mucha*

Horns and groove.

Pleased To Meet Me is my favorite album for a lot of reasons. It is the first album where you get the sense that they are really trying to make something great. All that without being overly produced, it has a bigger sound that comes out in so many ways, including the horns. The opening guitar riffs tear into "Alex Chilton" and Paul's voice is so strong. Side two is a masterpiece with "Never Mind", "Valentine" and Paul's best acoustic ballad, "Skyway". If Minneapolis had an official song it would be "Skyway". The capper is "Can't Hardly Wait" which is on most lists for best Replacements song of all-time. - Todd Scott (Minneapolis, MN)

Songs+Production=Perfect

"Can't Hardly Wait"! "Valentine"! "Never Mind"!

First heard, best sequencing, performances, production & song selection.

It's a close toss-up between *Tim* and *Pleased To Meet Me*, which can mostly go song for song ("Valentine" compared to "Little Mascara"; "Regular" for "Skyway") and "Can't Hardly Wait" is the tipping point that nudges it over the edge. Changes daily though. Cheers...love the newsletter!

Probably that it was the first album I bought of theirs has some sort of effect on my decision making. But I think it's just the album that has the highest percentage of catchy, "hit"-type songs but is still rocking too. I'm a sucker for the pop hooks on so many of the songs.

Do you ask a parent if and why they have a favorite kid?

Great tunes and gives me good memories of university.

It was the first Replacements album that I had bought. Loved the raucous, boozy tunes and the contrast of those songs to songs like "Skyway".

Probably since it was my first 'Mats album on vinyl and played it all the time back in high school.

Jim Dickinson captured the feel and energy of the 'Mats.

Pleased To Meet Me is a phenomenal collection of songs that are recorded with ideal production for The 'Mats sound. *Pleased To Meet Me* has my all-time favorite 'Mats song - "Never Mind" - along with such stone-cold classics as "Alex Chilton", "Skyway", "Can't Hardly Wait", "I.O.U.", and "Valentine". Can't beat that collection of songs.

Best songs, songwriting and musicianship, even as a trio.

First album I heard. Still prefer it over *Let It Be* and *Tim*.

Tim had better stuff but face-planted on the way up the church aisle. Throw out two-three three semi-flat notes and *Pleased To Meet Me* might be the best thing I own.

"Can't Hardly Wait".

Solid rock! Memphis/Big Star connection.

I think it's the best blend of sad, wistful and sarcastic of all their work. Add in the strong guitars and how diverse the song melodies are and it really shows their sincere range.

The songs are outstanding! The album ends with my two favorite songs by the band - "Skyway" and "Can't Hardly Wait". When the horns appear, it never fails to move me!

My brother started working for them at that time....and the tunes!

Just a great album through and through. Plus the nostalgia of college

"Skyway", "I.O.U."

Every tune rocks with awesome lyrics.

It's my favorite because it was my first 'Mats album. - *Ken Reeve*

The fact it has my favorite song "Alex Chilton", all of the songs are strong on this LP: "I.O.U.", "Skyway", etc.

This album perfectly captures the raw, rebellious spirit of the early 'Mats catalog coupled with the power-pop sensibility of later works blending the two styles into an energy and sound that no one else has captured as well on vinyl. That coupled with the fact that there is no better balanced song ever recorded than "Can't Hardly Wait", makes *Pleased To Meet Me* a must have for anyone that loves music. - *Chad Cooley*

"Skyway", "Alex Chilton", "Can't Hardly Wait".

"All killer, no filler," songs which are both rocking and emotionally moving, plus a perfectly sequenced side two.

Good mix of writing, thrash, and humor.

I love Jim Dickinson's production, for a start. The album is tight and sounds great. Playing as a trio really seemed to suit them in Memphis. It's the perfect 'Mats record: some really classic tunes and the filler is more-filling than most.

Best combination of production, songwriting, and attitude.

"Alex Chilton" and "Skyway" on the same album. 29 minutes of near-perfection.
- *Steve Scollard (NY)*

"I Don't Know".

What isn't there to like? It's everything an album should be. Catchy as hell, massive sing along choruses, doesn't outstay it's welcome. It's a record that never gets boring, everything about it stands out without any one piece overshadowing the rest and even the artwork, for me, is one of the most iconic images that's ever graced a record cover. Can you tell I'm not a professional music reviewer? - *Kev Leam*

Great songs, production and performance.

DON'T TELL A SOUL

"Achín To Be".

I had to pick one. They all amaze me on so many different levels.

This was a difficult choice. The songs on here just make me feel a certain way that none of the others do, except for *Folker*, maybe. And *14 Songs*. And *Suicane Gratifaction*. And... This is too hard. - *Linda Ridenour*

Despite the common critiques of this album - mostly in regards to its engineering and production - it is probably my favorite 'Mats record. Paul himself writes this album off as being lousy and overproduced, but to me this was the key record of their Sire era, and should have been the one that pushed them over the top. In my opinion, one of the reasons that didn't happen was that "I'll Be You" was the wrong choice for a first single. "Talent Show", "Back To Back", "Asking Me Lies", or "Anywhere's Better Than Here" would have been better choices. Honestly, I actually quite like the production of the album. The drum sound was the biggest and best achieved on any of their Sire albums. The use of synths, atmospheric textures, harmonies and effects created an expansive feel that freed the group more than ever from the trappings of tight didactic guitar rock, yet they still included wonderful moments of howling and thrashing like they were in the Stinson's basement. It struck a beautiful blend and balance of all of Paul's song styles, with clear and crisp radio-friendly production. It achieved the goal of capturing every different facet of the band and Paul's writing, in the format of a well-produced major label recording. If the album had achieved the commercial success that it deserved, Paul and 'Mats fans wouldn't be writing it off. I think the heartbreak and disappointment of its underwhelming chart performance despite its obvious brilliance ultimately caused Paul to place blame on the production. "It's only in self defense"...

For me the songs on this album were oh so meaningful. And beautiful all of them. This question is a really tough one as a die hard "Mats" fan, I love them all. I played the gejezus out of *Don't Tell A Soul*.

So many favourite songs from many favourite albums! Top 4: *Let It Be*, *Tim*, *Don't Tell A Soul*, and *All Shook Down*. I think I chose *Don't Tell A Soul* because it's very haunting, Paul's voice and has "Achins' To Be" on it. This song was about me and how I felt during my teens. Feeling like no one understood me. Aah listening to all those songs like "They're Blind", "Back to Back", "We'll Inherit The Earth" over and over on my walkman on the subway escaping the parents' home. At the time I thought I would never escape no matter how much I drank. Paul understood. It helped. – *Julie*

Raw and produced.

The songwriting and overall performance is the sound of mature band. It became less about the self-destructive shtick and more about making great music. Too bad the band themselves couldn't embrace that level of maturity in their own actions. – *Dave Bicko*

Westerberg's song writing on *Don't Tell A Soul* is his most introspective and intelligent. I really love "Portland" and "Achins' To Be".

I guess it's because that was my first Replacements experience

IMO Westerberg's writing improved with each release. I like 'em all, just some better than others.

I don't even remember exactly where I was driving back from, but it was dark and it was just the right moment to connect. Maybe part of it is nostalgic connection. I bought the CD second-hand at a shop in Ann Arbor. This was 2002, I think. I was down there with my friend, Mike Wilson, to see Paul play a free in-store appearance at Borders (Borders and Mike are both long since gone). Well, Paul canceled, so we had a lot of time and Mike showed me some cool shops downtown. We did get to see Paul when he played at The Majestic. Met him, got an autograph, etc. By happenstance, I later met a guy at a Bob Dylan gig in Ann Arbor and he sent me a 2-cd recording of that show at The Majestic. I owe that guy. So, I wouldn't have *Don't Tell A Soul* without Mike W being there and Paul W *not* being there, basically. Then, one night, driving home, it just hit me, like it sometimes does. And the CD booklet had been in backwards that whole time in order to read the song titles. – *Jonathan Ettinger (Linden MI)*

I can listen to his one in any mood. Some of the other albums are more or less interesting based on my temperament at the time.

I know everyone hates it, but you never forget your first. Playing that Memorex dubbed copy over and over in my not-a-Sony-Walkman-cassette-player with the broken lid/door/hinge-thingy

got me through some shit. The first four songs on this album are amazing, and anyone who disagrees with me is just being a hipster douche.

This was the first Replacements album that I bought when it actually dropped.

Reminds me of college. Great times were had while listening to this album.

I absolutely love "Achin' to Be" and "I'll Be You".

ALL SHOOK DOWN

I love every song on the album.

Good songs. Good percussion. There's a "room" in the sound. There are layers of instruments. More acoustic than the others.

it is hard to say which is my favourite album by 'Mats, when you (I am sure, we all have this problem - we 'Mats lovers) love all their albums, but this is pretty nice. It is little different from previous albums, it is more Paul's album, more melodic and melancholic as we know from Paul's solos. Of course it doesn't mean, that previous ones are not melodic... no, but this is something new in 'Mats discography. Yes, I love it. Love them ALL.

It just is. - *Bob C.*

it is desperate.

First one I bought.

While it may have marked the end of the band, like the Beatles' *Abbey Road*, it displayed a maturity and greatness.

My parents were divorcing at the time this album came out. I was in college but had no sense of direction in terms of lifetime goals. I was broke, and things looked dismal. This album was a big departure from what I was used to and at first listen - I hated it. Something drew me back in. The desperation, the sadness, the dissatisfaction - but yet there was hope. I've bought *All Shook Down* on CD twice and cassette once. It's one that appeals to me because frankly it got me through a rough patch and it has a lot of sentimentality.

"Merry Go Round" – "The Last". All the songs are my favorites. I'm driven by mixed feelings. I can't explain.

It sounds like a day/night in the life of hanging out with these guys. Ups and downs.

Songs are incredible, and arrangements are rock n roll minus some instruments.

It's hard to say which is my favorite album, but *All Shook Down* is very meaningful to me.

It's the one I can listen to every song without skipping any tracks. It's aged the best for me. The one with my favourite songs - rather than my favourite album - is *Tim*.

Songs.

I always like the weakest record. *Zombie Birdhouse* is my fave Iggy record.

It's so hard to choose a favorite, all of them are great. I pick *All Shook Down* because it was the first 'Mats album I ever heard. Back in high school I used to listen to it nonstop on a cassette player in my car with my friends. We wore that tape out. - *Bryan S.*

THE SURVEY

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE REPLACEMENTS?

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SHOW

ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO SAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST REPLACEMENTS SHOW YOU SAW AND WHY?

Drumstick. Lincoln Ne. 1983? They were drunk. Smartasses. Dressed in costumes. Changed instruments. It was mind blowing. I loved their "fuck it" attitude and they were still great!

- *Marty Maxwell*

1st Avenue, *Let It Be* party. Tight show.

At the Warehouse in Duluth right after *Tim* came out. They played songs - did not degenerate into a drunken cover band, although those shows had their moments also. I liked the raw energy of the Tim tracks that the production of the studio album hindered.

The first one, in April 1985. It was the night after the infamous Davis show recounted in *Trouble Boys* and they were therefore on their best behavior. So they played a tremendous, utterly straightforward show. I also got to interview Paul for my college radio station that day, which was an extra treat.

1985 Pittsburgh, Paul took my request for "Black Diamond".

1985 at Jimmy's in New Orleans. Original line up. Great club. Fun crowd. Perfect show.

Probably the Coffman Union show. Bob was still in the band and from what I remember it was a rocking good time.

40 Watt with Bob. Awesome drunken mess on both sides of the stage.

Any show in the 7th Street entry in Minneapolis with Bob Stinson on guitar and Paul not falling down drunk was their best show as far as I am concerned.

The Rat ... First time.

The first time, in 1986 with Bob. Even though I didn't know any of the songs at the time, they blew me away. It was a drunken affair, but not a trainwreck. They were right on the edge.

LA Palladium in 1986? I think? Because it was Bob!

My first show is my favorite. February 6th 1986 at Houston Hall on Penn's campus. It encapsulated the entirety of The Mats infamous live experience and I was committed to this band from that chaotic night. - *Joe Brooks*

In the early spring of 1986, the Replacements came to Urbana-Champaign IL to play at Mabels, a classic college-town rock-bar on Green St. I got two tickets and took my girlfriend (who would eventually be my wife) to the show. A local band opened, and when the Replacements took the stage they started the show by letting the openers know that they had a long way to go before they could headline. It was done sort of tongue-in-cheek, but sort of not. The shows at that time

could be either hit or miss I guess, but this was a HIT: a blast of sonic sound that had a physical and emotional force. They did song after song, without much stopping in between. Bob's guitar was piercing through the room. At one point, Paul said he was tired of people saying they didn't play their slow stuff, and then he launched into a mini-set of "Sixteen Blue", "Androgynous" and "Unsatisfied". They finished with a bunch of stuff off of "Sorry Ma" and then closed with "I want to rock and roll all night". I'm not sure if they came back for an encore. The show was two hours of sustained rock and roll, with humor, passion, pathos and melody.

San Diego 86. Didn't see them after Bob was gone.

1986 Masonic Temple show in Toronto. Waiting outside the venue on the corner before the show a van pulled up on the side street the side door slid open some be cans fell out the two people rolled out wrestling with each other. The remainder of the band then got out and the entered the side door. Bob came on stage with a six pack, drinking an open one while carrying the other five by the plastic ring. Paul asked what do want to play, he finished the beer, tossed the can over his shoulder and started into "Bastards of Young". Also it was the first show I saw.

- Jay

The Boardwalk in Manchester, UK. The day after I left my band, we could never do what they did, and that was all I wanted to do. Westerberg smashed up a white Rickenbacker for no apparent reason. There probably 300-400 people in there, rammed to the doors. Still one my all-time favourite shows by anyone ever

The Gift Center - San Francisco - 1987. *Pleased To Meet Me* had come out. - Michael Niehoff

The "We're Sorry Portland" show, Dec. 7, 1987 at the Pine Street Theatre. It was the best and the worst at the same time. Sloppy, spontaneous, drunken--unlike any show (Replacements or otherwise) that I've ever seen. - David Benedetti

Pleased To Meet Me tour, 1987, at Sloss Furnace in Birmingham, AL, even though I get a speeding ticket on the way to the show. It was the most powerful collective sound I've ever heard coming from a stage.

1987 Riviera Nightclub, Chicago.

Both shows I saw were good. I guess the first one was a bit more in the spirit of things. (*Pleased To Meet Me* tour) They were drinking, but they were good. It was in Nashville, and they played "I Can Help" by Nashville artist Billy Swan. I wasn't expecting that for sure.

Probably the Pittsburgh Syria Mosque show with Slim. More songs!

Opera House Boston 1987. It was the first time I saw them.

The first time I saw them play was at Memorial Auditorium in Burlington, VT. I was probably 17 or 18 years old and I have a distinct memory of Paul laying down on his back, strumming his guitar with the mic stand laying across his body and the guitar while performing "I'll Be You." I swear I remember Tommy throwing up on stage, too. I had seen a lot of rock shows before this, but as a young kid, seeing this kind of freedom, fun and behavior while cranking out and singing along to some amazing music was liberating for me. Each show I've seen, while only three, have been big sing-along events. Everyone knows all the words and the feeling is that of belonging and identifying. It's special, meaningful and personally important.

Pleased To Meet Me tour at the Center Stage in Atlanta GA, first time with Slim and they were drunk but they put on a great show. First time they I saw them where they didn't fuck around too much and they rocked their asses off. Close second reunion show at the Fillmore in Denver.

- Kurt Bargas

Any of them - it was a crapshoot. You never knew what you were gonna get, but it was always what you needed/wanted from the guys.

Never saw them. Was going to go on the *Tim* tour, but I had just met this girl who eventually became my wife and she asked me to go to a family thing with her. I figured they'd be back next year, but then they kicked Bob out and didn't come back to Toronto until *Don't Tell A Soul*. By then I had lost interest. I hated that damn album when it came out. I still rarely listen past *Pleased To Meet Me*.

First time that I saw them was at the Eagles Club in Milwaukee on the *Pleased to Meet Me* tour. At the time I didn't know who Slim was and remember seeing this tall guy in a mismatched plaid suit and spray painted silver shoes hanging out in the lobby. Shortly after that Tommy and Chris (in full pappy the clown makeup) come running up the stairs and jumping over a table and the band ripping into "I.O.U.. The band started of great, but disintegrated into them alternating between "Fuck School" and "Hello Dolly". Might not have been the best show, but it was my first time so it sticks out.

Channel 87.... It was the first time. They covered Aerosmith's "My Fist Your Face".

One of the shows at the Paramount in Seattle. Came out wearing silly boots.

actually none. the 2 i saw i was totally intoxicated, as was the band. so, i can't remember much.

First Avenue, 1987.

i'm japanese. mats not came japan. please come to japan.

There is no possible way I could ever name one. I loved them all and never had a bad time or was disappointed. - Shelly Johnson

The two '87/'88 shows for the choice of songs and edge of uncertainty.

Pleased To Meet Me tour @ Austin Opera House. Just clicked with me. Opening for Tom Petty @ the Austin Opera House the night of my 10th High School reunion. Saw the mats and went to the reunion pumped. Started talking to an old classmate and she said "My cousin is in a band..." (Light bulb!) Her name was Carolyn Westerberg. Yeah, that was her cousin. She'd never heard the Mats. I gave her my *Tim* cassette. She didn't like it. - *D. Carney*

Changed my life and I met friends I'll have forever.

Boston, *Pleased to Meet Me* tour. The first time I saw them. They just seemed so real.

Too many to decide. All for different reasons.

1987 Cincinnati Ohio. My ears rang for two days after and they just seemed to be having fun.

I wasn't old enough to go to shows when they were around the first time, and was living overseas during the reunion. Hopefully Paul and Tommy plan to do this again!

First time at the Armory in St. Louis. I remember someone sayin' "Damn, that was worth 12 bucks." - *Ron Layton*

The first one (The Channel Boston MA). Because it was the first one.

Rutgers gym (The Barn) New Brunswick, NJ Only one I saw!

Too drunk to remember.

Bogarts, Cincinnati. Changed my life.

1989 Providence.

UW-Milwaukee Ballroom. My friend Mike was offered a solo cup full of whiskey by Paul during show. A few untimely arrests in the parking lot for public urination. I drove everyone there in the yellow station wagon at 15 without a license, got rear ended twice. - *Steven Scheuing*

My first time seeing them with my brothers at the Beacon Theater in NYC in 1989. Johnny Thunders opened if I recall. We sat in the balcony on the left. I think I still might have hearing damage in my ear from that show! Afterwards we went to a Tower Records if I recall and I purchased Let It Be on CD. The CD smelled funky, perfumed almost...it still does all these years later. That was my first time seeing the band and I became a huge fan ever since. - *Chris in NJ*

April 13, 1989, 1313 Club, Charlotte, NC. Because it was the only time I ever saw them live. Had tickets to the last Philly show and got bumped off my flight.

Only saw them at Peony Park in Omaha in '89, great show. I have an album cover that I keep in my box of stuff from way back, it has a strip of masking tape on it that says Replacements off of one of their speakers.

Again, each show had its own charm and moments. The songwriting was out of this world combined with waiting for the band to "gel" on stage. Hits and misses and then there would be such magical moments that even they themselves would look a combination of surprise and joy!

I am Australian. I live in hope. Although don't really hold out much... - *Lynnette*

1989, Numbers in Houston, TX. Show was loose but very rockin'. All the band was happy and played over 2 hours.

The only time I saw them was at the Lost Horizon in Syracuse in 1989. They sure seemed to be having a lot of fun that night, and it was a lot of fun to watch. It was a great show.

June 10, 1989 at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago. I remember they served beer in big old Cool Whip plastic tubs. A combination of too much pre-party and a couple of those oversized beers left me nearly out of the game. I remember sitting through most of the Slamming Watusis with my head cradled in the arm thinking 'Oh God do not let me pass out for this show'. Then The Mats took the stage and the opening notes of Color Me Impressed hit me like a dose of adrenaline. Instantly sober, I spent the rest of the show standing on my seat cheering.

Tallahassee Florida in a very small club.

Opening for Petty in PHX.

August of 1989 at Phoenix Hill Tavern in Louisville, KY. It was the night after the infamous Nashville debacle (opening for Petty). There are few moments in one's life that leave one truly "awed". I've not ever felt more in awe than those 80 minutes they were on stage that evening. I hardly moved the entire set as I was taken in by the enormity of the moment. And yet, I was completely exhausted by the end of their 22nd and last song of the evening, "I.O.U." - *Brian*

Don't Tell A Soul tour in Syracuse, NY. The tiny club had a load-bearing column right at the front/middle of the stage and the band made a lot of fun with it during the show. Got to meet Tommy at the bar beforehand. The show kicked off with "Color Me Impressed", one of my favorites. At one point Paul asked if people wanted to hear old stuff or new and most screamed "old!" and so they immediately launched into "I'll Be You" and 3/4 of the way through the song, Paul and Tommy switched instruments right then and there without stopping.

Beacon Theatre March 1989 w/ Johnny Thunders. Skipped a stupid high school Sadie Hawkins dance to go into NYC, the Mats rocked.

Aragon Ballroom, 1989. I was the drunken idiot yelling "let Tommy sing" and Paul heard me, saying "that comes later." - *RLM*

Mann Music Center - opening for Petty. They played "Happy!"

Watched with sadness as people tossed beers at Paul at Roy Wilkins in St. Paul, *Don't Tell A Soul* tour.

1989 tour at Mississippi Nights. They were still playing well and the musicianship was top notch. Later in 1991, you could tell they were weary. The reunion last year was amazing due to pent up desire to see them again.

Don't Tell A Soul tour, Kingston, NY

Ann Arbor, Michigan. Valentine's Day 1990. Snowstorm, car accident, smoking outside arena, going out with the band after the show.

The *All Shook Down* tour at the Orpheum in Minneapolis in February of 1991. I saw them on the reunion tour at Midway Stadium in St. Paul and it was great but the first time was the best.

Orpheum 91? *All Shook Down*. They didn't play again. Last tour...so I thought.

Orpheum in 1991 (?). It was the only one I ever saw. The Gear Daddies opened. I didn't have tickets and bought them outside from a scalper.

New Haven 1991. They were on that night.

Them opening for Elvis Costello at Madison Square Garden was hysterical - classic Hootenanny ending.

I only saw one, on their "last" tour in 1991, and it was mediocre.

'91 was special because I waited a long time to see them. I had heard all of the drunken stories about their live play which could have influenced me in not seeing them earlier. - *Ian Thomson*

1991, *All Shook Down* tour: the only time I got to see the original 'Mats play.

Lawrence KS 1991, only show I saw unfortunately. Enjoyed but after reading so much about them I wished I had seen them with Bob.

The *All Shook Down* tour in 1991. My first 'Mats show and they were loose but fun. However I listen to the Chicago July 4, 1991 show often on bootleg. The songs from *All Shook Down* are much better live because of the frenetic energy.

The last one in 1991. They were sober and nailed it. I saw them in 1989 opening for Tom Petty and they wore skirts, drunk off their asses, did about six songs, flipped the audience off and left. That was pretty entertaining also.

For purely selfish reasons, I have to say it would be the June 12, 1991, show in Cleveland at the Nautical Stage when they were opening for Elvis Costello. I met Paul that night. There. That's it. Period. - *Amy Nash*

Saw them once in Columbus, Ohio, during the *All Shook Down* tour.

I saw two Slim shows in 1991. They were great, but you could tell the band was just going through the motions. The reunion show during the Austin City Limits Festival was the best of the three for me. So much fun, and the band, even though only two were original members, seemed like they truly loved being there. - *Ted James*

Saw them on their last tour - Mars had just quit the band. It was at the Tower Theater in Houston. It was a good, authentic show. A bit sad, but solid.

I only saw one Replacements show, that was the *All Shook Down* tour. It was amazing of course. I remember having all these song ideas flowing through my head that night as I am a songwriter myself. Westerberg sparked my creative juices so to speak. I then had tix to see them in Columbus, OH on the reunion tour - booked a hotel, drove down with the wife with a psuedo-setlist from the previous nights on an iPod playlist, getting psyched on the ride down from Cleveland. Checked into the hotel and went to check the time the doors would open and found out they had canceled. Very disappointed, was so looking forward to seeing them live. Oh well, whatcha gonna do. Drink I guess, and that we did. Cheers! - *Dave Megrey (Cleveland, OH)*

Farewell show, Grant Park, Chicago, 4th of July. Listen to the many bootlegs, it was great.

The last one in Chicago, it's always the last one. Memories.

I'd just fallen in love with The Replacements a few years prior, got every album (and some bootlegs) and saw them twice at regular old venues. So when they played the Taste of Chicago, I had to go! Hell, it was already a ritual for me and my high school pals to go to the Fourth of July concerts. I remember Tommy's bright red hair. Paul seemed highly annoyed. I was trying to make sense of the drummer (Steve Foley). Having only seen them twice before, I was thrilled. But once the first roadie took over the "hootenanny," I knew something was awry. It was hilarious, but also really depressing. I left the show so fucking sad. My favorite band, just discovered two years prior, was no longer. The worst, best show, ever. Of course, I'd later learn that older fans felt this way years earlier after Bob was fired. Oh, to have seen the 'Mats in their "Hayday."

Unfortunately I never saw a Bob show. It's a toss-up between the show at the Aragon Ballroom in '91 as it was the first show and really great. But the Riot Fest show in Chicago was fantastic.

First and only, Toronto Riot Fest. It was entirely amazing, considering that I thought I'd never see them live even once in my life. I've relived that day a million times over in my head.

- *Linda Ridenour*

Toronto--it was the first one and the sound for an outdoor festival was the best I've ever heard. Midway would be tied for 1st as it was my first time visiting MPLS and I felt the love of the hometown crowd and my new friends.

Toronto 2013 - first show back and I was not expecting how good they would actually be. Forest Hills was a close second because the crowd was amazing!

Toronto in 2013. The Weakerthans were great and the Stooges were ferocious. They had the best entrance to a show ever. Just ran on and began to play. When the Replacements came on, it was emotional for many in the crowd. I was standing next to people who had come from Minnesota and Seattle. Then they began their punk set and it was fantastic. Singing back Paul's words to him during "Androgynous" when he forgot them was amazing. - *Phil Parsons (Hamilton, Ontario)*

Toronto on the reunion tour. First time seeing them in a long time. The anticipation was part of what made it special, and the fact that they played an awesome show made it perfect. I was also up front with a new camera and got some very memorable photos and videos.

Riot Fest 2013 - after hoping for the last 20+ years (ever since the Chicago July 4th show) for them to get back together, they finally did!

While the Replacements were together I was living in Anchorage, Alaska. No chance to see them live. :(But I listened to and collected many of their live bootleg recordings through various means. The first live recording I heard (1991-2 is when I got it) was from a performance in Charlotte, NC in 1987 so it probably would be my favorite. The recording sucked but there was some funny banter to the crowd and a cool performance of "Within Your Reach" that gave me chills. Also Paul's request for a "fresca" for Slim. But then the reunion happened. I saw them in Chicago (Riot Fest) and later in Philly and it was so great and loved every minute of it.

Riot Fest Chicago. First time I got to see them and I took my son out of high school and drove 12 hours from Philly to see them. They were awesome and my son even loved them (and he went mostly for the other bands).

It sounds hokey but the Riot Fest show is Chicago ranks up there. The dream that they had returned to stage was a reality and the set was tight and when they played "Left of the Dial", well, you know!

Riot Fest Chicago - the amazing electricity of having them back after so many years, and so many other amazing bands on the bill: GBV, Violent Femmes, Blondie, X, The Specials, Bob Mould.

- *Dan Mucha*

The Chicago Riot Fest show was everything I had been hoping for since 1991. Sounded great together, just the right amount of screwing around, and seven songs from my favorite album, *Tim*.

Riot Fest Chicago - by random chance ended up meeting at and then watching the show with Paul's sister (Waitress in the Sky) & had to pinch myself that the reunion was really happening.

Unfortunately, being born in 1986 means that I missed their heyday; however, my wife and I were fortunate enough to see them during their reunion tour at the Riot Fest in Chicago. It was an amazing show!

Riot Fest in Denver, third show after the reunion.

Riot Fest, Denver 2013 Can't begin to describe the mood. The band was on. They weren't tired, they weren't proving anything, they just were. Plus the Hootenanny encore...No words. Their nod to Bob with the cowgirl dresses was memorable as well. - *Angie Pezel*

Their reunion show at Riot Fest in Denver. 20+ years of waiting to see them on a dusty Grapes of Wrath field in Colorado and it was great to see a crowd that size go crazy.

Riot Fest reunion show - for the first time it seemed like they actually wanted to be there and play.

On the reunion tour at Austin City Limits festival. It was the best because it was my first time seeing Paul & Tommy play the songs that have been a part of my life since I was fourteen. From start to finish a great show! - *Chris Mora*

Louisville, Forecastle Festival, 2014. My first show (better late than never). The sun was setting on the Ohio behind the stage. Billy Joe Armstrong played rhythm guitar. I nearly cried I was so happy.

The Forecastle Festival during the reunion tour. I had looked forward to seeing them again for so long, and they didn't disappoint. They sounded amazing and Billie Joe looked so excited to just be there. - *Mike Baltz*

Shaky Knees Festival in Atlanta. Short set, but super high energy throughout.

As a younger 'Mats guy who was two years old at the end of the Bob years and seven at the end of the Slim years/seemingly the band's existence, I was extremely grateful and ecstatic about 'Mats reunion shows taking place in my late twenties. I made it to three shows (Denver, Atlanta, and Louisville) and I'd have to say my favorite was Atlanta. It was rainy that day, so the band had a bit of delay until they hit the stage. Paul came out with a poncho on hand and threw it to no one in particular in the front row, a few feet from my friends and me. Once the boys got going, it was a giant party. The sun came out in the middle of "Left of the Dial", just about the same time

Paul uttered the line "The sweet Georgia breezes, safe, cool and warm". The Atlanta crowd burst into loud applause. The set was nigh perfect, and the band had really hit a stride by then. A great night with the greatest band in the world. - *Nolan*

The hometown reunion show in St. Paul. So much love and joy in that stadium.

The St. Paul homecoming show!

I can't recall many of the individual shows. I remember bits and stuff, some things very clearly too. I remember my first time (Loring Park in '81) and the last two shows I saw (Midway Stadium in '14 and the Masonic show in San Francisco in '15) very well. For me the best show I saw was the Midway show in '14. I moved to San Francisco (definitely not LA!) Labor Day weekend in 1989. I was back visiting in Minneapolis/St. Paul 25 years later and got to go to the Midway Stadium show to celebrate my 25 year anniversary of living in the Bay Area. It was such a beautiful thing! To see all those faces I used to see that hung around the local music scene of the Twin Cities back in the '80s. Wow! I never thought I would have a day like that! Everything about show was cool Lucero and The Hold Steady were both on spot. The Replacements played so well. Paul and Tommy seemed happy and stylish in those killer suits. Josh Freese and Dave Minehan sounded like they had been around band for years. The crowd was so cool too. Hearing all those people singing lyric after lyric. Springsteen would have been jealous! It was the hometown triumph on the very triumphant reunion tour. That show will go down as one of the 10 best times of my life! - *Rick Ramacier*

It had to be the St. Paul reunion show because after living in MN for 15 years I finally got to see them again.

Saint Paul reunion - sounded better than ever.

Midway, it was so great to see Tommy and Paul together again.

Midway 2014, I truly thought I'd never hear those songs live again.

The reunion at Midway in St. Paul. After they broke up I thought it was over. But it was like making out one last time with a high school love. You both had weathered the storms and came out a bit damaged but still in one piece. There was still a connection. It still felt good. You wanted it to last longer. All the while you both are thinking there's no going back. And at the end of the night...bittersweet in so many ways. - *Laura Bossart Hanneman*

Midway Park, St. Paul. Once in a lifetime venue & hometown crowd & "Unsatisfied" as set-closer.

The reunion was what I figured would be my only chance. I made it really worthwhile and made the trip to see them at Midway Stadium with some friends. If I had seen them here in NY, it would have been different.

Out of the four reunion shows we saw (ACL weekend 2, DC, London night 1 and Midway), Midway was just so special. It became a pilgrimage for us - we went to all the places from all the stories prior to the show. The only way I can describe it is "magical"...Paul and Tommy seemed to be having such a great time and you got the feeling it meant just a little more to them to be there in their hometown. They sounded amazing and it just felt right. I can still conjure up that feeling just by thinking about it!

Midway in St. Paul. Paul Westerberg is ending with "Unsatisfied" and folks all around me were sniffing and smiling. It was beautiful.

Only saw two, Midway and Milwaukee on the reunion tour. Midway was a religious experience.

Unfortunately it never worked out. I had tickets for the St. Paul Midway show and had to give them away due to other obligations.

Forest Hills, NY - September 2014. It was just a perfect night. Great venue, out under the stars. The crowd was amazing and there was such an energy even before the show started. Once the Mats came on, it was 2 hours of just good times and sing-alongs. The band was in top form and the setlist was amazing. One of the best shows I have ever seen!

Forest Hills. Great vibe between the band and the crowd.

The reunion show at Forest Hills Stadium in NY - because I was with my tribe, because I laughed and cried, because I sang along to every word, because it was the audience the band always deserved. - *Stephen O'Donnell*

The reunion show at Forest Hills. They were perfect, from the set list to the execution. I couldn't believe how great they sounded and the crowd was completely into it. - *Drew Tomko*

Forest Hills was the only show I saw, and it was wonderful. The crowd singing along to "Can't Hardly Wait" is one of my favorite concert moments of my life.

Live at Forest Hills during the reunion tour -- because the whole stadium sang along to "Can't Hardly Wait." Perfectly.

Forest Hills Tennis center with older brother who introduced me to the band all those years ago.

Forest Hills NY 2015. Because I had too!

Forest Hills. Mid-late life crisis. - *Gordon Gunn*

Forest Hills 2014? Never thought it would happen, Hate outdoor shows, Still had a great time. Crowd was amazing. Other show was opening for Keith Richards 1988.

The best show was during the reunion tour at Forest Hills Stadium in NYC. The band was flawless, energetic, happy, and it was magical seeing such a big crowd showing their love to the Mats after all these years. - *Ken Reeve*

Forest Hills, during the reunion shows. It was such a great vibe, and everyone was so happy to have them back, even though we all knew it wasn't going to last. There was something beautiful and karmic about it. Thinking about hearing them play "Bastards of Young" still makes me feel all kinds of purple and fuzzy.

The Forest Hills show during the reunion. An inspired performance, an inspiring audience, and, I think, validation for the band.

Forest Hills 2014. Magic.

Sadly only saw the one. Forest Hills, Queens, NY on the reunion tour and it was fantastic.

First show of the reunion tour in Seattle.

Portland 2015 - better than Seattle 2015 by a wide margin ... better than Seattle 2014 too (although I enjoyed that one too).

LA April 2015.

Denver was cool on the reunion tour--but I might give the edge to the Austin City Limits performance. I saw them their the 2nd weekend of the fest. Half or more of the crowd was just there to claim spots for Pearl Jam, who were up next. So, half the audience didn't care what was going on, but the Mats were not to be affected by crowd apathy. They played solid, with plenty of on-stage hijinx. I had tix to Columbus as well - I got up crazy early, flew from Texas to Ohio only to discover the show had been cancelled. Dammit.

The reunion show in San Francisco. Expectations were mixed, as seeing old guys playing snotty songs often doesn't work out. But this show was full of energy and love. I was moved in a big way.

Hollywood Palladium, night one. Holy shitballs.

Both of the ones at the Hollywood Palladium in 2015. They mixed up the set list a lot and they sounded amazing. I think when I saw them in 1989 and 1991, I did love them but maybe didn't appreciate what I was watching at the time. And it was a long time ago so harder to remember also.

Probably reunion show Fillmore Denver. Slightly ahead of *Let It Be* tour which was the first time, I was blown away but they were drunk. It was a blast and they blew my mind but they were sloppy which I learned to expect and love. But man they were fucking on in Denver!!! Still a little sloppy but I've never seen them that tight and it just took me back to the 80's and made me feel like me!

Again! Miss Bobby and Slim but man it was great. And I drank a lot more when I was younger so memory isn't as good, just sayin! - *Kurt Bargas*

I only saw them in Milwaukee, in 2015. I was too young to get in to see them on their last tour (1991).

Milwaukee on the reunion tour. Most love I've ever seen a crowd have for a band and the Replacements just went with it. Sadly no tape of the show has surfaced.

I think the reunion show last April in Chicago. Only because it had been 20+ years and there was so much pent up anticipation. They did not disappoint. This show was so much more than. It was an event.

Second reunion show in Chicago.

It was my only show. Detroit 2015 and it was fantastic.

The Sinclair [Boston], April 2015. I'd just had coronary bypass surgery three weeks ago (an absolute shock at age 40). I was starting my rehabilitation when I got an email that both my wife had won a pair of tickets to this show in our former hometown. In what was probably a very poor decision, we decided to drive all the way from Chapel Hill, NC to Cambridge. I got a special shirt at Dick's Sporting Goods to protect my sternum, like a softball umpire would wear. We waited all evening to get in and for a while it looked like we may not make the cut. As we prepared for heartbreak, the bouncer finally let us in right as Dino Jr. was starting up. I took refuge by one of the side bars where my friend was working during the 'Mats show. I probably drank way more than a guy who just had a heart attack and open heart surgery should have done, but damn was it worth it. Never in my life thought I'd hear "Unsatisfied". I couldn't have imagined a better step in my rehab -- it made me feel like I was coming back to life. Just wish they'd played "Little Mascara" (it was on the setlist!) - *Josh Vessey*

My biggest regret is that I didn't see them live until the end. The next time I saw them was at the Boston Calling festival after Paul and Tommy reunited. It was the best show because I was pretty close to the stage, my daughter was with me, and they nailed most every song, and really seemed to be having fun. - *Tom Garside*

Only show I've seen - Detroit during the reunion tour.

Hard to say...probably the reunion tour, since it had been so long.

Almost 17 years after being introduced by a friend in Oklahoma, we were both in the DC area and attended the show together. It was my first, and turned out to be one of my all-time favorites. I've probably been to 300 concerts and that one jumped easily into the top 5.

The only one I saw. 5/9/15 Philadelphia Festival Pier. Awesome birthday present, never thought I would witness it! - *John Kyriakos*

Reunion in Philly....played great, sound system was fantastic, especially Tommy's bass.

I have never seen a bad Replacements concert. I saw them three times. The first time was in 1991 in Omaha, NE. They opened with "Color Me Impressed" and went straight into "Favorite Thing" and became my favorite band forever after that moment. I waited 24 years to see them again at the Primavera Festival in Barcelona. Sitting by the stage, I watched the minutes tick by and I realized that I had never waited for something for so long in my life. When they ran on stage right on time, they blasted into their set and were spitting fire. Paul Broadhead, who also had seen the hometown show at Midway Stadium, said by comparison it was "an hour-long fucking riot". All the songs were the power numbers, the full-on rock set. Not even "Unsatisfied" or "Swinging Party". The few songs in the set that normally were of introspective indecision like "I Will Dare", "Bastards of Young", or "Never Mind" - were played and shouted by the crowd like triumphant anthems. They blew through the songs like it was the show of their lives and like it was the last show on earth. I saw the Paradiso saw in Amsterdam two days later and it was a perfect setlist and a perfect Replacements show, as much as when I saw them in 1991 before the reunion. Any of the three shows were great enough to be one of the best I've ever seen in my life, but the Barcelona show was from a band that had something to prove, and that would be done (again) just a week later. - *Matt Tomich*

Paradiso Amsterdam May 2015.

Attended at the Paradiso Amsterdam all the way from Manila in the Philippines. For all the years of waiting and thinking I'd missed my shot in the 90's there was a lot of anticipation. Not so much expectation as I knew the shows could be all over the place. My favorite band of all-time at last...But the venue and lighting was awesome and the band really kicked ass. Played punk and rock and solo acoustic and all amazing. Set list was awesome. Next tour I'm going all out and seeing them much more. - *Nick Moller*

Paradiso Amsterdam on the reunion tour.... Sounded on fire, and the venue was spectacular! Made grown men cry during "Never Mind"!

London Roundhouse June 2 2015.

i should be so lucky.

THE SURVEY

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR THE REPLACEMENTS?

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS ALBUM

FAVORITE REPLACEMENTS SHOW

ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO SAY

THE REST OF YOUR STORIES AND ANYTHING YOU FELT WAS LEFT TO SAY

Don't know if I should see them again.

Saw them open for Tom Petty. Also saw 'til Tuesday open for Tom Petty. I like Tom Petty. I should see him play some time.

There was a summer not so long ago, when I very first got a start into show business. Not so much as a “hey, my buddy's buddy's buddy is doing a film in his backyard”, but I signed my first agent deal. I had no idea what to do after that, the agents would throw these parties and I didn't have a clue how to act at them, so I would wear this plaid suit to go with my hair that was always sticking up, trying to be Paul Westerberg from “The Replacements”. That entire hot summer, I'd be wearing that ugly suit at these functions, this plaid wool 8 dollar suit I found at a Goodwill. What was I thinking? There was excitement every single day, excitement with the feeling of the “unknown”, excitement at getting sent to an audition, or getting to New York City to go audition for MTV, to go there, having not much of an idea where to go, I knew MTV was on Broadway but WHERE was Broadway? It didn't matter, I practically skipped through New York in excited nervous anticipation, WOW NEAT they sell bootleg movies up here? Only five dollars? OH OK! Every second, was new, exciting, blissful. MTV studios, full into the “TRL” era, was booming, I went in to audition for the MTV show, I GOT THE PART! OH WAIT NEVERMIND THEY JUST CANCELLED THE SHOW. Didn't matter, there I was in New York City, there I was at MTV, there I was in my Paul Westerberg-looking plaid suit, I couldn't be stopped, I WOULDN'T be stopped. That very next month, in Philadelphia, I'd gone and booked a role in a small film called THE BIG STORE. It wasn't a Groucho Brothers remake, but still...a film! With trailers! And a budget! And makeup people! A "motion picture"! WHOA! I get to set as a soldier, and I think my part was cut down. It didn't matter, I was on set! I was living at home at the time (because cancelled MTV shows and cut down film roles in indie films don't pay anything) but I instructed any calls that came my way to be answered with “Sorry, Tim's not here....HE'S ON LOCATION”. I think my part in The Big Store ended up being me saying “Yeah....yeahhhhhh....yeah” in a scene of a craps game on a bus coming back home from the war. Sadly, the Academy didn't take notice of my “Yeahs” BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER, every day was fantastic, every day was a brand new fresh adventure. A casting place called me “Want to be in a carpet infomercial in North Jersey for no money?” I said “YES SIR! CAN I WORK EVERY SINGLE DAY ON IT!?” and they said “Are you joking? Um, okay man”. That summer also brought me a film that I'll never forget, “TELL ME EVERYTHING” which unfortunately, like “The Big Store” would never come out, but you couldn't stop me, it was this great “Punk Rock Girl meets Frat Boy meathead and LOOOOOVE HAPPENS” film. I played Frat Pledge Oat Bran, and I'm pretty sure, with a major film, with a character with an actual name, actual make up people, actual trailers, that my head was about to explode with joy. I'm not sure if I actually did it, but I think I even offered to go get the director and cast and crew coffee between takes. I was THAT excited. Fall came around, and after a summer filled with all these show biz “first times”, little by little, I started to navigate my way around New York, I started to

learn the routines of the “show biz” functions, and I ended up donating my Paul Westerberg suit back to Goodwill. With this business, success comes, failure comes, little parts of excitement come and go, but nothing comes remotely close to that summer not so long ago. Here I am a bunch of years later, and I look back on that naïve summer so so fondly, the music I’d play in the car on the way to these auditions (The Replacements of course) or how excited I’d be when I’d talk to my local hot dog vendor when I’d order 2 chili cheese dogs “to go” and “HEY I’M ABOUT TO BE IN A CARPET INFOMERCIAL, LOOK FOR ME SOMETIME ON LOCAL ACCESS AT 4AM!” These days, when someone is about to get started in “the business” the first thing I say is, “Have fun, do the work, but have fun, really enjoy these new people and experiences” because along the way, those are things that are special, those are things that you’ll really really miss. - *Tim Carr*

I’m jealous of all you American ‘Mats fans closer to the.. er.. action!

I am embarrassed by this now but for posterity here goes. The ‘Mats were coming to Pittsburgh on what turned out to be their final tour in 1991. I was planning to go to the show with a large group of approximately 15 friends. I started calling hotels in town, telling them my name was Paul Westerberg and that I was calling to confirm my reservation. Surprisingly, I did get a confirmation and told the woman I was speaking with that I needed an additional room with the group for my brother-in-law. She said no problem and I (posing as Paul) gave her my name. She then asked if I wanted to include the extra room on the same bill. I declined and asked for it to be billed separately (I promise this is the truth). After the show ended we all walked to the hotel. As we were standing in the parking lot discussing who was going to go check in with me the Mats’ bus pulled into the lot and parked right in front of us. As I recall, the destination city on the front of the bus said “CAN’T STAND IT”. The bus door opened, Paul appeared, and we were pretty much in awe. He looked at this crew of drunk college kids, waved his arm, and said “come into my abode.” We followed him, Slim, and other members of their crew into the restaurant/bar and hung out with them for quite some time. I was with the part of the group sitting near Paul. He ate and chatted with us a bit, and was kind enough to take some pictures and tolerate our idol worship. The folks sitting with Slim were having a much livelier time. Talking, drinking, laughing. My buddy told me at one point he offered to buy Slim a beer and Slim said, “I’m rich, I’ll buy you one!” When things started winding down I checked into my room, which happened to be right between Paul and Slim’s. Stayed up late partying with friends. Ran into Slim in the hallway a few times. Each time he was filling a glass with ice. I asked him why he didn’t just fill up the ice bucket and he said he didn’t want to waste any. Hard to believe this was 25 years ago. I still love the Mats. - *GF*

My friends’ band opened for Bob Stinson at the Cabooze. I got to hang out backstage and share a doob with Bob.

I was there at the Cabooze when Bob showed his dick. But Paul called for that often. I always stood between Paul and Bob. Bob was super fun to watch in concert. Just super happy!

Hanging with Slim at the Green Mill in Chicago post-show.

Ran into Tommy and Steve walking outside the venue in Omaha during the *Don't Tell A Soul* tour. He signed my cassette copy of *Pleased To Meet Me*.

One thing in my life that I regret is that I didn't discover the Replacements sooner. Having seen them at Riot Fest was a bonus though, because I never thought I'd see them live. I almost didn't, being that my passport came in the mail less than 24 hours before making the trip to Canada from PA. And then I got tickets to see them in Pittsburgh but the show was cancelled. I'm glad I got to see them once, at least. I crossed three items off my Bucket List that weekend and got to meet some other wonderful fans. - *Linda Ridenour*

I saw them at Osheaga and I literally got piss drunk before their set. I enjoyed every minute of it, but I had to pee so bad when they stopped playing that I ran to the public bathroom right when they finished. Unfortunately, the place was so crowded that there was a 30 minutes lineup at the girls bathroom. I knew I couldn't wait that long. Luckily, I noticed that there was a picnic table right in front of me. I went under it, lifted my skirt and peed in front of a thousand people exiting the festival ground. A bunch of cops were there too. Oops!

I have a lot, and a bunch of them are simply personal stories in which the music has been a soundtrack to all kinds of adventures. Beyond that, the three times I saw Tommy this year was a great way to see him in an intimate setting. What a cool dude! I could proceed but I'm answering this questionnaire as I'm pulling up to have dinner with friends. Sorry for the lack of planning, but I wanted to get this out, and I'm not much of a planner! Suffice to say that the Mats' music has meant a hell of a lot over time (by extension, all the guys' solo stuff as well).

Moved to Minneapolis in winter of 1991. Literally the first stop was the Uptown Bar while waiting for a friend to get off work. Bob Stinson came in and sat in the booth behind me with a lady and talked about seeing a Yes show together back in the day. My very first experience in Minneapolis ever. Many brief encounters with the band over the years - randomly happened to be at the studio when Paul's photoshoot for *Suicaine* was taking place-watched it from the side. Bought some items from his dad at a yard sale, etc etc. Saw the 1986 Living Room show where the Young Fresh Fellows took over after the Replacements quit - Bob's fourth to last show. Paul moping backstage with some lady rubbing his back. Was in the front row at the Opera House in Boston during the *Pleased To Meet Me* tour. An acquaintance handed Paul some pills which he popped right into his mouth onstage without any hesitation - he had no idea what they were but he did it. I always respected that. Listen to the recording of the show and he says "If that was acid my mom's gonna be pissed!" or something similar. Back when I had more hair, before a show in London on the *Pleased To Meet Me* summer '87 tour a woman came up to me and asked if I could play "Unsatisfied". I said yes, because I could. Then she said, so you can play it tonight? And I thought oh shit, this is my big break, someone didn't show and they need someone to sit in... but it turns out she thought I was Chris Mars. And many, many more.

At an in-store in 1987 Paul signed my copy of *Let It Be* and wrote "Bob is sick."

Sitting in a bar in Davis CA, having a beer with Slim and chatting with Paul.

Back in 95 I was living and going to school in Bruxelles, Belgium. There were many cool music stores there specializing in indie music which I would hit every week looking for (among other things) Replacements albums (especially *Boink!!*) and any bootlegs which I couldn't find in my home town of Duluth, MN. Unfortunately I never came across them. However, one day a store clerk came to me and asked me what I was looking for and when I told him, he lit up right away. He had taped copies of *Boink!!* and *The Shit Hits the Fans*. Realizing that I was a kindred spirit he made me cassette copies of both which made my year! It made me realize how the 'Mats had affected people around the world and how we are a fraternity of sorts. Thanks to Matthew and The Skyway for giving us the chance to connect to fans throughout the world! - *Chris Loken*

I was supposed to see their final performance at The Taste of Chicago in '91. My then wife talked me out of it. I never forgave her. My sons and I saw the Chicago reunion show at Riotfest, and I saw them again later on that tour.

When I saw them on the last tour in '91, I told Paul after the show that he could not break up the band because they meant so much to people. Apparently my impassioned plea didn't do much good. - *Matthew Y*

Like a lot of other Chicago fans, I saw them break up on July 4 at Grant Park. Didn't realize it at the time.

It's all a blur.

Went to see Paul at the House of Blues in Cleveland. Purely by chance, shared a cab with his bus driver, J.B., who was going back to the hotel to sleep. J.B. gave me his all areas pass for the show and I got to meet Paul afterward. Thanks, J.B.!

Put the LP on the turntable... drop the needle... instantly feel better and have smile on my face for the rest of the day. I always feel proud I can sing the lyrics and air guitar the axe licks right on and then never ever feel embarrassed when or afterwards... Best band ever and the albums, songs, and lyrics are timeless for me!

This's awful, but I have a red Solo plastic cup that Bob Stinson coughed up "something" into, put a cigarette out & signed in a black magic marker from a Toads show. Disgusting to most people. Fitting for Bob Stinson and what he wrote was nice. I'll never let it go.

Too young and stupid to go see them open for Tom Petty. Got drunk instead. Missed seeing them in the Heartbreakers wives' dresses.

I was driving across country with a friend and in Chicago on July 3, 1991. I learned that the Replacements were playing the Taste of Chicago event on the fourth, what would turn out to be their last show ever. I had seen them recently in Montreal and because we were on a tight timeline, made the decision to skip the show and continue our travels west, thinking I'd catch up with them another time. Well, it wasn't until 2016 that I was able to see them again!

I was dragged to a godawful spandexed 80s metal tribute band show in Waco, Texas. (Welcome to hell, Tim - here's your entertainment for eternity!) A few beers in, I yelled out "play some fucking Replacements, you no-talent assholes!!!" Two tables away someone else yelled "yeah, 'Waitress in the Sky,' you cheesedicks!" Obviously the band ignored us, but we ended up at the bar talking and later in his car burning something DEA-classified and listening to 'Mats bootlegs.

No time, good stories, no Tommy, you can't take our dog on tour.

My favorite story is of the night I met the love of my life - January 21, 2013. We were set up on a blind date of sorts and met while I was sitting at the bar of a local restaurant. Within the first moments of talking, I made a comment about someone who was mutual friend of ours being a big star (he was on a TV show at the time). My date said "Was that an Alex Chilton reference?", to which I immediately responded "Are you a Replacements fan?"...that was pretty much the spark that set it all in motion for us. We knew right then that we'd found something pretty special and it's been a swingin party ever since!! - *Angi Baber Pannell*

Just LOVE them. Always in rotation of my listening.

Never had the disappointment.

Always remember seeing Bob at the Uptown Bar. He was always two fisting and I remember him always looking so fucking cool. Always.

When I bought *Pleased To Meet Me*, I listened to "Alex Chilton" 25 times in a row while drinking beer. I had to put on headphones for fear that my neighbors would think I lost it.

Other than explaining to people who my favourite group is.

The day I saw they split in Portugal. I just saw them three times, Barcelona and two times in London and I was totally bummed. It was like losing a close friend.

I took a date to the Tom Petty show to see my favorite band. I think they played three songs. She was not impressed.

I moved to Lawrence, KS in the fall of 96 to make one more attempt at college. One day just as classes were starting I saw that Tommy's post-Bash & Pop band, Perfect, was playing at The Bottleneck. Hadn't really made any new friends yet, so I went on a one man mission to check them out. I was newly 21, and even though I had had a fake ID for years, it felt great to sit at a

table by myself with a pitcher of beer and wait for the show to start. It amazed me how empty the place was. How could this be? It was literally one of those 'seven people in the audience' situations. So I'm sitting there, and somehow I struck up a conversation with a 2 or 3 of those 7 people and found myself drinking and shootin the shit. Next thing you know, the door to the back area opens and there stood Tommy Stinson in full spiky-haired, zoot-suited glory. In my memory he was illuminated in red light, dry ice, the whole thing. But in reality it was about time to play, time to go to work, and he made his way over to the vacant bar. I was as star struck as I've probably ever been, and mentioned something like 'Holy shit that's Tommy!' to my new pals and they were like 'yeah, we're about to play'. I didn't realize that I was sitting with the rest of Perfect. They started to walk towards the stage and encouraged me to go say hi to Tommy. I sheepishly made my way to the bar and said 'Have a great show'. He downed his shot and said 'I will. I will'. And then he did. They tore the roof off the place as if it was Madison Square Garden. Ten years later or so I was living in LA and started working at a great little restaurant in Silverlake. I used to hang out there a lot and came in on one of my off nights. At the bar was Tommy and a lady friend quietly finishing their dinner. I inquired to my buddy who was managing if he was a regular and if he knew who he was. 'Oh yeah, that's Tommy. Doesn't he play in Guns N Roses or something?' He was getting up to leave and again I awkwardly said hello. I babbled some pleasantries about the restaurant and that I was from Iowa. He shook my hand, said that I was a long way from home with the usual Iowa-Minnesota friendly rivalry banter. I said that I didn't mean to be weird, but just that I was a big fan. He looked at me and said effortlessly 'Don't be weird, then. Just be a big fan'. Words to live by. - *David Lee Garver*

I have lots of stories, just none worthy of mentioning as it wouldn't seem right. If you weren't there, it's not your story. - *Kelsey H.*

It was probably six weeks before I got around to turning over side one of *Let It Be*.

My wife and I met Paul in an elevator at The Teatro Hotel in downtown Denver on the reunion tour. Apparently, we were staying on same floor. So we head to the elevator the morning after the show and he comes to the elevator with his big roller suitcase. We say hello, he brightens up, and the three of us get into the small lift. He quickly mentions he banged up his elbow in the hotel tub right before the show and it still kinda' hurts. We tell him those fancy big tubs are dangerous. He laughs, we tell him we drove down from Montana for the show, saw 'em a long time ago in Florida, and it was just as much fun as ever seeing them play. He seemed surprised but pleased at all three. While we wait for our valet outside, he smoked half a cigarette, then sat in the lobby to wait for his transportation. We wish each other safe travels. Lovely, personable, fortunate experience.

Two of my best friends from college - one opened for Tommy this weekend and another edited *All Over but the Shouting*. It's a warm feeling.

I saw PW in '05 in LA, and ended up backstage. I was telling him about how my mom always wants me to wear a little mascara - and she'll sing the song, but she doesn't know the words or the tune. He asked if I wanted some mascara and then gave me butterfly kisses. I was backstage after the first show in LA for the reunion and introduced myself as the girl that he gave butterfly kisses to, and he said, "That was you? Do you want more?" So I got more butterfly kisses. It was amazing! - *Sarah B.*

My only story is they never get old and help me stay young.

Too many to list. Most notably, moving to Minneapolis in 1990 and seeing these guys out and about all over town...mostly the Wedge neighborhood and the Uptown Bar. I watched in awe from afar...or near, really.

I was a little too young to see many of the shows that I wanted to see back in the day. I listened to the bands but wasn't old enough to get into their shows. When I was 15, my uncle Chuck, a computer engineer, inexplicably knew the sound man for First Avenue, and his wife, my dad's sister, told me they would take me to the show (as it would be ok with a guardian, but not alone). I was in 10th grade, and psyched out of my mind. Then she called and said they'd changed their minds because they "didn't want [me] to miss school." ("Fuck School!" I thought!) The year was 1991. They didn't take me, and the Replacements broke up months later. I could have died. I never saw them in their heyday. It STILL hurts/bums me out, to this day!

- *Kate Stabnow, (Saint Paul, MN)*

I am so happy I lived in Minneapolis in the 80's. A great time for those of us who love music. Thank God for Goodwill clothes, no/low cover charges, free popcorn, beer, and boys that would shatter your heart. Trying to fit in only to fail when you wanted it most. Then finding a band that spoke your language. - *Laura Bossart Hanneman*

Best rock band ever.

I couldn't believe that the 'Mats had gotten back together in 2013 for a few reunion shows. I lived in Washington DC and the closest show was in Chicago at the Riot Fest, there was no way I was going to miss that. I reconnected with my friend Kim from my record store days, who now lived in Chicago and we went together. She had been at the same show with me 24 years earlier, we made the most of it just as we had done as kids. Grown adults sneaking in airline bottles of liquor into the show in our bras and boots at Humboldt Park. It was The Replacements, what else are you going to do?! It was fantastic! - *Kara Martin*

Did not see them live.

My then-girlfriend and now wife left a show in Green Bay and noticed that the tour bus was sitting at the side of the theater with a small crowd around it. Sure enough, it was The Replacements' bus. We took our place in line and waited. Steve Foley came out first. Slight

murmur from the crowd. Tommy bolted out the stage door next and quickly ran inside the bus. Slim came out next and signed autographs for the crowd, while relaying a story about how his wife was screaming at his hair recently. Bad haircut, I guess. Then Paul came out. He walked a path along the line that seemed it would take him directly to me. The girl in front of me said, "My name is Lisa" as she posed for a picture with Paul. Suddenly, Paul was right there in front of me. My pen and Ticketmaster envelope were outstretched. Time froze. I thought of all the things I wanted to say. I wanted to tell him how much his music and lyrics meant to me. I wanted to tell him how he helped me make it through my teenage years and how much he inspired me. Paul grabs the pen and the Ticketmaster envelope. I say..."My name is Brad" to which he signs, "Brad, Paul." I turn around and my girlfriend (inexplicably now wife) says, "My name is Brad" and laughs and laughs and laughs. The next morning I realized that my mother threw away the Ticketmaster envelope. Kinda fitting. - *Brad Michel (Germantown, WI)*

I think my feelings and stories are probably very similar to most people who would be reading this. And if they are, I hope I meet you someday.

Seeing the 'Mats in Philly on the reunion tour felt like the last sentence in a cherished novel.
- *Joe Brooks*

Saw em open for Keef and reunion in Forest Hills, both so good.

I do a radio show through a local college station, titled, Left of the Dial. I discovered my favorite band while listening to a local college station as a kid and I hope to bring new music to others.

I heard "Alex Chilton" at the grocery store recently. Could not believe my ears. Also, question #5 (five favorite songs) on the previous page was impossible, I'm sure you know. I could barely pare my fave songs down to 8 :) !

They gave me a bone to chew on other than the depression flavored one I'd been knowing away at since the divorce.

My 3 year old likes to jump and say, "like Tommy!" - *Zak Boerger*

With assistance from Jim Clarke and Paul's manager Darren Hill, we arranged for Eriko to meet Paul. Eriko travelled all the way from Osaka, Japan to Chicago to see them play. It was a special moment I was honored to be a part of.

I guess I would have to say that my whole life has been affected by the Replacements. I met my boyfriend of over twenty years through Steve Foley and he ended up playing with Slim Dunlap for the whole time they were a band. I remember the buzz of energy of seeing them at the Entry in the 80's and back then I wanted nothing to do with going out with musicians. I still felt that way the first time I went to see Jimmy play with Slim at First Avenue, but they were so nice, I couldn't help falling for all of them. I remember being so pissed off when I went to see the 'Mats towards the end of the 80's because they quit in the middle of "Can't Hardly Wait". They were all wearing

coveralls and shoes painted with polka dots, which looked cool, but I had paid a lot for the ticket so I was pissed. It was a joy to go to the reunion shows and hear those songs played well. That and all of the great people I met through the Paul Westerberg and the Replacements Facebook page. Every show had a lot of young new fans and I've never been to friendlier shows. It's like being in an extended family. Then there were the Westerberg shows at the Pantages. I went two nights in a row and the only other time I have done that is for Bob Dylan. My friend had front row seats so I went the second night and Paul got off the stage, stood directly in front of us (there were some folding chairs in front of us) and people rushed to the front, a bunch of people we knew and he played "Unsatisfied". It was like a party in your basement what with the proximity and all of those people we knew around us. I could ramble on but I'm running out of battery here. - *Carolyn Cone*

BEST BAND.

I've turned other people on to them which is always a plus!

The 'Mats were pretty much the soundtrack of my college years, and I've never stopped listening to them.

When I was in college, I often felt estranged. This band was the outlet I needed. Twenty years later I continue to feel the same way. Whether I'm driving in the middle of the night listening to "Run It" or selecting "Unsatisfied" to ease the end of a bad day - this band is simply there.

Well, it ain't much of a story, but I have spent a lot of time drunk by myself in my basement playing those records.

Kinda Replacements related, I watered Monte Lee When Wilkes' plants while he was touring with them. - *Dennis "Jay" Johnson*

In 1985 I was driving on the 101 freeway in LA listening to KROC and "Sixteen Blue" came on. It was a spectacular and unforgettable three minutes. My hometown band getting airtime in CA was better than anything. - *Jim Zabilla*

The Replacements are just that band I need to hear whenever I'm feeling down. They always seem to be the soundtrack to major life changes in my life, and once the song or album ends I walk away feeling much better about things and about myself. - *Jason S.*

My friend Tyler and I drove to Tuscaloosa, AL, blaring "Unsatisfied" for the entire two hour drive and for the remainder of the evening.

Singing "Nobody" and screaming "unsatisfied" over and over and over and over. Playing a Replacements or Westerberg solo song during my radio show every Sunday morning. Always and forever being known is my circle and overlapping circles as that "replacements girl." Knowing, that as a mom of two young boys, I've successfully passed on the love for such an influential,

forever fucked, and undeniably passionate band to the next generation. - *Jen Pisky* (email address at one point: iwilldare@mindless.com, Livejournal which is dead at this point: unsatisfied)

I worked at Ocean Way Studios in the early '90s when they were recording *All Shook Down*. Was there the day when they played "Like A Rolling Pin" and charged Dylan five bucks for a beer!

Nothing more than wearing out their records and meeting and making friends with like-minded people who I'm still friends with today. Went to school in GA and it really was R.E.M. land but there was a ton of real rock n roll people that needed more than what R.E.M. could give, that was the 'Mats! Goofy, sloppy, awkward but loved rock n roll, even the cheesy shit which they covered like no one else! - *Kurt Bargas*

Midway was awesome!

Met Paul twice, definitely a highlight

My old band, The Dundrells opened for them in Toronto on the Tim tour and the 'Mats had Bob on guitar. I'd left the Dundrells so I could watch both bands from the audience at the front, the 'Mats opened with "Bastards of Young," and it was an amazing version. I remember Paul saying after the song, "you don't know who we are," and I thought to myself, "we're at your show you big dummy!" The Dundrells were just 'o.k.' at this gig, they sped through the songs too fast, likely nerves, but the 'Mats were unbelievable with Bob on guitar, I'm lucky that I caught them on the *Tim* tour and a good night.

Their records were and are always there for me. A great quintessential band. When I had my brain tumor and could not get out the director of *Color Me Obsessed* sent me a director's cut of the movie. Seen Paul and Tommy's projects as many times as they have been through Boston. My friend David has played with Paul and as well did the reunion tours.

When I was 15, they were playing a local venue in Orlando called Visage. I called my older cousin and told him that we needed to get tickets because the word was that they were gonna break up after the tour. He said that that it was always going around about the break up rumor. He did not get us tix and they broke up. I have not and will not ever forgive him.

They helped me understand punk rock. It's not noisy or stupid. It was pure energy that could be applied/fused to any genre. I still don't understand how they pulled their magical sounds out of their ass. But I guess that is the beauty of 1980's college rock. - *Alvaro*

In my last kitchen class at the Culinary Institute of America, I was in the weeds in the sauté station every day. One morning, I copied a bunch of lyrics from *Sorry, Ma...* all over my station to get me pumped up for service. When the chef-instructor saw them, he ripped them down, tore them into pieces and threw them in the trash. He said "If you want inspiration, learn from Escoffier or Point, not from a bunch of Spam eaters from Minnesota!" I was pissed he tore my

lyrics down but so freaking impressed he knew them that I didn't argue back.

- *Kevin Shiner (Richmond Hill, NY)*

At the January '91 Palladium show, it was a pretty miserable setting. The Palladium allowed smoking at the time, and while the band was in good form, the smoke in the air and a pretty crappy crowd made me and my then girlfriend (now my wife) feel pretty sick. She kept whining about leaving as she felt like she was going to hurl, and we did indeed split before the first encore. Of course we had no idea it was the last time the band would play LA and they would break up shortly thereafter, so every time I play their music - which is very often - I remind my wife that she made me miss the last hurrah of my favorite band in the world. When they came back to LA on the reunion tour she told me I could only buy tickets if I promised to never bring it up again. So far I have complied with her wishes. - *Bart Silberman*

Too many stories to tell, just love the band.

Paul is a nice guy. I met him on his tour bus in Boston because I had become friends with his drummer Michael Bland. He is my favorite songwriter

Great live shows.

I took two of my kids to see the reunion show in Toronto which was a truly special day. They both grew up listening to the Replacements so I was actually emotional when they came on stage. What a fucking pussy. I sang along to every song and musically I thought they were fantastic. Seeing J. Mascis watching them from the wings was great. Tommy called out to him in typical fashion. "Hey fucker" I think it was. They have been such a huge influence on so many musicians.

- *Ian Thomson*

I think I talked to one of them through the beer fridge at Uptown Liquor but I never knew for sure. Also, I once spent beer money to buy a record. That's love.

Met Tommy in a bar after the show...

I was at the Theatre Gallery in Dallas and I was talking to Bob. I told him I pointed out to some college kids who Paul was and Bob said angrily "Paul answers all the questions". He then stormed off. Little did I know that I would be in a band with Bob years later. I told him what he said and he laughed and said "that's pretty goood"! - *Steven Howard* (by the way, Bob was the only one sober that night)

Seeing PW as a solo artist in maybe 1993-1994 at the Whiskey-a-Go-Go was almost as good as a Replacements show. He really brought it that night, wearing some stupid plaid jacket.

I met Paul Westerberg as I was being car-jacked. He waved to me from a sidewalk.

Visiting a friend in MPLS walking around downtown and heard folks talk about unannounced show at First Ave. Show was great. With Slim. Half drinking; half best band on the planet. Covers included "I Don't Give A Damn" by George Jones.

My friends still think it's country music.

I always play *Tim* at the first snow of the season. I don't know why. It just sounds right. - *Jeff S*

I saw Bash n Pop on their first tour. The opening band was Magnapop. I was able to convince Magnapop to hang with us when Tommy's band took the stage...tried to get a moment with Tommy, but he bolted out of the venue.

I ran into Josh Freese at the Austin airport after ACLFest in 2014. We talked about the show and he said he really enjoyed the Forest Hills gig because of the Ramones being from there and what they sort of meant to the overall history of music and the Replacements.

Not much, met Paul one time. He was nice. I am embarrassed to say I had the same haircut and glasses plus our facial features are similar. He gave me a kind of freaked out look. I asked him about his studio and he said there was barely enough room to swing a dead cat around in there.

Got me through some hard times in life when I was homeless.

They make me happy.

Most surreal moment of my life was Paul trying to engage me in a discussion about touring with Elvis Costello while I was being stared down by various female rock luminaries who wanted his, uh, ear. Apparently, EC is not a fan of folks calling him by his given name, so you can guess what the 'Mats insisted upon calling him at every available opportunity. Also EC's favorite 'Mats album is *All Shook Down*.

I scared an old woman in another car at a stop light when I put *Let It Be* in my cassette deck and "I Will Dare" came blasting through at the loudest it could possibly be. Sorry to whomever that was! - *Jack C.*

When we went to see them, we arrived HOURS early, so we could get into the venue and make a beeline for the stage. At one point we saw a few guys come out and get on the bus parked outside. I think it was mostly crew guys, but among them Tommy stood out in his striped suit and spiky hair. We all squealed and waved and he waved back to us. Not an earth shattering story, but it was enough to put a grin on our teenage girl faces!

1989 I was in Pensacola Florida to see them play; I was killing time behind the before the show in leaning on my girlfriends' Vista Cruiser station wagon parked behind the venue. Paul walks right by me with a girl on each arm. I was speechless until I got the nerve to yell "PAUL!" he turned around and said "Love you man"...yeah real lame but he is/was bigger than any rock star to me.

Got kicked out of my first Replacements show. Went to see them at the Whole Music Club at the UofM, show was sold out, a buddy and I snuck through a side door, thought we were in, but bouncer came and gave us the boot.

The first reunion show I saw at Riot Fest was pretty great too.

Paul's solo show for the *14 Songs* tour in Atlanta is still in my top 5 best shows ever...was an awesome night!

The only time I ever won anything during a radio call-in show was during my college station's rock marathon weekend, which included a two-hour 'Mats block. This was probably 1992. They asked people to call in with their best story of having seen Bob Stinson after his departure from the band. I claimed to have seen him warming up pitchers in the Twins' bullpen during the '91 World Series. I've still got the t-shirt I won.

I was home from college on my dad's farm. I had *Pleased to Meet Me* and *Don't Tell a Soul* recorded on a 90 minute Maxell cassette. I would listen to it (with a Walkman) while I was discing my dad's fields on an old gasoline powered John Deere 620. - *Mark P. Weber*

Having a drunk Paul Westerberg sign my *Pleased To Meet Me* shirt on the steps of his tour bus (*Folker* tour). M Bland insured the line of fans he was ok when he was actually totally plastered. I told Paul he played two of my favorite songs of his back to back and told him (laughingly) that "you are the bomb!" He replied "I'm the bomb?" I leaned over and kissed him on the cheek (he was sitting on the tour bus stairs). He, then in turn, pulled me forward and kissed me back. The line of fans cheered big time. My friend that I went to the show with isn't a big PW fan but goes to tons of concerts. He told me "that's about the coolest shit I've ever seen". - *Dan Kaspari*

Omaha. Pulled over for DUI twice after show. Passed both sobriety tests. I shouldn't have.

Yes, but not today.

Gave Paul a big stack of bad poetry once. He was polite, which was probably the best possible outcome. So embarrassing looking back on it. I am sure it went right in the trash. Sent Chris a letter once complimenting him on his drumming on *All Shook Down*...I didn't know any better.

Paul solo tour at the Guthrie was pretty much beyond anything. He didn't know the lyrics to his own songs.

I already obsess over this stuff too much. (Beer)case in point:

<http://yousellwonderment.wordpress.com>

I've met Paul twice. My frequency at a St. Louis club where they and he later played gained me some access and was glad to meet him. He was who I thought he was. Not all warm and inviting. Kind of aloof and dickish. Great guy! Met Tommy over the summer at a backyard gig. He's also

who I thought he was and he approached me the next night at Psychedelic Furs and took a selfie of us with my phone. Great guy!

I've soundtracked Thanksgiving Eve with the 'Mats every year since '89. It's a perfect fit, for some reason.

Just loved their music from first time I heard them.

Not really. Though in senior year of high school I had a band and would argue with my fellow guitarist that the Replacements were the best rock and roll band ever. He argued the Stones were. To this day I'm still pretty sure that I'm right. - *Luke*

I was a student at the University of Alabama around '85-86 and needed to study that night. At the last minute I left for the show at a tiny venue called the Chukker. I was trashed by the end of the show and trying to convince the guys taking down the equipment to play "I Will Dare" again. After thinking what a fool I was, I finally realized they were likely more trashed than I and it really didn't matter. - *Marianna*

When they opened for Tom Petty on the *Full Moon Fever* tour (Kingswood Music Theatre) in 1989, they actually walked into the crowd around the lawn area before the show. And not one person seemed to notice! They seemed fairly sober at this point...

My girlfriend at the time had bought me tickets for my birthday to see Paul Westerberg on his last solo tour (2005). Due to lack of sleep and misunderstandings I didn't go. Westerberg would not tour again until the reunion some ten years later when I finally saw them which made that concert even more memorable. - *Chris Mora*

After a particularly sloppy show, my friends and I were driving down the alley behind the venue where Paul and Tommy were having a smoke. I leaned out the window and yelled, "We want our money back!" Without any hesitation, both Paul and Tommy turned around and flipped us the bird. We busted up laughing, typical! - *Ketut Mak*

Late 80s/early 90s. I'm leaning on the main floor bar at First Avenue, notice Paul down the way, and successfully stopped myself from FanBoying in his general direction. - *Tony Palermo*

I met Paul at the Easy Street Records show (Seattle), the first day of the *Stereo/Mono* record store tour. I did not see him live though because of Mapquest getting us lost. I somehow convinced my mom to take me to Music Millenium (Portland) the next day, and Paul pointed me out in the audience like, "you made it!" I was 17 or 18. *Stereo/Mono* still ranks among my top albums to this day.

First time I met Paul I said hello in passing...he shook my hand like the Banana Splits.

I once took this 9 question survey about The Replacements and was in a pretty good mood until I had to pick my 5 favorite songs. The stress from narrowing it down gave me a migraine. Thanks, 'Mats! - *Seth*

I never saw the 'Mats live. I had a ticket to the reunion show in Pittsburgh. They cancelled the day of the show. I've only had the pleasure of seeing Tommy on his Cowboys in the Campfire tour in 2016. He played a house in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. I couldn't have asked for a more surreal and amazing experience. After the show Tommy stuck around to talk and sign some things. I got a 45 signed. Later, after a few beers I asked Tommy if he'd sign my arm. I wanted to get a tattoo of it the next day. He obliged, but warned me "Don't get that fuckin' tattooed on ya!" I admitted that was the plan. We talked later, he really was doing his best to talk me out of it, even though I have a few tattoos already. He looked at me and said "Look at me, I'm the most punk rock person you fuckin' know and I don't have a tattoo on my whole body." I left that night with the words of my hero echoing on my head. The next day I decided that I couldn't do it. Growing up, Tommy and the 'Mats were my compass for what was cool. If the man didn't want me to get the tattoo I wouldn't. I let it fade away. A beautiful and meaningful moment I won't forget. Just last week Tommy played a tattoo shop and got 2 tattoos. His first. I'm not sad or mad. That's a totally 'Mats moment. I blew it. It was yet another moment for me to get it all wrong.

Was a great time!

Like many people I owe my love of Big Star to Paul. The Replacements personified that "lovable loser" archetype that I'm still drawn to. There's a beauty in the sadness that's bolstered by the occasional successes. I love those people that just can't quite get it right but aren't quite willing to totally quit, either. Really, that's pretty much everyone. - *Eric*

I spent one New Year's Eve in a deserted house with no heating, all my friends out of town for the holidays ... me, shivering in the kitchen, with only *All Shook Down* for company.

Conway's in Milwaukee before the show was awesome.

It's one of my missions in life to turn people onto the 'Mats. Whether someone appreciates their genius or not makes the difference between casual and true friend! - *Drew Tomko*

In my opinion, Paul Westerberg is the greatest songwriter of my generation. His songs speak to me like they are about both of us, me and him both. Is that a Replacement-related story? Probably not, but it's what I got. I am so grateful that I could see them three times during the reunion shows, it was like we were all reuniting for a few nights a few times one more time.

Only that I wish I'd seen them once with Bob.

Never saw them.

My wife and I met Paul during the *Folker* tour. He was very sweet to us, especially my wife. He signed posters, records and took pictures. I took a few of he and my wife sitting on the steps of the tour bus. She took one of Paul and I. Mine didn't turn out when developed (why did she only take 1 picture?!) but the picture of her and Paul did, which showed Paul with a devilish grin and his hand on my wife's thigh. Classic Paul. - *Tom Minarchick Jr.*

Replacements rule!

Green Bay. Had a Heineken with Paul at the Embassy Suites bar after the show. Tommy made out with my girlfriend while I was not paying attention... - *Tony (Wisconsin)*

I always enjoy meeting other Replacement fans. It is almost a secret society. People either get the Replacements or they don't.

(After reading Bob Mehr's *Trouble Boys*...) I knew from the familiar tales and legends that the Replacements were drunks, but I didn't realize they were THAT drunk.

If it wasn't for the Mats, I wouldn't have met my wife. She's not a fan, but her cousin is. Her cousin went to college with a co-worker of mine who also loved the 'Mats. I went with said co-worker to see his friend play acoustic guitar in a bar. The guitar player's cousin was there and we made plans to go on a date the next week. I wouldn't have gone out had a mutual love of the 'Mats with my co-worker not existed. - *Jason Loeb*

My oldest son went to College at St. Olaf, which is in Northfield, MN. When he was thinking about attending, the two of us flew out from DC where we live to check out the campus. We stayed with some family friends in Minneapolis and got up one morning to travel to St. Olaf, which is south of town. We were listening to "Hootenanny" and "Buck Hill" came on just as we were passing the Buck Hill ski "resort" (it's a hill!) on I-35S. This made us laugh and appreciate the smart humor that is found even in the simplest Replacements song. Of course, it was just a way for them to almost say "fuck you" on record. I've always wanted a Buck Hill t-shirt...

Despite being a punk rocker, I had a soft spot for the Goo Goo Dolls. After reading numerous reviews calling them "The Replacements Jr." I decided to check out *All Shook Down*. I didn't really get the comparison but when I heard *All for Nothing/Nothing for All* a short time later, I totally got it. That started a long chain of tracking down everything 'Mats related I could find and solidifying them as my favorite band.

Introduced me to some other great bands, like Big Star.

My son once asked me if I would cry when Bob Dylan died. I told him that I would be sad, but I wouldn't cry. "I will definitely mourn the loss of a great artist though. But when Paul Westerberg dies," I went on, "I will absolutely cry." When he asked me why, what could I say? How could I put it into words? How do you explain to a child that a person you've never met has greatly

impacted your life in so many ways? I guess for a forum like this, I don't need to.

- Gregg G (Fairfax, VA)

Meeting Paul and Tommy after a show in Lawrence, Kansas during my college years (like 1986 of 1987) was a serious high point for me.

After seeing them at the Marquee on the *All Shook Down* tour, I refused to buy an overpriced t-shirt only to find one lying in the middle of the platform at Notting Hill Gate tube station on my way back from the gig. I wore it till it fell to bits.

Going with friends, waiting in line and talking to strangers who were just as psyched to see them as we were (well, hard to believe!), driving through snowstorms passing cars off the road on the interstate and making it to the show with little time to spare, talking our way into shows after driving for hours only to be told there are no tickets being held at the box office for us! Driving home from Detroit to Milwaukee after the show with a blown fuse (no dash lights or tail lights), all the while going over every detail of the show on the ride home and for days afterwards.

Drove from Vegas, stayed at a walking by hotel, drank all the beers, watched the shit out of that shit, holy shit.

Eyebrows freshly shaved was a weird-assed look. Seeing them in Santa Rosa, which was basically in a church. Loved the shows with the Young Fresh Fellows.

I watched a fan present Paul with a freshly recorded cassette of the show the 'Mats had just finished performing and, without missing a beat, Paul tossed it out an open window beside him to the silent horror of everyone in the room. I've often wondered if anyone picked that tape up off the sidewalk that night. And I will never forget witnessing the only time I saw Westerberg sing onstage without a guitar strapped across his body, as his strings kept breaking so he finally gave up and tossed it...and suddenly it was as if he was naked to the world, awkward and embarrassed, stretching for the microphone with the same desperation as a wet cat clawing its way out of a bathtub...but his obvious pain at finding himself so exposed turned it into a performance that is seared into my memory, though I'll be damned that I can't recall the song. Anyone who knows of the 'Mats has a tale to tell, but I suspect that the best stories can't, or shouldn't, be repeated! - Andy (S.F.)

Just singing Paul's praises to strangers. Some have even come around.

I had some good stories about seeing Paul Westerberg at an in-store show in 2002. That wasn't the Replacements though.

Mehr's book says Slim says "can't you see why we're hanging it up?" on that 7/4 Chicago final show in Grant Park; but when I was there I swore it was Tommy. Whoever the hell it was slapped the denial outta me and instantly wanting time to slow down, freeze, stop. Shaking hands with Slim by tour bus on the *Don't Tell A Soul* tour outside the Coronado Theater in Rockford, Illinois

only because too shy to approach Tommy, who I nearly bumped into or Paul, who ran back inside after looking sick, while Chris waited for gear trailer to back out and walked between it and wall to avoid everyone. Yep, the end was near. Meeting Paul during the Virgin in-store as my wife had him sign a pic of the 84-85 era Paul-Tommy-Chris cardboard cutout... he looks sad and mentions how Bob was always in his own world. Poignant as hell.

That slow realization that the songs were transcendent like The Who and The Clash, except almost no one else knew it!

No, just that they are the best band ever!

I had a homemade 'Mats t-shirt in the early 90s. Most likely places for someone to recognise and knowledgeably comment on it were at retail check outs. Bookstores or supermarkets especially.

I was in Glacier National Park four years ago, and did the longest, hardest hike of my life, about 14 miles up and over a mountain pass and down the other side. When I got back to my car, I was about as spent as I've ever been. It was about 4 in the afternoon and I had to drive over the pass and back to my campsite. I got a beer from my cooler, put on the air (it was really hot) and drove back to my camp drinking my beer and listening to *Pleased To Meet Me*, really loud, and I instantly felt a whole lot better. - *Phil Clayton*

I just remember when seeing them live in Minneapolis in 1991, Tommy turning to Paul about halfway through the show and saying "screw this, let's go home and watch Cheers." Pretty sure this was a reference to Norm (George Wendt) being such a huge Mats' fan. - *Mark (Fargo)*

Not really a Replacement story, but I have to say I really enjoy meeting the fans. They are a great group of people!

To paraphrase Gina Arnold: I didn't like the Replacements, I was the Replacements.

Met a girl who likes the 'Mats - she was buying the reissue of *Let It Be*. Turns out she's engaged...

Ah, they were so much a part of my youth...there are no spectacular stories. Part of me is sad they never "made it" and part of me is happy that they simply are who they were. - *Tom Dotray*

I've seen Paul solo (went on his bus and met him), Tommy with Perfect (met him afterward - I bought a CD and he wiped his sweat on it - "Better than an autograph!"), and Slim. My friend and I had a beer with Slim afterward (we had beers, he wasn't drinking at the time) and he told us some good Paul stories, then we took his band out drinking around Memphis. Love those guys.

Last saw the original go-round of the Replacements opening for Elvis Costello and everyone knew they were about to break up. I still have the t-shirt I bought that day that says, "Welcome Funeral Directors...The Replacements"

Well, I can't really say here, the guilty must be protected. But, I will say, I could be a character in "Takin' a Ride" or "Run it". When I read the Mehr book, I saw myself and my friends from high school. We were not in any band together, but its striking how much we behaved like Replacements, especially in social situations. I have a sense there are thousands out there just like me too. As someone who as an active second tier musician and first tier fan of the local Twin Cities music scene between '79 and '86, I felt that the Replacements were special. However, in the '90s and the '00s I got busy working and raising kids and became passive when it came to music (I listened to a lot of KFOG and Live 105 in the Bay Area). I would talk about the Replacements with people - often they would start the conversation upon learning that I grew up in St. Paul. Over time, I started to realize that the Replacements had fans all over the country that had never seen them. I would get quizzed on what the shows were like with all of the predictable questions. But, I did not listen to the recordings all that often during this period. Then in about 2011, I dove back into the catalog and was blow away. It was like discovering them again for the first time. Strange to say, but while I always knew the Replacements were special, I did not really appreciate how great they were and how influential they were until I dove back in deep in 2011. Songs that did not really hit me back in the 80s now mean so much to me. Paul Westerberg's lyrics are really profound when I think about how young he was when we wrote them. So, I am glad the reunion was able to give them some of the so overdue credit and recognition they deserve. I have been through some tough times in the past few years (deaths of close ones, etc.) and the Replacements have been right beside me just like an old best friend. - *Rick Ramacier*

Found out Paul was being interviewed at Q107 radio in Toronto. I went there with some records, as I worked down the street at a CD/record store. I got there just as he arrived and he signed everything and was very nice. I met Tommy at his solo show. Very nice too.

Went to see them at Coachella the following year and they didn't disappoint. Awesome!

I had tickets to see the reunion tour in Columbus, but they cancelled!

To add to my earlier diatribe about meeting Paul in front of the Pine Street, my friends and I asked Paul to sing "If Only You Were Lonely" in the show that night but Paul claimed the song was too old and he didn't remember the words. So my friends and I busted out a horrendous a cappella rendition of the song to jog his memory. Paul had just enough patience with us to listen to all verses, and then somehow agreed to buy us a half rack of Hamms beer at 7-11. That's correct, we shoulder tapped Westerberg and he came through for us. I still have the first can pulled from that half rack in a drawer sitting next to countless staple-punctured telephone pole concert posters, swiped set lists, and an autographed poster of the *Pleased To Meet Me* cover, where Paul didn't sign his name but instead drew a simple, existential portrait of a cat sitting on fence. My name is Dave Johnson, my lifelong friend is Kevin Keehn, and we'll both stand on Mick Jagger's coffee table in oversized clown shoes and declare the Replacements are the greatest band of all-time.

Being from and living in Mexico, you could imagine that there were not many Replacements fans around. One time, circa 2002-2004 in a pub in Tijuana, I somewhat casually mentioned 'unsatisfied' to a friend. A couple of people around us gave 'a look' - and I knew, somehow, even in Mexico, those of us - misfits - somehow, somehow, we knew...

We are from Pittsburgh and had tickets to see them when they were to play here, but they had to cancel because Paul was sick I believe. It really sucked, but I am glad that I got to see them at least once!

Tried using a fake ID to get into my first show. My friends got in but I was so drunk the bouncer wouldn't let me in. My friend started drinking at the bar with Slim and my friend told him the biggest Replacements fan he had ever met was stuck outside. Slim came out into the street to look for me but I had drunkenly wandered up the block and missed him. He put me on the list. My friend came out and told me and I went to the door again but they still wouldn't let me in. I guess I might have been a little bit of an a-hole before. I went and sat on the curb and ended up meeting a girl I went to high school with we talked most of the night. Finally, I tried again and, this time, they let me in. I ran in only to hear the final chords of "Alex Chilton" and the show was over. Interesting side note, the girl I met was Julianna Hatfield.

<https://michaelhodgin.wordpress.com/2013/08/23/dont-tell-a-soul/>

I saw them the night Operation Desert Storm began. They played "The Halls of Montezuma." Cheeky bastards.

Telling me questions...

Got engaged moments before the Guthrie Theatre show on June 29, 2002. (PW solo)

It's just kickass music. What a writer, and what a perfectly unhinged band of noisemakers. One of the great rock bands.

The balcony nearly came down at the opera house ...

1989 Hanover NH. Backstage smoking with Paul! Tommy entered the room singing Ace of Spades while swilling a handle of Jack. He proceeded to drop kick the bottle that eventually hit me directly on forehead.

My ears rang for two days straight after the show.

Saw Westerberg several times since the 'Mats broke up. Solo work as good as 'Mats work. Best songwriter of all-time!

For me, the Replacements' music has a number of great memories attached to it. Just as importantly, the emotions and attitudes present in the songs are completely relatable. I wish I had great drunken stories of seeing the band or tales of debauchery that were inspired by them, but I don't. Their significance for me is they expressed my feelings and thoughts in great music. Thanks, guys.

SEEN PAUL IN TORONTO IN 2002 AWESOME

I met Paul at The Amoeba Records (Hollywood) show in 2002. He was delightfully grumpy. I asked him to sign my CD "Nice tits!" He rolled his eyes, sighed, but still did it! Thank you, Paul. I met Tommy outside of Alex's Bar in Long Beach, CA, and he is really wonderful. I used to work in the entertainment industry and have met every level of celebrity, and Tommy Stinson is by far the nicest! I don't want my name used, so I'm not giving it. I embarrass easily. Thanks for doing this survey!

When I listen to them, I am lifted emotionally, spiritually, and physically. You're never drinking alone with a Replacements LP on. The boys are right in the room with ya. "Where'd all the booze go?" "Sorry Ma, I listened to the 'Mats!"

?

It's not just the music - Paul Westerberg's lyrics have always set Replacements' songs apart. He looks at the mundane and makes it fresh. He says I love you, hate you, or miss you without ever using those words. It's punk poetry. - *Lynnette*

I saw them the second time at Piers Landing in Philly. Loved how Paul and Tommy tried to decide if they wanted to play "Hold My Life". They did. It was mangled but it was glorious. Nothing polished like you would see when going to see a band like U2. - *Phil Romanski*

Happily got to see the reunion show in 2014 and also got to see Tommy play a show in someone's living room.

I could listen to them all day.

Got to see Paul & his band at the Supper Club in NYC years ago. Great show! Saw Tommy & his band at Mercury Lounge years ago; also a great show! Life would have been complete shit if I hadn't discovered The Replacements.

Their songs are personal.

I was at the Houston show in 1985. The one was stopped by the police. Unfortunately the people I was with weren't fans, and because I wasn't driving, we left before the show was stopped. I also stood next to Paul at a urinal at a club show in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1984.

I think someone once said that they were the missing link between the Sex Pistols and Nirvana. I want this quote to be true more than anything. They are the foundation for the music we call alternative. More people need to know that.

My friend had just had a baby but wasn't going to let that keep her from the show. So she brought the baby (booooo) but no ticket and baby in tow equaled no entry. Lucky for her the band gave her a pass & it stayed on her baby seat forever. We tried to peel it off before giving it to Goodwill but couldn't do it so she kept it. Now that baby is in her 20s & a big fan herself.

I was home from college and listening to "Hold My Life". One of my bros passed my room and asked who was playing. I told him and he said "they're ripping off Rocky and Bullwinkle and Mr. Peabody." I said "I know." He wasn't impressed. About 20 years later, he was asking me for new bands to listen to. I gave him Replacements discs to listen to. "Hey these guys are cool." Like a fine wine or whiskey... Takes time sometimes!

Thanks to the Mats, I was inspired to see Alex Chilton in 2001, which was an amazing experience.
- *Tom Garside*

I remember a show at the Cabooze when Bob played nude guitar and passed out. Paul asked anyone if they wanted to play. There were several auditions. At this show, before they took the stage, people bought beers and placed them on the stage for the Replacements to drink. I think they figured it would help fuel a memorable show.

As a lifelong sufferer of depression, I've gotten a lot of relief and inspiration from the music.

Sorry, don't think I have anything else worth hearing. Have seen about four Westerberg solo shows but you probably don't need to know that.

One great story about Tommy and my girlfriend but can't say in public to protect the innocent...
:)

Saw them for the first time opening up for Tom Petty at Poplar Creek outside of Chicago. Sloppy, out of tune, Paul forgetting the words a few times, all of them probably drunk, and then for the grand finale, Paul lay on his back behind Chris Mars trying to sing something, mostly couldn't understand any of it, and they left after that to a chorus of boos from the mostly Tom Petty fans. I, of course, completely loved the performance. - *Don N*

"Achín' to Be" always reminds me of my older daughter.

The best live band next to The Cult I ever saw.

Listening to the 'Mats always brings back my childhood.

The only band from the eighties to stand the test of time.

I feel like I kind of grew up (not not) with this band. They're definitely part of my story and who I am.

All my friends were huge fans. I went to ACL last year to see a reunion show with a friend. After too songs we looked at each other and said all our friends from back in the day should have been there with us. We realized the Replacements were something that brought us all together.

- *Marty Maxwell*

Driving around America in a new car with *Pleased to Meet Me*, *Tim*, and *Let It Be* playing for five weeks with a stash of cash for every other night hotels and a pound of mushrooms hidden under the back seat to make sure I saw things right.

I played "I Will Dare" for my girlfriend and she left me right afterwards. Best thing that ever happened to me. Who needs that kind of negativity in their life.

Someday at a Twins game at Target field, when that stupid karaoke cam lands on me as they're blaring "Don't Stop Believin'" or some other nonsense, I'm going to look straight into the camera and yell, "I'll try to find you left of the dial" and the crowd will go nuts. You just wait.

Westerberg bummed a smoke at the Armory show in St. Louis.

My friend sang with Paul at The Ritz in 1994.

Favorite related story is Paul coming to our private party after his show at the Brown Theater in Louisville. We called his room via house phone to invite, never thinking he'd come. A couple in the party became engaged at the party, he proposed in front of us...she accepted and they went out in the hall for some privacy. Walked back in with Paul and the rest of his party. He stuck around 45 minutes and played old Stones covers and a few requests. We fortunately had a guitarist at the party and they had a couple guitars and a harmonica. Later he played "Born For Me" for the engaged couple, it was "their song" regardless of the latest verse. The bride to be simply lost it...tears. PW was most gracious.

Loved the bootlegs called *Live at Lingerie* (1984) and *Shit Shower and Shave* (1989).

I just love this band, always will!

Weird seeing them open for Petty.

I cried for the first time in about 12 years after their reunion show in Toronto.

One of my greatest moments of fatherly pride was when a guy semi-criticized/challenged my son for wearing a Replacements t-shirt and my son schooled the guy with his knowledge of their music. Also, I took him to their reunion show at Forecastle and he came away with the set list and one of Josh Freese's drum sticks.

Drank out of Paul's champagne bottle in the alley of the Vic, Chicago '86. Talked with Bob (post-'Mats) at Batteries Not Included, Chicago '88...he pulled my hair. Saw Slim at Fitzgerald's, Berwyn, Il right after that fire he wrote the song about...his hair was still singed! Tommy threw a plastic container of beer at me at the Aragon, Chicago '89 when I yelled "Hey Tommy! How about a drink!?" No Chris anecdotes but he was great! - *Mike Pecucci*

Meeting both Paul and Tommy and having them be courteous and totally cool heroes.

The reunion show at Forest Hills was amazing. My buddies and I went on the impromptu tour of all the critical sites in Minneapolis this past summer (Bob's bench, Stinson house, Sons of Norway, all the clubs, records stores, apartment building where Bob died, etc.)

Too many to count. - *Jonny Mac*

I have meet both Paul [after the solo Scala gig in London in 2004] and Tommy [in Dublin and twice in London at the Union Chapel and Electric Ballroom respectively]. In Dublin, Tommy tried to trade my mates' tuxedo for his boating blazer but no dice! Paul we met after gaining entrance to the bar at the Scala - thanks Kevin! We spent a good 45 minutes chatting and drinking - PW had a glass of red for those interested - he was really excellent company, discussing music [Marah - never heard of them was his response!!] and Johnny Thunders who we all know he is a big fan of. He chatted about his son and a bunch of other stuff lost in the mists of time and brain fade. Photos of the PW Scala gig and Tommy supporting Jesse Malin at the Electric Ballroom available upon request. - *Deadelvis*

Got some but I need to make breakfast so I'm skipping it.

Drinkin' beer and talking guitars at any given time with Paul, Bob, or Slim.

Well, the other important Replacements story I have is discovering the Skyway newsletter sometime in 1991 or 1992, I can't remember, when I was a student at Rice in Houston. It felt like I had stumbled on a secret society of misfits who understood what I had been blathering on to my friends for years without much success. These people understood. I contributed to Skyway a few times including a story about a Westerberg show in Austin in '93 when I watched the show standing right next to Bob Mould. I have fond memories of communicating with Matt. (Skyway also encouraged me to create my own 'Mats website, a complete discography at <http://learnhowtofail.weebly.com>). Anyway, my hats off to him for creating something beautiful for us misfits and losers across the country (and the world). You made a difference man. I'll drink one to you tonight. - *Asif*

We went Saint Paul for the Midway stadium show which was really cool! We also cruised around the city and went on our own mini Replacements tour stopping at Bob Stinsons bench, First Avenue, the CC Club and the house on the cover of *Let It Be!*

I was in college (UCSB) when they announced their reunion tour, with not only one but two shows in LA! I immediately made sure that I could finish all my assignments for my classes and took off on Tuesday in order to make the Wednesday and Thursday shows.

I have long time been and forever will be a loyal Replacements and Paul Westerberg fan. I am Brian Lux and I am 65. Never too old to rock and roll.

I bought *Stink* the day it was released. I heard the "this is the Minneapolis Police..." preamble. For several years I thought it was a different show that was busted with the same declaratory statement - a show in a warehouse on the West Bank, where the Replacements and the Hypstrz was similarly broken up. The police busted the party after the Replacements played, during the Hypstrz set.

I was about 15 feet from Paul Westerberg at a solo show he did here in Omaha. It was before the show - and he was alone, just standing there, smoking a cigarette. I wanted to approach him, but didn't want to be gushy. I lost my nerve and he walked off. Thinking back and knowing what I know now, I'm kinda glad I didn't go up to him. Had he been a jerk (which it sounds like he could be), the mystique and admiration would have been gone at that point. Sometimes it's better to leave some stones unturned.

Following the 7/7/87 Reseda Country Club show, instead of retreating to the backstage area, a few of us spotted the 'Mats smoking out by the dumpsters in the parking lot. As hundreds were exiting the club, (not taking notice of the 'Mats proximity), a few of us encircled the 'Mats, shook hands with them, then hit them with questions. I recall I had asked Paul about the inspiration for "Waitress in the Sky" and he mentioned his sister being a flight attendant. I recall, we hung with the band until their limo arrived. With the 'Mats being my favorite band, it was a great experience! - G. Kurbikoff

Best memory was Paul's tour for *Mono/Stereo*. I was sitting right next to him while he played. Always remember "Skyway" and that feeling.

Not a story as such, I just love those guys. You just look at Paul and Tommy and you want them to be happy and do well.

I watch them on YouTube all the time and pretend I've seen them live.

Paul walked by at least 200 people and walked in the front door of the Col Ballroom in Davenport, Iowa. My buddy was the only one that said hi. Everyone else never even noticed him.

I was 17 when they played Virginia on the *Pleased to Meet Me* tour. They did a signing at the local record store. Nobody was approaching Chris Mars so he took his pen and wrote "Chris" on his forehead. Paul signed my flyer, "And then he bathed, Paul". Tommy was playing pool when they took the stage and he just walked up through the crowd.

Just so happy I was also lucky enough to see Paul solo in Vancouver, front row, centre at the Commodore Ballroom on the *Folker* tour.

Tommy solo at Toads Place in New Haven doing a show in a snowstorm for 10 of us - my wife and I, three kids from Brazil who only knew Tommy from GnR, and 5 regulars. He didn't stand on stage but plugged in and stood on the floor, playing solo electric. Ended with the song "Friday Night is Killing Me" as if the room was packed. He is an old soul but just the nicest, sweetest guy. I've seen him many times and he wants to connect with everyone in the audience and entertain us all. If aliens landed today and said "Play us a rock and roll song or we will destroy your planet.", I'd call on Tommy. Paul, *14 Songs* at Irving Plaza in NYC. He came out fast wearing a giant clown bow tie, knelt down and said "Thank you for these gifts we are about to receive" and absolutely tore into "Waiting for Somebody". Don't ever forget that before *Stereo/Mono*, *Folker*, *Grandpaboy*, etc. Paul was a total rock star - just sometimes a star gets bored. - *Ges*

Remember them yelling at us from the dressing room window at the Paramount in Seattle in '91. Probably throwing stuff too.

My kids love the Replacements. This year my daughter's favorite group, the 1975, tweeted a pic of the lead singer wearing a 'Mats t-shirt. She forwarded me a copy...the lead singer of her fave band wearing the t-shirt of my fave band. Full circle.

One of my favorite memories attached to a Replacements' song is when my band The Flowers played a show in a backyard. We close with "Can't Hardly Wait" quite often because I think it is a great way to end a show, as well as an album. We had played it at shows before and then played it a second time, so that I could do the *Tim* and *Pleased To Meet Me* versions. At this show I thought it'd be a good idea to do it about 7 or 8 times. I sang every set of lyrics there are from *The Shit Hits The Fans*, *Tim*, the acoustic version and so on. A few of the times I played it by myself because my band grew tired of playing it over and over. So we ended out set with a bunch of versions of "Can't Hardly Wait." Most of the people there didn't enjoy it, I loved it.
- *Christian E. Boyatt. 19. (Modesto, California)*

Yes. But not sharing. :)

The very first time I saw the Replacements, they were opening for Tom Petty at an outdoor amphitheater near me. No matter what they did, good or bad, they could not get any reaction from the audience. Finally, after doing both their best and their worst, they started a song, and after only a few chords, Paul said "Fuck it, it's too hot for this", threw down his guitar, and the band walked off stage. Most of the audience was confused, but, in some fashion, I loved it. THIS was the Replacements I had read about. I fell in love with the band that night. - *Mike Baltz*

I was at the original last show at Grant Park. Hootenanny was a great way to end it.

It is impossible to count the number of times a 'Mats lyric entered my brain at a much needed moment thus preventing a meltdown...

Replacements fans are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. Bob Mehr's book is both fascinating and at times heart-breaking, but I am glad they told their stories. And I think that many of the solo records are gems, especially some of the ones from Chris.

I was flying somewhere and listening to the Replacements on my walkman and I played waitress in the sky for the stewardess. She really seemed to enjoy it and tried to get the other stewardesses to listen. They were not as impressed as she was. I don't remember her name and maybe she is a big fan and will read this. All I can say is, you're welcome!

Other than they are the greatest band ever, I got nothing.

This technically isn't my story - it was told to me by a senior on my floor when I was a freshman at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. The 'Mats had played at Carleton the year before and while this guy had heard them play, he had no idea what they looked like. So, he was in the student center bathroom before the show and there were four guys in there shit faced drunk, puking in the stalls. A half hour later, he was surprised to see them on stage.

Missed the 1991 July 4th show in Chicago. Buddy said let's go and I didn't. Big regret.

I guess the thing about the 'Mats that has always been different than other bands is the palpable excitement in the crowd before they come out on stage. There is nothing like the atmosphere in a club or concert hall when the 'Mats are about to emerge. You just never knew what you were gonna get, but you knew you'd never be as cool as these guys. Most all of the shows I saw (probably around 10-12) were stellar, with great playing. You couldn't take your eyes off them. And bonus: I got to meet Slim behind a club in Raleigh NC after one of his solo shows for *The Old New Me* record and he was the coolest, most gracious rocker dude I ever talked to. I'll never forget the 30 minutes or so we spent leaning against a car in the parking lot, smoking cigarettes, shooting the shit about music. - *Jeff Arndt*

Rock on.

Always exciting seeing Tommy around Minneapolis back in the day...

It was after the 'Mats had finished and Paul was doing his solo tour. It was the one where he played alone with a living room stage and sofas. He played the Barrymore in Madison WI on a Saturday night. My band played a gig earlier as an opening act then we hauled ass over to the real show of the night. We didn't know what to expect, just Paul by himself. It was great and he did a little nod to Bob during a solo. The first notes of every Replacement song got the crowd going and everybody sang along. It was like a reunion, lots of old familiar faces in the crowd. The only bummer of the night was Pogo Stick getting turned away at the door for insisting on bringing his own water into the theatre. I think that tour and the DVD documentary of it showed Paul (and

probably Tommy) that the fans didn't want it to die. When I watched the DVD I realized it just wasn't Madison that had a good show, it was the whole tour. Everyone wanted it back. - *Jason S.*

We arrived in Minneapolis the day before the St. Paul show and went to the Slim benefit concert. Later that night my wife and I were invited to the after party and I got to wear the Oriental coat that Bob wore on Saturday night live. Earlier that day I got drunk at the CC Club. Saw them live the next night...perfect trip!!

There was that time that Bob Stinson wandered into my friend Jeff's party in Uptown after Lollapalooza (completely wasted). Jeff, being a huge Replacements fan, let Bob hang out and crash on the couch. Bob decided to leave before daylight and loaded up a garbage bag of beers "to go". But hey, we got to hang out with Bob. - *TC*

I would have loved to see them in the Bob, Slim or Chris eras, but I can't imagine a tighter performance than what I was lucky to see during the reunion tour. Great as Chris was, I can't imagine him playing better than Josh. The other great thing about the reunion tour was a career-spanning setlist that could include gems like "Love You in the Fall," "Message to the Boys" and *All Shook Down* tracks. *All Shook Down* is the most underrated album!

I've played a number of their songs on guitar at coffeehouses over the years. The first one I learned was "If Only You Were Lonely" that I learned from an older lady in our church music group that worked out the chords for me when I was a teenager. Later, I played "Skyway" and "Here Comes A Regular" and still know them and play them at home every now and then when I pick up a guitar. Great songs that stand up over time. - *Matt T. from the Motown*

My first Replacements show was one of the ones where they all wore matching jumpsuits - Beacon Theater, NYC, I believe. I didn't get the joke.

I recently read the new book about the band and listened to all the albums on vinyl while doing so. And drinking some single malt. Those were some glorious nights.

It's more of a Paul story... My wife and I were living in Baltimore and went to see Paul in Washington D.C. at the famous 9:30 Club. It was the *Come Feel Me Tremble* tour I believe. I am/was a huge fan and my wife casually listened to the 'Mats/Paul primarily through me. We had heard that during these shows Paul sometimes brought some of the fans on-stage for the encore. Sure enough, before the encore started Paul invited fans up front to go on-stage with him. When I turned around to say to my wife "let's go", she was already gone! We both got onstage, but she was literally next to Paul for the encore - which was highlighted by a ripping rendition of "Swingin' Party". I remember it like it was yesterday. Thanks Paul!

- *Anthony Antonelli*

Sure, changed my life. I've talked to Paul Westerberg, usually after standing in a long line and sitting on the steps of a tour bus, for a couple seconds after several of his solo shows and I always

say the same thing: what can I say that hasn't already been said? It's been decided: this band is the soundtrack to my life. I like Paul Westerberg solo, I think Tommy Stinson writes some great songs and Chris Mars and Slim Dunlap's albums have some classics too. As people, I don't worship them. I don't have any illusions: none of these guys are saints and I wouldn't want my life to turn out like theirs. I am not sure I would even want a music career or definitely wouldn't want a marriage to turn out like theirs either. But every other rock band comes second. One Missouri winter night, I wondered if there wasn't there somebody out there who could tell me what it was like to see the band with Bob Stinson or on the tour for *Pleased To Meet Me*? I didn't start the Skyway for the Replacements – they all had enough of the band. I started writing on this because of the stories and the human comfort we get from others who feel the same. Music is the most personal art. Sure, everybody likes Degas or or Monet - but what makes you feel more at home than people who have the same favorite songs as you? - *Matt Tomich*

After the '86 show was over, my friend and I were yelling through the outside door at people trying to get in to get backstage. I heard someone behind me say "shut yer fuckin' trap". It was Paul walking by heading upstairs to the bar.

Almost 17 years after being introduced by a friend in Oklahoma, we were both in the DC area and attended the show together. It was my first, and turned out to be one of my all-time favorites. I've probably been to 300 concerts and that one jumped easily into the top 5.

Just recently, my best friend from high school sent me a pic of a pic of the Replacements from some bar in Knoxville. It's funny how friends and music seem to always be there.

please come to japan. every 'mats fan is waiting.

I have a few: once I met Juliana Hatfield and Evan Dando in Australia and they told me how much they appreciate Paul and the Replacements. *Sorry Ma* is Evan's favourite 'Mats LP he said. Evan also said something like "The Replacements are my rock professors, I've been educated by them".

The reunion was fun, but not quite the same as the two times I saw Paul solo: 1) Virgin Records in SF when *Stereo/Mono* came out (Paul jumped in the crowd and choked out a heckler, then proceeded to do a 2+ hr signing) and 2) at the Great American Music Hall on the *Folker* tour (super shambolic, with an ornery Paul, a mess of "I Will Dare", and a transcendent "Left of the Dial").

A brief love affair with Paul on his solo tour *His Only Friends* in Chicago. Flew me to Columbus to spend his day off partying together. He was still married, and I never asked about details. It was a great lost weekend with my favorite musician.

Waiting for *14 Songs* at the lowest point in my life, staying alive just to hear it.

I met Paul at a CD signing. I was nervous and said something that came out a bit wrong. He didn't kill me for it.

As part of my job at the time, I was at the SNL taping in early '86. Bob Stinson brought my buddy and me two cold Heinekens and asked us if we had any substances. We did not, but he didn't seem too disappointed. We then watched the performances and saw the NBC people freaking out between songs...I actually heard someone scream, "they'll never work in this town again!!!" An absolutely glorious fucking night.

Took my son to the gig. He loved it.

Bash & Pop, 7th St Entry, 1993, is a top 3 show all-time for me. Tommy having fun, plus the nicest crowd ever. If I bought beer for you, stranger, you're welcome. If you bought a round for me, stranger, my thanks.

If someone knows and loves the 'Mats, they are OK in my book.

The reunion show at Midway was unbelievable. The weather, the venue, the singularity of knowing it was the last show at Midway and probably the last show for the Replacements in Minnesota. I have never been around a group of people so like-minded and cool. It was a Minnesota band, on a Minnesota night, in a Minnesota state of mind. Sweet like wine you will never taste again.

When I saw them in Louisville in 2014 at Forecastle, I got separated from the other people in my group, so ended up watching the show without friends to share my emotions with. There was a younger-than-me couple directly behind me for the entire show, and, unfortunately, in my excitement, I spilled/sloshed my adult beverage on the young lady on at least 3 occasions. So when the show ended, I immediately turned to apologize for my carelessness. However, instead of her being upset, what she said about me deserves quoting: "No problem, whatsoever. I've never enjoyed watching someone enjoy a show as much as I did watching you revel in The Replacements" - *Kerry Ferrell (Louisville, KY)*

Best 'Mats song performance I've ever seen was Paul Westerberg doing "Unsatisfied" in Indianapolis at the Vogue, 2002.

On May 5, 2015, me and my friend went to Columbus, Ohio to see the 'Mats the next day. Plan was to go down, party, see the 'Mats and party then leave the next day. We went down on a Tuesday. Earlier Tuesday morning I was let go for corporate downsizing. So called my buddy and said "shit I was fired - what time are you done with work so we can go to Columbus?" He consoled me and was off work in a couple hours later. We then headed to Columbus and were getting ready for total debauchery since I lost my job and we were going to see the ultimate band with the record of debauchery in history. As we were in the city limits of Columbus, the station that we can stomach in that city mentioned that the Replacements had cancelled Pittsburgh that

night and the Columbus show tomorrow night was probably going to be cancelled too. What the fuck?! Are you kidding me?! Seriously, I just got fired and Paul Westerberg decides to get sick and will probably cancel?! WTF?! So needless to say, they did cancel both Pittsburgh and Columbus so we decided to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in another city and proceeded to party for two and half days. Still pissed I missed them play.

I have a nerdy picture of myself in high school, wearing big glasses with Paul Westerberg, taken at an autograph signing before a show at the Aragon (?) in Chicago. They were all perfectly nice. Which surprises me after reading *Trouble Boys* :) - *Kathy*

The reason I moved out of my apartment in the Modesto was because the guy upstairs was a pal of the band. One night I woke up and heard dripping in my bathroom. It was from the toilet overflowing upstairs. This became a bit too regular of an event for me and the landlord could not seem to get them to stop flushing weird things down the toilet. Can't say for sure it was from Replacement members but it sure was gross. On a more positive note, here in Minnesota we are proud of Bob Dylan and Prince. I would call it a three way tie with Paul Westerberg as the best song writers from Minnesota. Naw, Dylan rules.

My favorite band for the past 25 years. I remember listening to pretty much non-stop to *All Shook Down* in my Walkman while on my way back from tree planting in British Columbia in 1991. It was a four day and night bus ride all the way to Montréal. Each time I hear All Shook Down, it feels like I'm this 18 year old kid again all by himself on that Greyhound bus, heading back to his hometown after a crazy spring out west. - *Yann*

Growing up, I blasted *Stink* while driving around drunk. Being an anti-hero was basically my calling.

In spring 1984, the Replacements were headlining the 4th Alternative Jam at the Exit/In in Nashville. I was publishing a fanzine, so I went to the sound check and arranged to interview Paul. We went back to my apartment (about a block away) and Paul insisted that we pick up beer (this was at roughly 1:00 p.m.), which I did. We consumed the beer and had a wonderful conversation about the band and the forthcoming *Let It Be* album. Met and interviewed the entire band several times over the next few years; great bunch of guys. - *Andy Anderson*

Being able to take my then 16 year old daughter to see them in 2014 at the Forecastle Festival is hands down my favorite dad/daughter memory. She always kind of liked them, but wasn't too into them. She is however a huge Green Day fan. When I would mention to her that the Replacements were a major influence and one of Billie Joe Armstrong's favorite bands, I would get little more than a shrug of the shoulders. However, when seeing Billie Joe on stage not being the Billie Joe Armstrong, front and center man for Green Day that she knew and loved, watching him stay for the most part in the background and being totally respectful while his heroes absolutely torched the crowd with the best set of the entire festival changed the game, for lack

of a better way of putting it. As the set progressed, I could literally see my words finally taking hold and having real meaning to her as she was totally taken in by the moment. She was so stoked after the set, pretty much the same way I felt when I first saw them 25 years earlier. As a parent, witnessing that moment of realization feels good...it feels goddamn good. - *Brian*

First time I saw the 'Mats live was the *Pleased to Meet Me* tour. Beacon Theatre summer '87. They were plowed and fucked around a lot. I didn't really get it. Covered "Born in the USA". Paul sang with a helium-assisted falsetto at some point.

Wasn't let into a show because I was intoxicated. I came back later, acting sober, and wearing a disguise! - *Gordon Gunn*

Met the guys (Paul, Tommy, Slim and Steve Foley) at a record store meet and greet in '89 or '90. I said "hey Paul" and gave him a look and a subtle nod like "not gonna give you some line about how awesome you are but you guys were my saving grace." He gave me the sideways nod back. Of course he could have just been mocking me, but I cling to the idea that he got the meaning of it. - *RLM*

I'd rather look forward. Tommy is turning out some kickin' stuff, *One Man Mutiny* was superb and the terribly underrated *Friday Night is Killing Me* is about to be re-issued. I'm all in on Tommy, and PW's catalog speaks for itself. In Lisbon, Paul made it clear he was done, at least for now, and doesn't really wish to play 'Mats songs any further. Fine. Don't play 'Mats songs. Play all your solo stuff. Trade off as headliners. Tommy & Paul, playing together on tour. Make it clear that NO Replacements songs will be played. Call it the 'hate us even more on facebook tour' because NO Replacements songs will be played. I'd pay to see these guys mow their lawns. The solo work stands on its own and deserves to be showcased. PW & TS touring together as co-headliners? That's what I wanna see!

I saw Tommy with The Figgs at a show at Ottobar in Baltimore a few years back. During the Figgs' set I took a brief time-out to the little boys' room, and lo and behold who do I run into on my way back to the stage but Tommy Stinson! We chatted for a few minutes, he could not have been nicer (I told him how much I loved *Friday Night is Killing Me* and that I thought it was one of the most underrated albums of all-time). He said "Thanks, but there really weren't many returns on that one, unfortunately". Anyway, we get to talking about The Figgs. I mentioned that I loved their song "Favorite Shirt". He goes "Me too! Come with me!" and grabs me by my shirt and basically drags me up to the front of the stage. Tommy yells out "Hey! This guy wants to hear Favorite Shirt!" The Figgs kind of rolled their eyes, saying they were sick of that song but Tommy screams "Tough shit, play it!" and they busted right into it. And it was GREAT. One of my favorite concert-going memories.

I suppose I just related to their "shoot yourself in the foot" ethic as well as their drinking habits...

I married the girl who used to work in a record shop. And I told her that I liked her by playing "Customer". And so I not only got a girlfriend but someone who loved the band as much as me. And there was the time after a 'Mats show they showed up at Maxwell's to see Alex Chilton play but you know what they say...don't tell a soul. - *EvilerSM*

Been under their spell since 1990 listening to *Let It Be* and *Tim* on a roommate's blank tape with the "Peter Gunn Theme" as an interlude. Have been listening to PW ever since.

The Burlington, VT 1989 show featured Paul grabbing Tommy's ass and kissing him full on the lips during "Nightclub Jitters." Did anybody tape that show?!?!?

I come from afar and I was never able to meet anybody who knew the band. So I had to try and made people listen to them. Somebody liked 'em, somebody loved 'em, somebody couldn't get 'em at all. My band tried more than a couple times to play some of their songs ("I.O.U.", "I Will Dare") but to no avail. We even tried to get as drunk before shows, and we failed in that too. But the story that counts the most is this: those songs still make me feel better, less alone and less misunderstood. I think that's the biggest goal a band can reach, when somebody goes up to them and tells them, "Thanks, you wrote that song for me".

I only was able to see one 'Mats show. 1991 in Lawrence, KS. Most memorable moment of the show is when Tommy says he's wanting to get the hell out there because we were so "dull." I think the exact quote was "You all are as fucking dull as you were the last time we were here." He then goes on to say he was in a hurry to get back to the hotel to watch Cheers re-runs. The angst was still there even without much of the booze! - *Rich Yarges*

Soon after I first heard the 'Mats, I would cut school and drive around in blizzards trying to get lost physically and mentally into the landscape and the music of *Let It Be* and *Tim* just listening and driving for hours absorbing all of the subtle and not-so-subtle brilliance of these albums. They were like nothing I had ever heard before. I tried to share the experience I was having with my friends, but they just didn't seem to get it, and I didn't get how they weren't getting it! After all, we mutually liked tons of other music. My best friend got it, though. He got all of it. I guess there is a little extra fold in the brain that allows all of the magic of The Replacements to be absorbed, and that some people have this fold, and some people don't. I bought *Sorry Ma, Stink*, and *Hootenanny*. Then I patiently yet anxiously waited in earnest for each consecutive album after that to be released and even though each album had a little "learning curve" to it, I was never disappointed. Ever. Every album is still on heavy rotation in my life. - *R.G.S.*

Their music is timeless. It never gets old and all the albums are very good. Only a few bands I can say that about.

My one younger sister dislikes the Replacements and makes what I call an "ew, Paul Westerberg" face when she suspects she hears their music. She has mistaken Old 97s and Soul Asylum songs for Replacements songs when forced to listen to my music in my car, and will say "ugh, is this

that Paul Westerberg guy?" Of course, I will happily grin and say yes, and I will not change the song! My other younger sister was never a fan of school, and she likes when I play "Fuck School."

Since 1989, The Replacements is the band that has helped me through my life and made my life much better. I don't know what I would've done or what I would do without The Replacements in my life. - *Donnie*

My mate Graham Don and I, Nick Moller, DJ'd Brisbane punk and indie rock venues in the mid-80's. We heard *Don't Tell A Soul* eventually and we liked it, but when we got the back catalog it was like, holy crap, we've been spinning 60's and 70's punk and Stooges all this time when there was this awesome band playing right now somewhere that had it all: humor and raw emotion and rock power. The thrill of discovering kindred spirits.

Too many late night of drinking to remember the best parts.

I only saw them once and they were everything I thought they would be.

Very happy they did the "Victory Lap" and that I got to see the show in Queens.

The Replacements are the embodiment of rock and roll to me. Paul Westerberg is the greatest songwriter of his generation. I will never discover another band that means as much to me. Their music helped me get through my twenties when I didn't have a clue of what I wanted to do with my life. They made me feel like I belonged.

I actually got to get on stage and "play" Slim Dunlap's guitar (it was gold, maybe a Rickenbacker) during one of his gigs in Louisville, KY. He had a song where he would get a talentless fool on stage to rip and roar. He chose me. I was nervous and tried to get my head through the strap before Slim was all the way out of it, which drew some laughs. I had a blast, did a Chuck Berry duck walk and made a memory. Earlier in the day, Slim did an "in-store" and a few of us had a great time listening to him tell stories. He was a gifted person when it came to relating to people. Totally at ease and such a gentleman. Oh, and recently I saw Bobcat Goldthwait at a local comedy club. I had my 'Mats shirt on and afterward I shook his hand and he held up the people behind me waiting to meet him because he wanted to talk Replacements. It was really cool. He loved Bob and like many of you, he saw them when they were great and not so great. My reply to that was, even when they weren't "great" they were still great. One of the best things about my being a Replacements fan is having "met" so many people that loved them on the internet. I've made a lot of "cyber friends" like Rob E, Trace H, and Craig 9 (yes, Craig, I still have your "Planet 9" tape!) among others. Tape trading was an obsession for a while and that really made it easy to connect with other fans. I loved the old newsgroups and have been with Skyway for a long time. I appreciate people like Matthew and Kathy and all they have done to make people and information accessible. Being a Replacements fan has been one of the joys in my life and I mean that with all sincerity. That awesome, fucked up little band helped me make some great

memories and make connections with people and my life would be a little less full without them.
- *Freddy Caple*

Roscoe [Shoemaker] and I were good friends. I met him at the Bowery around the time he recorded that [*The Shit Hits The Fans*] show. We were friends up until his death. I have a bunch of bootlegged shows (CD and video) and I was going to give them to him. I don't know what to with them now. I gave *Let It Be* to a friend in the U.K. and he loved it. He worked for the label [Glass] that put out *Boink!!* after he played it for his boss. That led to the Mississippi River Tapes incident. - *D.Carney*

Had a buddy on the UW-Eau Claire CC team grow out his hair for Halloween and came dressed as Paul in the suit from *Pleased To Meet Me*. Was the spitting image. Including getting falling down drunk! - *Pat Jarvis*

In the 90s I was a deejay in a club in my hometown and I played the song "The Ledge" for weeks and at once a few people started to dance and after that I could play this song and more people started to dance, a victory for the deejay.

I just love them.

Was very excited about seeing them for the first time at the Roxy - LA '86 - spotted Bob Stinson and Greg Hetson (Circle Jerks) before the show standing just inside the door watching intently as customers were coming in. Guessing they were waiting for a drug delivery... Meltdown show with Tommy jumping into the audience after someone swiped his half-gallon of Jack Daniels and the whole band swapping instruments. Most memorable song: Paul playing drums while he sang the first verse of the US Marines theme song. I walked out dejected and disappointed shortly afterwards.

I had no idea when I saw the 'Mats at the Orpheum they would soon break up. I got into the band late and it was a bummer when they fell apart.

The reunion show was terrific. Saw them in Seattle at the beginning of the tour.

Missed them in '91 when I got mono. Thought I would never see them.

There was a summer night when my former band and I played a three hour long set split into three parts at a dive bar in a lousy town just outside of Boston. We didn't have a lot of original material at the time so we had to learn sixteen cover songs in order to fill up space in the set list over the course of two weeks. Some not so good things happened on the business side of things and we left with less money than we were supposed to - go figure. The bathrooms were all been closed down at the bar so I ended up pissing in an old water bottle on my way home after holding it since the beginning of the last set and through the encore, which we weren't prepared for at all. When I got home and ended up crashing on the floor, I put *Pleased to Meet Me* and

everything just seemed to go away. Thanks, Paul, Tommy, Chris, and Alex (RIP) - That moment of hearing "Can't Hardly Wait" at the end of a long is one I won't forget as long as I live. - *Liam A.*

At the Albany, NY show in 90? 91?, the band played this old movie house that had an orchestra pit b/t the stage and the first row of seats. A guy jumped in the pit and was taken out. Then the band jumped in the pit. They go into "Nightclub Jitters" and Westerberg says, "Who wants to be my dance partner?" This woman next to me is going absolutely apeshit, so, in true Westerberg fashion, he chooses the woman next to him-which was me. It was kinda weird and rather surreal, so much so that for some reason, I bowed to him (yeah I dunno) at the end, and he curtsied to me. Later on, we wound up backstage. I remember they had Sharps beer, which was this gross non-alcoholic style ale that was out. Somewhere at my parents' house is a 26ish-year old bottle of Sharps - I couldn't believe that was actually in the 'Mats dressing room, given their reputation (and of course, there was no internet then, so I had no idea about Westerberg being on the wagon by this point). As a music photographer, I'm not crazy about cell phones at shows but man oh man do I wish a cell phone with a camera had been invented back then just so this event would have been captured somewhere. - *Erica Bruce*

Heard them break up live on WXRT's free Fourth of July concert live broadcast.

This is an odd one but my wife was hospitalized in 2007 when she became seriously ill. She almost died but thankfully, she pulled through. For some reason, the hospital had Muzak playing in the parking deck. One night, after visiting her, I was heading back home and while walking to my car, I hear the Muzak version of "Can't Hardly Wait." I couldn't believe my ears. I was so shocked that Muzak had butchered a Replacements song! I remember thinking to myself, I hope Paul is getting a paycheck for this. - *Douglas Wood (Decatur, GA)*

I think I actually played "Answering Machine" on a girl's answering machine. During the reunion tour show, the crowd sang every song, and I felt lifted up like I was at some kind of revival. I listened to "Unsatisfied" over and over, and I think that *Let It Be* and *Tim* genuinely got me through my angsty period in college. That band has been a life companion, and all of you understand what that's like.

Was at a First Ave. show and I went up to have a piss, so I'm standing at the trough by myself when someone came up to pee and it was Paul. So it was just me and Paul standing there peeing. We zipped up I said "Hey Paul, have fun tonight" and he said "Hey, I will, you too". It was great.

Again, meeting friends and talking Replacements with some people who have been seeing this band since before I was born. Meeting band members & all of the little moments during shows just destroyed me for all future concerts. Nothing will ever be anything like a 'Mats show... that's a wonderful & a depressing thing!

They are my medicine.

I was being baited into a fight while in line waiting to get into the Beacon to see them. Some asshole scalper was picking a fight with my friend next to me, and my friend was equally being a jerk right back; I was afraid if fisticuffs began, we'd get pinched and miss the show. I thrust myself between the two combatants trying to reason with them and was promptly invited to throw down with the scalper's finger poking me in the face. I'm a lover not a fighter, but every instinct but one wanted to beat the crap out of this guy. But my inner concert goer kept the waves of anger in check, and we filed into the Beacon moments later and saw a great show. Once I had a few beers and heard a few songs, my anger subsided and I reveled in the soundtrack of the high road. But I never hung out with that guy again. Coincidence? I think not. - *Stephen O'Donnell*

Countless people I turned on to them, playing their records for 'em. Countless times they pulled me through tough times. Countless great memories of listening and air-guitaring my ass off.

I still to this day get a thrill when I listen to them or Paul's later albums. Between you and Bob Stinson's Ghost on YouTube, the 'Mats will always be relevant. Thanks you all you do...

- *Barrie Lau , a 69 year old lifetime fan*

Roadies for them at St. Andrews in Detroit. Sat with Chris, Tommy and Paul in Columbus. Saw Tommy with Bash n Pop in Detroit.

Every song tends to bring back a memory.

Mowing lawns all day in Corvallis for local slumlord and decide last minute to drive up to the show in Portland. Left my sister and brother in law to get in on that mosh pit.

I remember the excitement of *Don't Tell a Soul* coming out and running to the record store to get the cassette. I know this place had sold out of all the copies they had. It was a small town with a small town newspaper that always listed the top record sales for the week. I knew the boys would get a little write up. The headline to the story read, "Metallica holds on to the number one spot". Fucking Metallica. - *Greg Baker*

Just spending the past 30 years spreading the gospel to whoever will listen.

Nothing exciting bar taking a leak next to Westerberg in London and wondering what to say and if that's the right time to say anything.

Meeting up with some regulars from the Facebook group about The Replacements in all honesty saved my life. We met before the reunion show in Milwaukee and we are growing in number and depth of friendship daily. I took a chance and caught the Amtrak to Milwaukee from St. Louis. It was my first solo vacation and at 41 my life had just been turned upside down. That night I met so many people from all over. I'm proud to call these people friends and we have so much more in common than just the band, but the band is the glue which holds us together. - *Angie Pezel*

Loved the noise they made coming up from the basement at Oarfolk. - *Felix*

When I saw them on the *Don't Tell A Soul* tour, it was in Rockford, Illinois at a historic theater with old fashioned seating. Not really a punk rawk venue. About 2/3 of the way through the show, it was obvious Westerberg was pissed about something - maybe the lack of audience enthusiasm (which I blame on the venue, since the crowd seemed pretty enthused to me) or something else. They proceeded to turn every volume knob up as high as it would go and blasted the audience with sound. The volume was painful - maybe the loudest I've ever heard (and I've seen My Bloody Valentine). I bummed a couple of cigarettes, broke off the filters, and stuffed them in my ears to save what little hearing I still had. Great memory from the same show: when they did "Nightclub Jitters", Paul skipped a whole verse so he could sit on an amp and smoke. It was kind of perfect considering the groove of the song. - *Matt Farr*

I love this band, obsessed with this band, and not all together sure why.

Well, I gotta say, I'm still really pissed after the last show I saw. It was a "reunion" show in Portland. Fucking amazing. A dream. But at the last encore, I threw a bunch of old 45s from my record collection onto the stage for Paul. Included were Lesley Gore, The Jackson Five and some other crap. Of course, I have terrible timing, and the records landed just as Paul was exiting the stage. Tommy saw them, then shot me a look. I motion to him, like, "take them, love them, keep them." But what does Tommy do? He walks over, picks some of them up, then BREAKS them in his hands! Then he stomps on them!!! What an asshole! (J/K, that's rock n roll)

Yes, I definitely do, but not for publication. Let's just say I am rock'n'roll roadkill and leave it at that.

"Achín' to Be" got me through some rough times :-). Every script I wrote (when I did write scripts) was titled after a Replacements song. I think I need to dig those out... Finding The Skyway in '96 or '97 was like finding a missing piece - thanks Matt. Xxx - *Tracey*

I do have a story, but I keep it to myself.

Well, being in Minneapolis for ten years, I have a few stories. Most recently I guess, sort of a compulsive move one night as I was bored before a 7th St. Entry show reading Trouble Boys, me and my partner decided to do a little landmarks tour. We biked to the Stinson Memorial bench, the Let It Be house, drinks at the CC Club, and then finally seeing Shellshag and Toys That Kill at the Entry. Best part was beers and music with my person on Bob's bench. The wood was super new and tagged by some hippies or something, just the word "friends" with a smiley face all in white paint pen. I shaved it off with my knife, cuz it made my blood boil, and wrote in pen "I ain't got no place else ta go". Was a great day. This rambling probably makes zero sense. - *Sam Beer*

[He's not joking. It really is engraved on there. - m@.]



I work as a high school assistant principal, so I love turning students on to the Replacements.

Too many stories to remember or tell. The Replacements (as a group), and their solo work, particularly Paul's has been the soundtrack of my life. I will give a shoutout to Jim Clarke, and that holy terror, Bob Stinson's Ghost. Together, they have created a work of art via You Tube, and created the greatest group on Facebook - Paul Westerberg and The Replacements. I've spent hours enjoying the music and on the page. Through the group, I've "met" and become friends with so many terrific people. It's enriched my life, and I'm truly grateful. - *Scott Downs*

I remember there was a young teenager at the Atlanta show there with his dad. I told him, "You know you have a really cool dad to take you to this." He replied with a smile, "I know."

- *Martin Pecial*

When I moved to Milwaukee, the 'Mats played their second to last show at Summerfest. I had asked a girl on a date to the show. During the middle of the set she turned to me and said "can we leave, these guys aren't very good." I looked at her and said, "I don't really see you and me working out, so maybe you should call your friends and have them meet you." - *Patrick O'Neill*

No stories. Hope they do another rekkid.

They have become one of my all-time favorite bands. I still listen to them all the time.

Seeing Paul and Tommy again in 2015 was so sweet.

Met Paul in 1993 on his first solo tour. Bash n Pop first tour was great too.

I think that putting on the Replacements makes me think of when I was younger and the sound reminds me of living in Minneapolis and just the whole vibe was them to me.

On 2/18/95, I was with my sister, and we were driving while doing some shopping. That date happens to be someone in my family's (who has passed away) birthday. So I was thinking of my relative that day and a thought came to me, about how terrible it would be if Paul Westerberg was to die. A little while later, I heard on the radio (WDRE in NYC) that Bob Stinson had just died and I thought it was really weird. I was also sad to head that Bob died; may he rest in peace.

Life changing band. Not a day goes by that I don't think about them and/or Paul's solo music... I have listened to the 'Mats/PW on more days than not since age 15 (23 years and counting).

don't ask why.

Thanks, Matt, for "the Skyway". You were my first home on the Internet.

High school drinking in the parking lot of 1st Ave. before a show in the 80's. So much fun.

Slim Dunlop produced one of my albums. He is the genuine article. True blue rock and roll with a heart of gold.

Saw a great in-store show of PW in LA but you want Replacements and I never saw them.

They were a guilty pleasure growing up in a small town. Nobody knew them or understood them. When I got to college I found out I wasn't alone in my love for their music.

I owned *Hootenanny*, *Let It Be*, and *Tim* but really didn't become obsessed until *Pleased To Meet Me* came out. That album really struck me and I played it nonstop in my car the summer of '87. I then finally got the first two albums and got pretty consumed with the band and they supplanted R.E.M. as my favorite.

My biggest memories were trying to get Georgia R.E.M.-living friends to embrace an actual rock and roll band! I love R.E.M., especially in those early cow punk alt-country days, but I've always been a New York Dolls, Johnny Thunders, Ramones and Clash kind of a rock and roll fuck! And the 'Mats brought it! And they were funnier than everyone out there!! - *Kurt Bargas*

Just a great band.

Saw them at Mississippi Nights the same day my friend got fired from his job. He ended up face down on table (and outside puking), a mirror image of Paul face up drunk, lying on the stage. Paul passed out Heinekens to the audience when they came out. I don't remember the opening band but Paul grabbed the bass out of the opening band's hands and played "Solitary Man" I think.

- *Ron Layton*

Meeting PW in Vancouver before the show in June 91.

I remember sitting in The Uptown on Thanksgiving night 1985 with my roommate Kevin. We were in a booth, second from the corner closest to the kitchen, and these people he knew brought us leftovers so we were enjoying turkey and dressing and drinking our beers. Tommy was in the back corner booth right behind us with some older family members. I know I was 20, so Tommy had to be 19 and he couldn't drink legally. Anyway, he gets up and turns around in his seat, starts saying shit and wants to join our party. Just then, his Mom Anita comes over and tells him to shut up, turn around and sit down. And he did!! I wish he could've joined us but his Mom said no! - *Laura Lee Shrode*

I was in Navy boot camp and heard them on an old jukebox.

I once drove 11 hours to see them in 1991 and end up at the venue just as the show ended.

outta time, gotta mow!

Took my wife to see them, now she's asking for me to put them on her iPod!

I interviewed Paul in 2002 and again in 2003. He was cool. I asked him about throwing the Twin/Tone tapes in the lake. I think the story is still on Rolling Stone's website.

- *John D. Luerssen*

I got grounded once when I was a kid, snuck out and decided to buy an album. Got *Sorry Ma* because of the title. When I finally (really) listened to *Let It Be*, it always felt they were the kind of guys who at first be cool then embarrass you in front of everyone you knew the first chance they got.

I learned how to play guitar by listening to the 'Mats.

Enjoyed reading *Trouble Boys* and finding stories about shows that I saw, i.e. opening up for Keith Richards at the Meadowlands. Best story: Went to see them at the Stone Pony, summer of '86 (maybe '87), and I couldn't get in because I was underage and didn't have i.d. Well, I actually did have an i.d., but it wasn't mine and they weren't buying it. So I was moping around outside, and some of my friends came out to find me. At the time, the Pony stamped your hand so that you could go out and come back in. So I took a piece of paper, wet it, placed it on my friend's stamp and then tattooed my own hand. Yup, that worked and I got into the show. 2nd best part is that I went out and sold my ticket for \$20 also. - *Jeff McEntee*

Remember heckling the [opening act, the] Goo Goo Dolls in Cincy in 1991 (Bogart's) and having one terrifically drunken time. - Thomas William (towil.bandcamp.com)

The reunion show I saw in Milwaukee in May 2015 was as great as that first show I saw in 1989, but in a different way. I went to the show with some of the same people that went to that first

show with me in 1989 and it really brought back those same feelings. It was as if the last 26 years were erased in an instant. If it's possible, Paul and Tommy looked healthier and happier than in 1989. The main difference with this show was that the whole crowd was there to see the band and shouted along to the words of every song. That was something I never thought I would have heard or seen. Hearing that crowd shout the chorus to "Never Mind" so loudly that Paul's vocals were almost drowned out will always stick with me. It gave me these shivers up my spine that usually Paul's voice alone gives me. I'd never had a greater sense of community at a show before. By far my best night of 2015. Thank you, 'Mats! - *Corey Heider*

The band I was with was practicing in the basement at Oarfolk and *Stink* had just been delivered and they were trying to get the stampers to work for the covers and Peter Jespersen says, hey, you want a copy? And of course I said yes and then he cut the corner off so I couldn't sell it before the release. Jokes on you Peter, I still have it.

After a show at the California Theater in San Diego, I was walking with Chris up to the hotel and he was nice enough to answer a few questions. I remember asking him if it was still fun? There was a long delay...a very long delay. He said a half-hearted...something like yeah...it's still fun. It wasn't much later and he left. My friend's girlfriend had a 65 Mustang convertible and my black cassette of *Let It Be* was in the cassette deck when the brakes gave out and we crashed going down the mountain. It totaled the car and we were lucky no one was hurt. All I wanted was that cassette back and had to go to the junk yard to get it.

I'd always heard rumors about Paul being grumpy, but I got up the guts to meet him after a solo show at the Guthrie. He was affable and funny. He signed stuff and chit-chatted with fans. A moment I won't forget. - *Brian Wheeler*

So many! One that stands out... They played a show with The Suburbs in Madison (probably 1984?) in this big hall. Well attended but not as completely crazy as some shows for two complete powerhouses. Later occurred to me why: No beer. Between the bands, my brother and I were hanging out in the corner hallway and Bob comes up and asks where the bathroom was and kind of continued to keep talking about nothing really, but it was his outfit that made it priceless. He had a vest made of a sheet of fake fur - long blond fur - and to complement that he had on long underwear that was falling down and was sweaty and barely staying up. Didn't want to look down! At the time it was a pure, hilarious, f-you, Midwest punk rock moment. In retrospect, a bit darker. - *Ian Baker*

First time I saw them at University of Pennsylvania/Houston Hall. There were two entryways in. Saw people running to the one I was on line for. Later heard the boys were peeing from roof onto other entrance. - *Brian Hickey*

I saw Paul play the Belly Up Tavern during his *Stereo/Mono* tour. Tiny club, and I got to be up front. During the set I yelled out a request for "Skyway" which Paul neglected to play during his

previous shows in southern California. He heard me and played it. That moment continues to stand out. - *Peter W.*

I've made mix CDs for random strangers on the Internet, sending them as far away as Poland.

There are a lot of bands I have seen and listened to over the years and I have a lot of albums and CDs, but I always come back to the Replacements and always get something new. Up through *Tim* are still regular favorites.

In 1986 (?), I was in a band that got some notice from Twin/Tone records (thanks to one of the guys from Soul Asylum hearing our tape). We drove from Michigan to Minneapolis and played a show at the Uptown. The next day we met with one of the owners of Twin/Tone (Paul [Stark]?). After some constructive criticism, he said they might consider signing us if we moved to the Twin Cities and developed a following. The guys didn't want to move, so that ended that. Paul asked us if we had any questions and I said, "Yeah, I do. Is it true the Replacements stole their tapes and threw them into the river?" He acknowledged that yes they had indeed stolen some tapes. He didn't seem very happy about it either. - *Brett Bowers with "The Sinatras" '86-'87*

I thought the reunion show at Forest Hills was phenomenal. It was great to meet a bunch of fans from the FB page and frankly it was the best sounding show I had seen.

Here's my story: I once traveled 9,531 miles from Singapore to New York to see Paul play three shows in 2002 (19,062 miles roundtrip). And of course, another 9,324 miles (18,648 miles roundtrip) to see the band play in 2013 (in Toronto). By my reckoning, that makes it 19,062 miles and 18,648 miles for a total of 37,710 miles. - *Tom Dog (on alt-music-replacements), now in DC*

Just that they were always with me, and still are! - *Chuck Evans*

I loved the high wire nature of the live shows. I walked out plenty of times but just as often was thrilled when they nailed it. Was thrilled when Bob ("Slim") Dunlap joined. Loved Bob from his various bands with Curtiss A. FAVORITE band was the 'Mats and Curtiss A was the best singer in town. And slim played with them both. - *Steve Klemz*

Met my wife because of them, told Paul that, he looked down then looked up at me and "I'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing".

When I saw them open for Elvis Costello at Nautica in Cleveland, Tommy started off by saying "anyone who came to see us, come down front," and me and Julie, the girl I was with, did just that as they kicked into "I Will Dare," soon having to dodge the security guards that started running after us until we made it back to our actual seats without further incident. - *Dan Mucha*

I taught in a remote community in rural Western Australia for a few years and those albums really helped me get by while I was up there. Their music really seems to speak to isolation. The hours spent alone, dealing with heartbreak, either up there or the 15 hours it took to drive home

between school terms... Songs like *Swingin Party*, *Within Your Reach*, *You're Getting Married*, they were comforting in some weird kind of way. I think I felt comforted because I knew others were out there like me, either the 'Mats themselves or their fans. - *Iain*

I think an Irving Plaza show I saw was good but I can't remember it too well. What I do remember was seeing them "sleeping" at a booth with beer bottles all over the place. When it was time to play, they woke up pushed their way to the stage and started the show. I was very impressed.

Talked to Paul Westerberg about manufacturing toothpaste once.

I have a Replacements story that I don't think that I have ever seen in print anywhere... Paul's first chance to play "Can't Hardly Wait" live with all the horns was when he appeared by himself as the musical act on SNL. I'm not sure if many people know this, but Paul was so excited about it that he called his sister and parents before the live broadcast to tell them not to miss it. He was always close to his family but that was unusual for Paul. - *Todd Scott (Minneapolis, MN)*

I got some killer stories, including the time they were on tour with Petty and got steered to a gig my band was playing to commandeer our gear. It didn't go down like that and I'd be happy to share the whole story and more but I gotta run for now. - *Mark Hutchins*

While wandering through a flea market held in the parking lot of a college in Orange County circa 2001 or 2002, I found a vendor whose space included stacks of records on the ground. Not expecting much in this nonchalant display, I gave a cursory glance at the top album on each pile. Soon I did a double take upon recognizing a familiar cover: *Let It Be* by the Replacements. I zoomed over and picked up the Twin/Tone pressing. Still sealed! Not wanting to waste any time, I stepped to the vendor and asked how much for the record. He quoted: \$2.00. I balked and asked if he would sell it for \$1.00. He agreed, and this remains my favorite record purchase. - *Peter W.*

Saw them in Milwaukee, WI in the summer of 1989. We drove up from Chicago and were shooting pool in the UW Milwaukee Union, getting our beer on. We looked over and saw that Tommy and Slim were shooting pool. I think we were the only other people in the place. We started talking to them a bit, but I didn't want to pester them too much. When they left to go back stage, they brought over a cafeteria tray that had probably 8 or 9 pints of dark beer in paper cups and told us to enjoy! The other story was talking for a long time with Slim at 7th Street Entry in Minneapolis – Slim was there I think to see his wife's band play, and we watched the entire show with him and talked and drank.

I wish I had been able to see just one show back in the day with the original line-up. I only have a bunch of Paul stories :)

I'm not good with essay questions.

The discovery of The Replacements, way back when, in 1985, happened along with my two best friends for life and "musical soulmates", Lois & Orlando. We've spent countless hours, drunken

nights, sober afternoons, happy times, lots of sad hours too, and \$100's spent in quarters for the juke box and LP and CD purchases with The Replacements as the cornerstone of "the soundtrack to our lives". Honestly, I can't imagine some of those times being quite as special without the 'Mats riding shotgun, always a bit too loud. Sadly, we lost Orlando a few years ago, far too soon, just a few months before his 50th birthday. It's always been my duty in the "friendship triangle" to be the "Taker of the Notes, Maker of The Mix Tapes". So shell-shocked, within a week's time of his passing, we were making funeral arrangements, cleaning out his apartment, sorting through his possessions, mourning with his family, trying to figure out what the hell just happened and why. The family asked us to be an imitate part of the service, including the writing and presenting of a eulogy for Orlando from the perspective of those who knew him best . . . his friends. So we collaborated on a tribute, in both words to share but also music to play at both his memorial service and the fundraising memorial we'd have about a month later. So, we set out to make "The Ultimate Mix Tape Tribute: O. Tunes - A Funeral for a Friend aka Jukebox in The Sky". Included were his favorite 'Mats songs from various years for various reasons, but swirled altogether with many other of his favorite bands and artists. it all seemed to fit so nicely. "I Will Dare", "Achin' To Be", "Sadly Beautiful", "Skyway" (the very last song). We know from wherever he was . . . it was beer in hand, no quarters needed for the juke, big smile on his face, bopping his head to & fro as he always did when life felt good, and The Replacements were playing loud.

- Michelle M.

Their music is what kept me going when I drove from NY to Los Angeles in 1987.

I named my youngest son Otto after that fucking song.

Do I? You bet. I waited 24 years to make the pilgrimage to Minneapolis (1990 show at the concert hall in Toronto to Sept 13th reunion show at Midway) - I knew if I went it would have to be for a very specific reason which manifested in Midway weekend. The fans I met during that Midway weekend have become family and have changed my life for the better- whether they be local TC-ers or international (Australia, Japan, UK). Almost all of the new music, travel, etc. I have done since then can be traced at its roots to the 'Mats reunion. The 'Mats family is a special group of people I am glad to be a part of and assist at times in making their wishes come true. I am very grateful.

At the show they opened for Keith Richards at the Meadowlands in NJ, which was another special one - the largest place they'd played to date, the only show they did that year, they premiered several of the *Don't Tell a Soul* songs, and they played an incredible "Happy Birthday" to Keith, segueing into "Unsatisfied" - Paul announced from the stage, "Seeya Tuesday, CBs, maybe" as they were leaving. So a friend and I camped out in front of CBGBs for hours that Tuesday night waiting for them, refusing to believe everyone at CBs who told us that they WERE NOT COMING. Of course they didn't show but we still laugh about it. - Ken Feinleib

My band did a few shows with Perfect. Tommy was very cool.

I live in Mitchell, SD. First time I heard The Replacements was in Huron, 50 miles north. Small towns out here in the middle of nowhere, the Replacements make the perfect soundtrack for riding around in your car by yourself at 2 in the morning.

No stories. I have driven by all the Replacements haunts though, many times. I go to Bob's bench often. I recently drove by Paul's house while helping my son practice driving. I said, "That is Paul Westerberg's house!" I'm not sure my son was impressed.

Met Paul once in the mid-90s after a show in Detroit, Magic Stick, iirc. Got him to sign my *14 Songs* songbook.

Great band, but generally live they got worse as the show went on...

Not really. They (and Paul's solo stuff) are my go-to music anytime I need an attitude adjustment or when I feel down.

Leaving the St. Paul show, city buses were scarce but no one seemed to mind. We all piled on after one finally arrived and amused ourselves by singing "Kiss Me on the Bus" at the top of our lungs. Real bus, real fans, singing as one. Priceless.

Running into Bob Stinson walking around in a dress, drinking from a paper bag, in a park near the venue, wondering if he'd make the show. He did.

I hate surveys.

I went to the Boston Calling show in September 2014. How could I not? It was within two days of my birthday, so my friend Katrina and I drove 12 hours from Nova Scotia for the show! Best birthday present ever, right? Earlier that summer, I mentioned to Evan Dando that he should come to the show. He then told me about seeing them a bunch of times in the '80s. Fast forward to the show, and I've been separated from my friends. No big deal, as I'm in my own little Replacements-and-nothing-else world for their set. About 2/3 of the way through, I wandered about 25 feet to my left, and although I'd lost my friends for the set, I stumbled upon Evan. He gave me a hug and I watched the rest of the show with him! After the show, and letting my friends split, I managed to find my way backstage (as Peter Wolf is leaving), met a rather intoxicatedly playful Tommy and had a great chat with Josh about his '80s acting chops! All in all, if that's the last time I ever get to see 'em, I certainly won't forget it and it ranks high (Toronto is still higher) on my list of shows! - *Shant Pelley*

My wife, also a big fan - we did our engagement announcement on her roof recreating the iconic *Let It Be* cover. We used Replacement music (acoustic instrumental on classical guitars) at the ceremony and our first dance - our song - is "Partners in Crime" by Slim. I was delighted to read in *Trouble Boys* that it was a love song for Paul and Tommy and not to [Slim's wife] Chrissie - my wife not so much. Don't tell anyone our secret code word. :)

Met Paul a few times after a show or store appearance for an autograph. He was smoking a cigar, signed my CD cover.

I met some cool people just by butting in when I overheard Replacements references.

Brother and I broke a table in honor of 'Mats after a night of boozing. Roommate was not amused. Thanks for Skyway over the years. We appreciate you!

Trying to get Millennials to listen to the Replacements, ugh, eye rolls from both sides. Hopefully the world will be a better place once I indoctrinate my kids.

Paul has been great every time I've met him (4-5 times at solo shows).

Loved them drunk, loved them sober.

I wish I had more stories - u just love this band and love their music.

I saw these Replacements at the Boathouse in Virginia during their *All Shook Down* tour. I got a pass from one of the roadies and ran into Tommy. I started to tell him about the first time I saw them in Charlotte. He looked like he was pissed off. So asked him why he looked pissed off and he said that I was making him that way. I snuck in back stage after the show and got to talk to all the guys including Steve.

Every show was amazing and all for different reasons! The reunion shows were amazing gifts that confirmed the importance of this band and their continued relevance. This music has been the soundtrack to my life from my teen years to the present as a married man with children. That is amazing!

I just remembered they musically changed my life! - *David Ritter*

They cancelled the reunion show in my town. I'm still crying.

OK, not a Replacements story. . .it's a solo Paul story. But it's the best concert I've ever seen. The concert took place at the old Guthrie. My friend Stacey Kennedy (the great friend with great taste who introduced me to the music of the Replacements) and I were in the last row of the balcony. I was sitting on the back of the chair because I couldn't sit in my seat. It emotionally was not possible. This was probably super annoying to Stacey, then again maybe not, and I'm sure she was glad we were in the back and in the corner. At the end of the show, big muscled men security dudes came out and stood in front of the stage. All I could think was why, this is an audience full of people who drove here from the suburbs in their mini-vans and need to get home to their babysitters (not a description of me) and who worship Paul because they listened to the Replacements as pre-teens/teens in their rooms with the lights off thinking no one understood them except for the Replacements (OK, that was me). I shared this story with someone who knows Paul who told me she wasn't surprised because Paul has some pretty

serious, hardcore fans, which I believe. There just wasn't a "let's rush the stage" vibe at the Guthrie that perfect night.

Met Paul a couple times after his solo shows. Always kind to the fans.

"Can't Hardly Wait" was played as the final song at all my friends' wedding receptions.

Paul hit on my date backstage. (Okay, actually it was more that she was begging Paul to hit on her.)

Paul Westerberg was playing at TT the Bears in Cambridge MA. This was his first ever solo show. I had to work until 8:00 PM and could not get a ticket. I went to the club anyways. Stood on the sidewalk with some other people just outside the club and heard the first few songs. The side door opened, Westerberg came out and pulled us in. I stood in the front row for the rest of the show. - *Ernie*

House parties on vinyl way before CDs. - *Mona T*

Sneaking down to Austin to see the boys at Austin City Limits Festival. Bought my ticket off a guy looking to unload his 1 day pass cheap. Drove down and spent the day and actually got as close as possible to stage. Loved every minute of it again. Drove home that night and told no one I was there for some reason.

An old girlfriend of mine, her mother once went on a date with Bob Stinson. They met at the Red Dragon on Lyndale. She said he was a really sweet guy, but all he wanted to do was score some coke. :)

It was just mind blowing to see the reunion show and to think I used to listen to them when they'd long since split and I'd be in my bedroom at the end of world. Like in 1993.

Played "Hold My Life" by request. Nailed it. 😊

Hard to remember Replacement shows due to all the beer we would drink.

I went to see them in Eugene a day or two after tearing ligaments in my ankle playing basketball. I had a cast and was on crutches. People kept bumping in to my leg causing great pain even after I moved toward the back. I finally started using my crutches to protect myself. I was on some pain killers so I don't remember much of the show other than that.

Went to see them for the first time in 86 during the *Tim* tour. Met everyone but Chris before the show. Bob and Tommy gave me and friend a beer and a screwdriver. Alex Chilton was the opening act, entire band sat in a kiddie pool beside the stage and drank during Alex's performance. Before showtime, I saw Paul in restroom very drunk. When band started with "Bastards of Young" they made it through about two verses and stopped, then went into "I'm Eighteen" for a bit and then went into "Feel like Making Love". By this time the crowd was booing

and beer cans started to fly. Band stopped, started throwing things back into crowd and then Paul fell backwards into the drum set. Crowd started getting very wild and organizers went to mic and announced police were on their way. Crowd left to the parking lot and to their cars.

- Joe Lee (Houston TX)

I was at the Taste of Chicago show where they broke up on-stage. I had flown to Chicago to attempt to reconcile with my girlfriend. At the show we had another fight and she stormed off. I left the show and caught up to her at the El platform. As we stood in sullen silence waiting for the train, someone was playing the WXRT live broadcast on the platform. When the 'Mats left stage after playing Hootenany and the DJ said he didn't think they would ever play again, I realized I was more upset about their break-up than my own.

During their final tour in 1991, I took my then-girlfriend to the show. Shortly after, she cheated on me with my best friend's brother and the venue where the 'Mats played was torn down. Absolutely fitting.

I wrote my semester paper on the 'Mats for this history of rock & roll class I took in college. Per course instructions, it examined their influences and legacy. I'd skipped half the classes and slept through a few I showed up for. The professor flagged my paper and called me into his office. Said it was too good and threatened to report me for plagiarism, which it wasn't. Convincing him of this took 10 minutes plus evidence I'd already been admitted to grad school. In some weird way, this felt true to the material.

I was on a bus ride during a university campus trip going from one campus to another. We were stuck in rush hour traffic so I decided to put some headphones in and hit shuffle when "I Will Dare" came on. I had been feeling weird about being away from my parents so it was kind of the right thing at the right time kind of thing. - Sam Purdham

I saw the reunion show at Forest Hills Stadium in 2014 and got to bring my teenage son. He likes a lot of the bands I followed but the 'Mats are one of the few he got to see. Plus, it was a terrific show. - Ken French

My favorite Chicago band, the Service, supposedly opened for them for *Sh*t Hit the Fans*.

The band's music changed my life.

I wanted to catch the band when they were in Scotland in 1991. Unfortunately it was far from clear if they would play in Glasgow or in Edinburgh. Eventually I ended up not going, naively thinking that I would catch them "some other time". There was no "other time" until the recent Westerberg/Stinson sort-of reformation.

All that I know is that this band changed my life. They are in my opinion, the best American band ever. The songs, the lyrics, the guitars, the bass lines, the steady heavy drums etc. Paul's hair. They are too special for words. Thanks for doing what you do Matt!!! - Kevin Parkhurst

I'll always remember hangin' at the sound desk with my brother who was their front-of-house sound engineer.

I got to interview them in person for a feature in *Pollstar* Magazine in 1989 as part of the *Don't Tell A Soul* tour and promotions. It was in LA and they were feisty as usual. It was a thrill for me and nothing for them. - *Michael Niehoff*

Running into Slim on the street in 1991 and trying to hang out with him.

Loved *Willpower* (Replacements fanzine that came out between 1983-1986). Tommy and Bob's mom is named Anita (that's all I got!)

I didn't talk about anything else than about the band for about a year after I got into the Replacements. Must've been funny for my friends and relatives. I'm pretty sure I caught terror in their eyes when they saw that Bob Mehr's book arrived. - *Mikko from Helsinki*

Stereo/Mono is really good. I wish it was on vinyl.

The most memorable moment I have from the shows was my first one - at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor on the *All Shook Down* tour. During "I'll Be You," Tommy pulled someone up from the audience and put his bass around them, then he jumped in the crowd. The person didn't know how to play and just sort of stood there but it was so nuts. I was in the second row center and kept wishing it had been me to get pulled up because I knew how to play the song!

When my kids were very little Paul did a solo show at the Fonda Theater and I took them. They wanted to wait at the stage door to see Paul after the show but it was raining and a school night so I said "no" and they both cried. I bought tickets to see him the following weekend at the House of Blues in Anaheim. Brazenly, I called Paul's manager and explained how disappointed they'd been at the Fonda. We were told to stay after the show and Paul came out to meet us. My younger boy had made a nursery school book with pictures of things he loved. "I love chocolate chip cookies. I love to swim. I love The Replacements." Paul was very touched by this and autographed it. My kids had picked out a toy for Johnny which they gave him. He hugged all of us. We went to Disneyland the next day but for them it was all about Paul.

Just the feeling of admiration whenever you meet somebody and find out they are a true Replacements fan. It's so different than if somebody likes Dylan, Elvis or the Pixies. There is a love and uniqueness to everybody that loves this band.

On the *Tim* tour I just remember Tommy saying, "if you clap we won't play this song!" before they did "I Will Dare". - *Craig Davis*

In my largely regrettable online dating phase, I spotted someone with a username that was a variation of "iwilldare"-probably with a few extra underscores. With no preface whatsoever, I

sent him a message that read, "Meet me any place or anywhere or anytime-now, I don't care. Meet me tonight?" He dared.

Every song connects with me on a given day and in different ways. It's like Paul has a clear channel into my brain and can give words to how I feel. - *Kris Basile*

Simply put, the 'Mats defined the late '80s for me.

I think *All Shook Down* is the best Westerberg solo LP

The Replacements and The Beatles are my favorite bands of all-time. They are the best two bands in history as far as I am concerned. They have been the soundtrack to my life and there are too many stories to even tell. - *Bryan S.*

In Ann Arbor after a Valentine's Day show in 1999. Met Paul and Slim after the show and went to the Nectarine Ballroom. It was gay night and we all had no idea. Not that there is anything wrong with that but I don't think it was what anyone had in mind. Paul said, "We should have brought Tommy." We left and went to another bar. I thought I was dreaming the whole thing so I got Paul to sign my ticket and he signed it "Smokin' Paul." More happened but those were the high points in my sketchy memory. - *Jeff Toeppner (Atlanta, GA)*

Saw Paul Westerberg at La Zona Rosa in 2005; I was right up front by Paul's mike. I got spittle on me.

In 2005, I was lucky enough to see Westerberg in Asheville and Tommy play in Chapel Hill. Both shows were among the best I have ever seen. In some ways seeing them in a smaller more intimate setting was even cooler than seeing them get back together and play on a huge stage. Paul took requests all night long, playing more 'Mats songs than solo stuff. Seeing him play in a full band and belt out classics like "Little Mascara", I was in heaven. Tommy played everything from Bash n Pop to Perfect to his first solo record. He got up on the bar and covered "Come On Get Happy". It was such an incredible show. My wife asked Tommy if I could get a pic with him and his response was "What am I going to say, no". We talked for a few minutes, he was a little disappointed with us that we didn't know the town very well and had no recommendations for where to go next. Haha, we should have come up with something. I will still always treasure that pic and conversation though. - *Derek Robertson*

During the summer they toured with Tom Petty, I wasn't going to be in town but in New Mexico (summer class program). I was so pissed I was going to miss them. So about halfway through my time in NM we were in Santa Fe for the night and there was a flyer at a club there about the acts coming through town. Guess who I just missed two nights before. Dammit.

Paul, like me, seems to struggle with drinking, quitting drinking, drinking some, and that makes him seem very human (and me like less of a monster).

I wish I had the time . . .

My love for Replacements music was resurrected and reinvigorated when one of the local rock bands I follow covered one of their songs at a show in early 2001. I think it was "Can't Hardly Wait". At that point I bought myself a copy of *All For Nothing/Nothing For All* and have enjoyed it on a regular basis for years now.

I saw Paul on a solo tour. He did a meet and greet afterward. He sat on the steps to the tour bus and I was nervous as hell. With my wife by my side, we slowly approached the man. I was wearing my Ramones tee at the time. As we stepped up to the tour bus steps I blathered on about how I loved his songwriting and loved his lyrics, I couldn't even tell you what I said, as it was all a blur...and he looks up sees my shirt and says he talked to Joey Ramone last night as he was signing my stuff. I thanked him and walked away. I then frantically realized he wanted to have a conversation with me about Joey Ramone and I blew it. My wife kept telling me that I was fine and didn't make a fool out of myself but I have my doubts. I have always been apprehensive about meeting my favorite rock and rollers. What if they're jerks and I have to burn my record collection? Thankfully this wasn't the case. Paul was cool as fuck. - *David Megrey (Cleveland, OH)*

Have many stories. But, have to get back to work. :<

It was only years later that I realized, while listening to "Here Comes a Regular," that possibly one of the reasons he loved that song so much was that my lover had been an alcoholic. Really, the beer for breakfast should have clued me in. ;-)

They have just been a part of my life since I first heard them.

The 'Mats have been, are and will be my favorite band of all-time. They resonate on a level that no other band I enjoy, and there are many, are able to reach. Great lyrics, great licks, raw and real and seemingly approachable and lovable and self-destructive. Perfection. - *Chad Cooley*

Got to hang out with (some of) them on their tour bus after their show on the last tour in 1991. Despite many stories of Tommy being an obnoxious jerk, he was a very gracious host.

No, but the best post-Replacements show I saw was Paul Westerberg at Liberty Lunch in Austin in 1993. Bob Mould joined him on stage for encores including "Sonic Reducer" and, I think, "I Wanna Be Your Dog". - *Ted James*

I bought *Stink* when *Tim* came out and I'm still playing catch up. I'm 47 years old and I'm still not mature enough to fully appreciate the last two albums. Sigh.

I always mention the 'Mats in an 'about' section on any social media because that's how I can find my tribe.

I was arrested for underage drinking the night before I saw the 'Mats play Chicago's Aragon Ballroom on June 10, 1989 and my amazingly trusting and understanding parents still allowed me to go to the show.

I've largely fallen out of love with them. They used to be my unequivocal favorite band. No one could touch them. The Mehr book and Westerberg's antics of late have destroyed that for me.

I recently failed to get an interview with Paul Westerberg via his agent. I want to talk to him about "Androgynous" as a prescient song - he was comfortable with trans people before most of us.

Did get to see Tommy live at Rosebud (small venue that closed a while ago). Got to chat with him and the opening act. Also saw Paul play live. He forgot the words to a song, then couldn't remember the chords. The crowd loved it because it felt so classically 'Mats.

It's worth noting that I don't really distinguish between the Replacements & Paul Westerberg solo records and tours. As is the case with Bob Pollard and Guided By Voices, what makes it Replacements music is Paul Westerberg singing songs that he wrote. This never was a band like The Who or Led Zep where there was one classic lineup which defined the sound. I think that PW's 90's-00's solo output is very underrated. There are so many great songs from that era.

Pushing through the previous bands' crowd to get to the front, then waiting in a downpour while the 'Mats crew set up (all while listening to Conor Oberst on the next stage), all to be front-n-center for the 'Mats at Shaky Knees? Worth every drenched second.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEPFmmQfp0c>

They were the best noise money couldn't buy. - *Gary P. Aronsen*

The 'Mats were the best example of this Samuel Beckett line: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better." And since I think that failure and disappointment are the natural states of existence, they're my favorite band.

Color me impressed.

I was at the infamous Nashville show in 1989 when they opened for Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers. They came out in drag and very loosely "played" their set. The confused reaction of the crowd to their antics (and to me and my friends cheering them on) was priceless. My lasting image is Tommy Stinson flipping a bird to the crowd as he walked off the stage.

Met Paul and Tommy at different times over the years. It was big thrill and they were both fun and affable.

I met my husband on match.com in the very early days of online dating. Since I had just signed up on a whim, my profile was sparse and didn't even have a picture. "Kiss Me on the Bus" was the

headline on my profile, which I put there as a sort of an unspoken coolness test. My second match.com date was with a funny, foxy, music-loving dude. I was his first (and only) match.com date. This year, we celebrated fifteen years together. - *Lori*

Not enough time right now. Gotta work.

Due to a rare bout of incredibly good luck, about six years ago I became genuine "call-up-on-the-phone-regular-emails-about-stupid-shit" friends with a musician who is reasonably well known (if not him the band he plays for is) and just before Christmas last year I was in a bar with him and he told me that Tommy was vying for him to play with them on the reunion tour. Everything was all set to go ahead until a few weeks before when Paul decided to pull rank and insist Dave Minehan took the stage with them. I would go further but as its not common knowledge I don't want to get anyone in trouble, needless to say there were tears in my friend's eyes that he missed out. What made it suck is that he kept wanting to phone me up to tell and invite me to meet the band but because it all fell through, it never happened.

In bands, I loved covering the music that means so much to me.

After seeing the 'Mats, my roommate and I stayed up all night listening to records, drinking cheap beer, and eventually carving PWIG (Paul Westerberg Is God) into the ceiling of our dorm room. Hope it's still there. - *Tim*

fin.

"I ended up in a band that has a really small following. People with gigantic record collections. Who have socially maladapted lives because of their love for music. But those are the people I wanted."

- *Clint Conley (Mission of Burma)*



photo: Daniel Corrigan