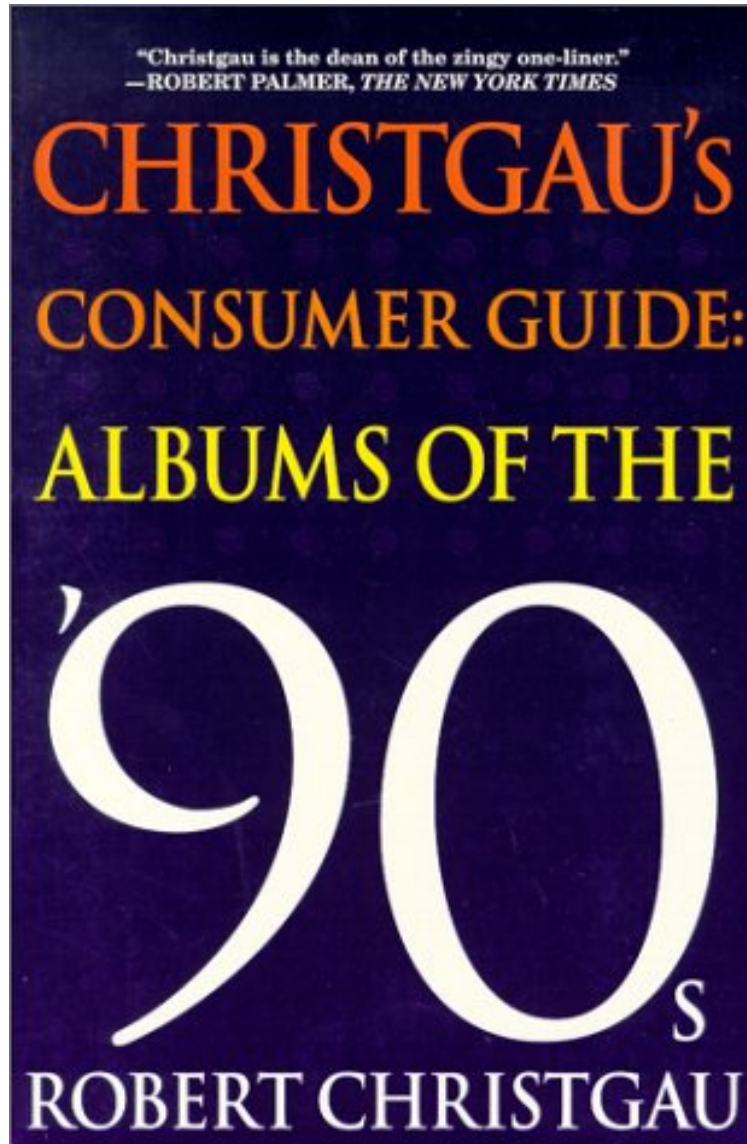


Christgau's Consumer Guide: Albums of the '90s

Robert Christgau

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Robert Christgau : Christgau's Consumer Guide: Albums of the '90s before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christgau's Consumer Guide: Albums of the '90s:

21 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Christgau's lost itBy Kenneth GordonRobert Christgau, whose 70s and 80s consumer guides were fairly entertaining and sometimes enlightening, phoned this 90s guide in.The stupid new, obnoxious "turkey," "dud," "neither" (here nor there) and honorable mention ratings are completely unnecessary. These are in addition to his letter grades, and the A's that he consistently gives out to his teacher's pets - the Beastie

Boys, Ani DeFranco, Mekons, L7, Tricky, PJ Harvey, Janet Jackson?!, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Luna, Madonna (he's madly in love with her..er.."genius"), Youssou D'Nour, Randy Newman, Nirvana, Pavement, Pet Shop Boys, P.M. Dawn, Bonnie Raitt, Sleater-Kinney, Sonic Youth, Miles Davis, Cachao, Belle and Sebastian, The Go-Betweens, and just about all really old old-school rap. Many good choices, right? But pretty narrow. And Christgau can't stand artists such as Radiohead, Oasis, Tori Amos, Blur, Jeff Buckley (he rates "Grace" a turkey), John Mellencamp (says "Human Wheels" is a dud), The Cure, Counting Crows (claims August and Everything After is a turkey), Dinosaur Jr., The Flaming Lips, Emmylou Harris, Maxwell, Aimee Mann, Sam Phillips, Stone Temple Pilots, Sade, Elliott Smith, TLC, Uncle Tupelo, and U2 (he especially hates Bono and rates "Achtung Baby" a dud!). All you really have to know about this book is that the author gives the Backstreet Boys first album an A-, mainly because his 13-year-old daughter played them nonstop when it first came out, and he rates Radiohead's "OK Computer" a turkey, opining that Radiohead's "idea of soul is Bono, who they imitate further [on "OK Computer"] at the risk of looking even more ridiculous than they already do." He also gives "The Bends" a lowly C. Ridiculous. So if you want to waste your money to read how soulless and plastic Radiohead are in comparison to the creative, spontaneous and soulful BS Boys, be my guest. Me, I'm going to pop in my Oasis "Definitely Maybe" CD (Christgau gave it a feeble honorable mention) turn it up loud, and kick myself for buying this damn book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Christgau seems to love hip-hop and goes cold for indie.
By James Simpler
Christgau seems to love hip-hop and goes cold for indie, but is still a fun read. Too bad he changed his rating system.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
He Who Consumes Is Consumed
By Chadwick Henley
Essex
Fifteen minutes were up 15 years ago. Everyone saw. Everyone knew. Cept one. Cept one.

The Dean of American Rock Critics tackles the decade when music exploded. The '90s saw more albums produced and distributed than any other decade. It was a fertile era for new genres, from alt-rock to Afropop, hip hop to techno. Rock critic Robert Christgau's obsessive ear and authoritative pen have covered it all-over 3,800 albums graded and classified, from A+s to his celebrated turkeys and duds. A rich appendix section ensures that nothing's been left out-from "subjects for further research" to "everything rocks but nothing ever dies." Christgau's Consumer Guide is essential reading and reference for any dedicated listener.

About the Author
Robert Christgau has reviewed rock and popular music for over thirty years. He is a senior editor and chief music critic at the Village Voice, and writes for Playboy, Rolling Stone, Spin and other publications. Christgau's Consumer Guide: Albums of the 90s is his third record guide. Christgau is also the author of Any Old Way You Choose It: Rock and Other Pop Music, 1967-1973 and Grown Up All Wrong: 75 Great rock and Pop Artists from Vaudeville to Techno.