In the short time they existed, the indie rock band The Libertines kick-started a music Renaissance. Their grungy rock sound and such stunts as giving away albums for free erased the barrier with fans and inspired thousands. Yet for all their musical acumen, the band made the most headlines for their apparent “live fast, die young” lifestyle and for lead man Pete Doherty’s drug addictions and ongoing relationship with fashion model Kate Moss. This insightful new look at The Libertines goes behind the headlines to document the band’s true history, tracing its extraordinary highs and lows through the breakup and fallout between Doherty and the rest of the group. Lushly illustrated with rare photos, this is the authentic story of the band that defined a generation.

My Personal Review:
This is truly the essential book chronicling the triumphant and tumultuous few years of the short lived legendary British rock band The Libertines. It beautifully documents the lives, loves, highs and lows of bandmates Carl Barat and Pete Doherty. Author Anthony Thornton (writer for the NME) and photographer Roger Sargent were allowed intimate access into their tempestuous lives. There are many rare and wonderful photographs which capture the grime, grit, and glory. We follow them through their first meeting until their bitter end. The major focus is on tabloid icon Pete Doherty as he battles drug addiction, fame, and public scrutiny. This book leaves you with a better understanding of the burgeoning icon and his art.

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