



# This Is a Book About the Kids in the Hall

*John Semley*

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**This Is a Book About the Kids in the Hall** John Semley  
*The first book to explore their history, legacy, and influence*

This is a book about the Kids in the Hall — the legendary Canadian sketch comedy troupe formed in Toronto in 1984 and best known for the innovative, hilarious, zeitgeist-capturing sketch show *The Kids in the Hall* — told by the people who were there, namely the Kids themselves. John Semley's thoroughly researched book is rich with interviews with Dave Foley, Mark McKinney, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, and Scott Thompson, as well as Lorne Michaels and comedians speaking to the Kids' legacy: Janeane Garofalo, Tim Heidecker, Nathan Fielder, and others. It also turns a critic's eye on that legacy, making a strong case for the massive influence the Kids have exerted, both on alternative comedy and on pop culture more broadly.

The Kids in the Hall were like a band: a group of weirdoes brought together, united by a common sensibility. And, much like a band, they're always better when they're together. This is a book about friendship, collaboration, and comedy — and about clashing egos, lost opportunities, and one-upmanship. This is a book about the head-crushing, cross-dressing, inimitable Kids in the Hall.

## This Is a Book About the Kids in the Hall Details

Date : Published October 11th 2016 by ECW Press  
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## **From Reader Review This Is a Book About the Kids in the Hall for online ebook**

### **Rosanne says**

The author's snarky tone could be very distracting at times.

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### **Justin says**

I found the book interesting (100% the result of the subject) but I can't recall a case of the authorial voice being both so intrusive and so irritating. Get the bibliography & read the source material and save yourself the aggravation.

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### **H says**

The author inserted himself into the story far more than was necessary but a neat read. Brain Candy took a few watches for me to see the genius, for what it's worth.

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### **Alex says**

Great mix of trivia, anecdotes, and contextual history relating to the Kids in the Hall, one of my all-time favorite tv shows/comedy troupes. I learned a lot of behind the scenes dirt and had many a chuckle being reminded of various sketches and jokes. Now I'm inspired to rewatch the whole series for the umpteenth time, yayyy.

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### **Erika Verhagen says**

Semley uses the phrase "Inside Baseball" at least twice. Not sure if this book goes all the way through but was fun enough to pick at casually.

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### **Joan says**

This is a really interesting look back. If you liked the Kids, you will like this book.

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### **Matt Blair says**

A very solid read. Semley walks the line between oral history and memoir, writing as a fan in a way that

enlivens the subject without imposing on it.

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### **Tim says**

This is probably a 3.5 star book. Since Goodreads doesn't allow half stars, I'm rounding down because it includes a random dig at Randy Newman for no reason.

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### **Susan Kramer says**

I have been a massive fan of KITH since they originally aired in the early 90s, so some of what was here I've heard or seen before. But for the most part, this is a pretty well-put-together biography of the sketch comedy troupe. My biggest complaint (if you can call it that) is that it probably could have gone much deeper into the subject, the individual personalities, how they came up with certain sketches (yes I know some of that is covered in DVD commentary), etc.

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### **Jessrawk says**

Definitely a fun read for a fan. Covers their history rather well. It rambles a bit, but it's a fun meander (for the most part). Some of the choices of things to include & things to omit were a little odd, editing-wise, but it doesn't greatly detract from the text as whole. Certainly worth the read if you're a fan.

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### **Downward says**

this is essentially a dual history, that of seminal Canadian sketch comedy troupe the kids in the hall and that of author John Semley's history of watching and knowing about the kids in the hall. the former is far more interesting than the latter, and while it is very nice to read about what I think are probably some of the funniest people in the world and such a significant part of my childhood that I literally wouldn't know what I'd be like without them, I really couldn't give a shit about Semley's weird ass judgments and sidebar opinions when he decides to opine about stuff.

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### **Molly Rosen Marriner says**

This author's clear favoritism of Mark McKinney shines even more brightly than my fifth grade teacher's favoritism of ME.

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### **JBP says**

I loved The Kids in the Hall and did enjoy reading about the individual members, the detailed history of the troupe and all, but the book's author, John Semley, too often inserts himself into the narrative or writes a

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completely unneeded or wanted footnote and when writing non-fiction, that's always something that's going to drive me nuts. If you were in the room or experienced whatever events are being written about, fine, give me a footnote...but Semley? Not the case at all. Unfortunately, there are other issues...the book is repetitive, too often it feels superficial and Semley inserting his own comedy as if he's trying to prove he's funny too. I hate to break it to Semley, but when you are writing about one of the more subversive group of comedians in the past few decades, you are going to have a hard time competing when you should basically just zip it and write about the subject of the book: The Kids in the Hall.

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### **Debra Komar says**

There is a strong self-published vibe about this book, although there is a publishing house behind it. The lack of photos, the simplistic cover, the indulgent text that screams for an editor all suggest a book that has not quite received the attention it needs.

I adore the KITH and agree that they deserve a book to commemorate their careers. The research here is solid and it's clear the author has spoken with the Kids. The actual bio parts are good; it is the author's intrusions that detract from this book. I suspect Semley has a minor in psychology, based on his constant attempts to psychoanalyze his subjects. There is a protracted discussion of Freud in an early chapter that almost had me dumping this book entirely. It is all unnecessary and to the serious detriment of the book.

The subject is great, the treatment is uneven, the pop psychology is annoying. If you love KITH, it is worth a look but be willing to skip big chunks of text. The author wants to be as much of a central character as the people he is profiling.

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### **Melisa Wells says**

As a KITH fan I found the book interesting but would have enjoyed more detail in the middle, about the actual period of time when they were working on the show. I found the author's style and insertion of personal anecdotes distracting. Overall, I think it's a good book for fans.

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