



## Born to Rock

*By Gordon Korman*

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### **Born to Rock** By Gordon Korman

Leo Caraway—high school senior, president of the Young Republicans club, 4.0 GPA, future Harvard student—had his entire future perfectly planned out. That was, until the X factor. As in Marion X. McMurphy, aka King Maggot, the lead singer of Purge, the most popular, most destructive band punk rock has ever seen. He's also Leo's biological father.

When Leo discovers that his real father is a punk rock legend, he is disgusted. Not only is Leo not a punk rock fan, but he believes the X factor (the Maggot blood that is running through his veins) is a dangerous time bomb just waiting to explode. And sure enough it does—Leo stubbornly defends the unlikeliest of people, thereby getting himself falsely accused of cheating on a test.

Because of the blemish on his record, the once star pupil finds his scholarship to Harvard taken away. So he hatches the crazy plan of going on tour with King Maggot for Purge's summer revival tour, all the while secretly hoping to convince Maggot to pay for his tuition. But life on the road is even crazier than Leo ever bargained for, and before the summer is out, he will finally discover the surprising truth about his dad, his friends, and most important, himself.

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## **Born to Rock** By Gordon Korman Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7-10—President of his high school's Young Republicans club and on a fast track to Harvard with a full scholarship, Leo Caraway finds his life turned upside down by two events. His unlikely best friend—a hip, nonconformist named Melinda, whose temperament, politics, and interests seemingly clash with his lifestyle—convinces him to help tutor a gay classmate. When the homophobic assistant principal observes Leo talking to Owen during a test, he accuses Leo of cheating and causes him to lose his scholarship. Then Leo learns, to his consternation, that Marion X. McMurphy (King Maggot)—the top punk singer of the 1980s with a reputation for destruction on stage and leader of the band Purge—is likely his biological father. He decides to confront King Maggot and get him to pay for his lost scholarship and joins the crew of roadies supporting the band on a summer revival tour. Leo is introduced to the decadent world of punk performers, production crews, agents, and groupies that confirms his dislike of the music, but at the same time, he re-examines his primary beliefs and principles and is fundamentally changed by his experiences. He and Melinda, who is spending the summer following the band, slowly realize that they have more in common than they had thought. At the end, Leo uncovers a surprise about his biological father and reflects on what this means to his life. Korman's story has an appealing narrative voice, sharp dialogue, and vivid characterization to portray Leo's coming of age.—*Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San Diego*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. "There are two kinds of people in this world--those who have had a cavity search, and those who haven't. This is the story of how I wound up in the wrong category." After Young Republican Leo Caraway discovers that his biological father is none other than millionaire King Maggot, lead singer of the punk band Purge, he accepts a roadie job on King's tour in the hope of securing sorely needed college tuition. Soon, coke-snorting musicians and on-the-make agents are assaulting Leo's traditional values at every turn. Still, he manages to keep his cool, until he uncovers a shocking truth about his bio-dad that leaves him questioning every principle he holds dear. Leo's journey to punk-rock appreciation is a sharply observed, original take on the tired "outsider looking in" cliché. Though predictable at times and a little too clean (since when are there no expletives in punk?), Korman's rock opus redeems itself with smartly written dialogue and a slow-burning romance between Leo and his best friend, Melinda. *Jennifer Hubert*  
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Review

\* "This one . . . has the goods to go platinum." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

## PRAISE FOR THE JUVIE THREE

\* "[T]hese kids are living minute to minute, where one false step may haunt them forever. . . . [B]e prepared for high demand."

?*Booklist*, starred review

## PRAISE FOR SON OF THE MOB

"[An] expertly plotted escapade."

?*Booklist*

**PRAISE FOR SON OF THE MOB**

"Funny and unexpectedly affecting."

?*Publishers Weekly*

**PRAISE FOR SON OF THE MOB**

"A fast-paced, tightly focused story."

?*The Horn Book*

**PRAISE FOR SON OF THE MOB**

An ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults

An ALA Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers

A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year

**PRAISE FOR THE JUVIE THREE**

"This novel is signature Korman."

?*School Library Journal*

**PRAISE FOR THE JUVIE THREE**

An ALSCA Notable Book, 2009

**PRAISE FOR JAKE, REINVENTED**

"A compelling investigation of the transience of charisma and the flimsy underpinnings of popularity."

?*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Laugh-out-loud funny, honest, hot and sweet."? *Kirkus Reviews*

## **PRAISE FOR THE JUVIE THREE**

\* "There's lots to relish here."

?*Kliatt*, starred review

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Kerri Goodman:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era and that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Born to Rock* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

##### **Ruth Haakenson:**

This *Born to Rock* are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The key reason why of this *Born to Rock* can be one of several great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple examining food but feed anyone with information that maybe will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed ones. Beside that this *Born to Rock* giving you an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

##### **Timothy McCormack:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love *Born to Rock*, you may enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

##### **Jennifer Bell:**

As we know that book is important thing to add our expertise for everything. By a guide we can know everything we want. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This publication *Born to Rock* was filled about science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has different feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can experience enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

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