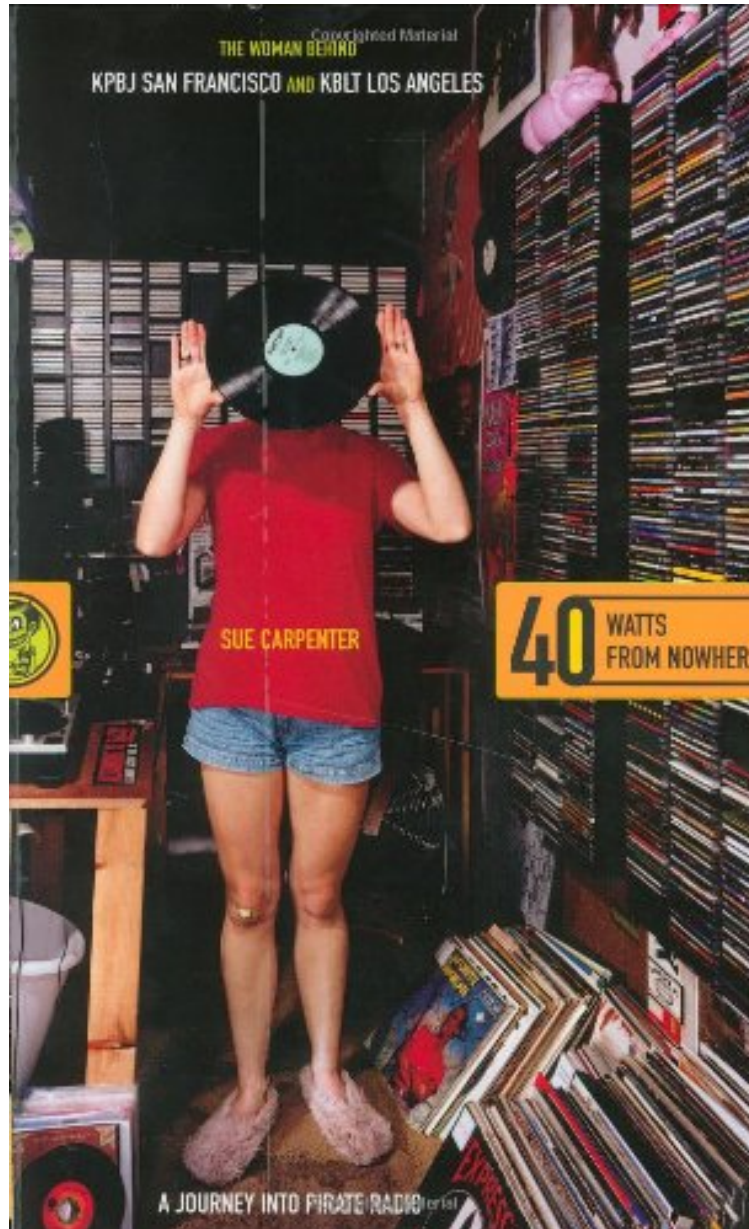


[FREE] 40 Watts from Nowhere: A Journey into Pirate Radio

40 Watts from Nowhere: A Journey into Pirate Radio

Sue Carpenter

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#653104 in Books 2004-02-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .84 x 5.81 x 8.74l, #File Name: 0743229886240 pages | File size: 21.Mb

Sue Carpenter : 40 Watts from Nowhere: A Journey into Pirate Radio before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 40 Watts from Nowhere: A Journey into Pirate Radio:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Piracy on the High Airwaves! Not Since the Border Blasters has

radio been so bold and free!

By Allen Berry One of the most fascinating and engaging memoirs I've ever had the pleasure to read. *40 Watts from Nowhere* tells the story of a brave and innovative radio pirate who had the guts and the compunction in an age of Big Media conglomerates to say NO to the pre-packaged sanitized for your protection offerings of the big media companies, and start her own radio station. Skirting the ordinary troubles associated with a garage inventor built transmitter, an all volunteer staff, and the constant threat of the FCC, Sue Carpenter and her band of bandit DJ's made the airwaves a more eclectic place by offering her listeners a choice on their radio dial. I'm a former DJ and radio programmer who ran a station that might have not always been within the limits of what the FCC allowed, so naturally, this was a fascinating read for me, but you don't have to be in the industry to appreciate Carpenter's story. The story telling is full of vivid details, hilarious incidents, nail-biting close calls, and more. Carpenter has a gift for narrative, as much as she has a knack for sticking it to the FCC, the media giants, and those who demand radio be boring. This is a must read for anyone who loves music and hates the declining variety of music on the FM spectrum. **BUY THIS BOOK!**

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *40 Watts from Nowhere; An Adventure in Pirate Radio.* **By Philip Zimmermann** This was a most entertaining and informative read. I know Sue Carpenter from her "Throttle Jockey" column in the LA Times and then at the OC Register, where she wrote about motorcycles and cars as well as other subjects. I came across this book on Google and bought it as I did not know of her adventures in pirate radio. It was fascinating reading about home brew antennas and playing cat and mouse with the FCC. **Highly Recommended!**

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. amazing story, but the execution leaves me flat **By Raequel Solomon** I just got finished reading Sue Carpenter's *40 Watts from Nowhere*, and well...the story itself is compelling but I can shake the feeling that Carpenter was miscast in her own life. To be running a pirate radio station, I think she should have had more personality and chutzpah when dealing with loser junkie boyfriends, selfish inconsiderate dj's, jerk neighbors, crazy listeners, crackpot techies and drug-addled alt-rawk stars. It seemed like the whole WPBJ/WBLT era of her life just `happened' around her, like she was Alice who fell down the proverbial rabbit hole and wandered around the wonderland she created with no control over what she experienced from one moment to the next. I was at first intrigued back in 1996 when she wrote of her pirate radio station (under an alias of course) in the premiere issue of *Jane* magazine, which was in my opinion the ONLY good issue of that magazine ever...(but I digress). When I happened to find out that she had written a book about the experience, I was eager to read hoping that the book would be as good as the article...However, reading the whole story I kinda felt sorry for her, seems that everyone was having a blast with her station and underground celebrity except her. Of course when the FCC came knocking she got left with the flaming bag of poo, while everyone else it seems ran for the Hollywood hills. It is a really easy and quick read...almost diary like, she simply tells you what happened, when, why, how...there's no beefing up the novel with contextual language or deep personal insight, or hindsight as it were. I feel like I really don't get a sense of who Carpenter was then or is now...It feels like she is in a confessional booth whispering her sins through a slot to an indifferent priest on the other side. The valuable part of the book is the epilogue, where Carpenter expounds on the issues surrounding the fate of pirate radio and the government schemes that have led us to the Clear Channel mega-tyranny we have now. The sad truth that I reflect upon reading this is that back in the 90's, we should have looked up from our lattes and realized how good we could have had it if we gave a crap enough to fight for equal access to the airwaves. Of course in light of this era's currently less restrictive mediums of podcasting and internet streaming radio, in retrospect, Carpenter's saga seems even that much more futile. If she had waited a few more years, she wouldn't have had to sacrifice so much. Basically, if you are looking for a quick read about the 90's music scene halcyon days circa pre-dot-boom with the Gen X vibe during a nice long Sunday afternoon, this is a good one to pick up.

When law office receptionist Sue Carpenter first asked how she might start her own radio station, everyone laughed. Getting on the air (legitimately) in San Francisco was a multimillion-dollar ambition. But in 1995, with the help of a few subversive techies and pirate-radio gurus, Sue built her first transmitter in her hilltop San Francisco apartment and launched KPBJ, enlisting friends as DJs. A few months later, Sue landed a magazine job in Los Angeles, took her transmitter with her, and established KBLT. From these humble beginnings KBLT emerged as one of L.A.'s best-loved radio stations, staffed with more than a hundred DJs and supported by major music labels eager to reach a different kind of audience. The station expanded its playlist from indie rock to an eclectic mix of jazz, hip-hop, electronica, and countless other styles. In the three and a half years before the FCC finally caught up with Sue, KBLT went from interviewing unknowns to hosting live performances by the Red Hot Chili Peppers -- without ever leaving Sue's apartment. *40 Watts from Nowhere* is Sue's frank and hilarious account of her bizarre double life during the height of California's pirate-radio boom: journalist by day, counterculture icon by night. It's an amazing true story, one that will instantly appeal to music fans -- and free spirits -- everywhere.

From Publishers Weekly Carpenter has penned an endearing if flawed memoir about running a pirate radio station out of her Los Angeles apartment for three years and meeting all sorts of oddballs, rock stars and wanna-bes while staying one step ahead (well, most of the time) of the FCC. Her characters are right out of central casting: she describes herself

as "a motorcycle-riding blonde with a bunch of leather in her closet"; her ne'er-do-well musician boyfriend as someone who has "an affection for needles"; and her tech-support guy as a likable slob with awkward social skills. The oddballs mostly come across as standard-issue L.A. airheads, and Carpenter's wooden ear for dialogue ensures they stay one-dimensional. But her frank, often funny narrative is easily absorbed, and the story's a good one: one woman quitting a humdrum receptionist job to flout the law by filling the airwaves with the indie rock she loves, music she believes the monolithic Clear Channels of the world aren't playing. While most of the bands from the book's mid-1990s setting are no more than funny names that never made it out of the local clubs, there are also cameos from several big (or soon to be big) acts, including the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jane's Addiction and Beck. With the station inevitably shuttered in 1998 by the FCC, one wishes Carpenter had gotten the book done a bit sooner for full cutting-edge effect. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Carpenter's autobiographical reflections on running low-powered FM radio stations without benefit of FCC credentialing is a folksy addition to discussions about access to the nation's airwaves. Carpenter says she is a very average young woman who just wanted to bring much-needed variety to the FM dial and decided to launch her own station. She quickly discovered that nonpolitical programming was the exception rather than the rule among her fellow pirates, including those expert in the technology she needed to master. Despite resistance and otherworldly weirdness from grimly committed pirate-radio politicians, she eventually broadcast on ultralow frequency, first in San Francisco, then in L.A. Her call letters-- KPBJ, KBLT (which the aforementioned politicians considered frivolous)--suggested the tasty listening options she offered as she and her DJs broadcast an incredible variety of music from her living quarters. Throw in the constant threat of FCC detection, and this looks more than ever like a credible mate to *On the Road* and the *Fear and Loathing* books in the ranks of insurgent outsiderdom. Mike Tribby Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Mike Watt, founding member of the Minutemen and former KBLT DJ After many, many years of being a guest on lots of radio shows, I was finally able to be on the other side of the mic, the one picking the tunes and splicing thoughts of my own making. This experience was profound upon me. The two years I had 'The Watt from Pedro Show' on KBLT were quite the hoot for me, big time....Paige's [aka Sue Carpenter] righteous commitment to creating an environment where folks could let their freak flags fly was truly a wonderful thing, and it's something I'll always feel very honored to have been a part of....So many parallels to being like a young minuteman in the early punk movement. Aaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrggggggghhhhhh...D. Boon would've been proud. --