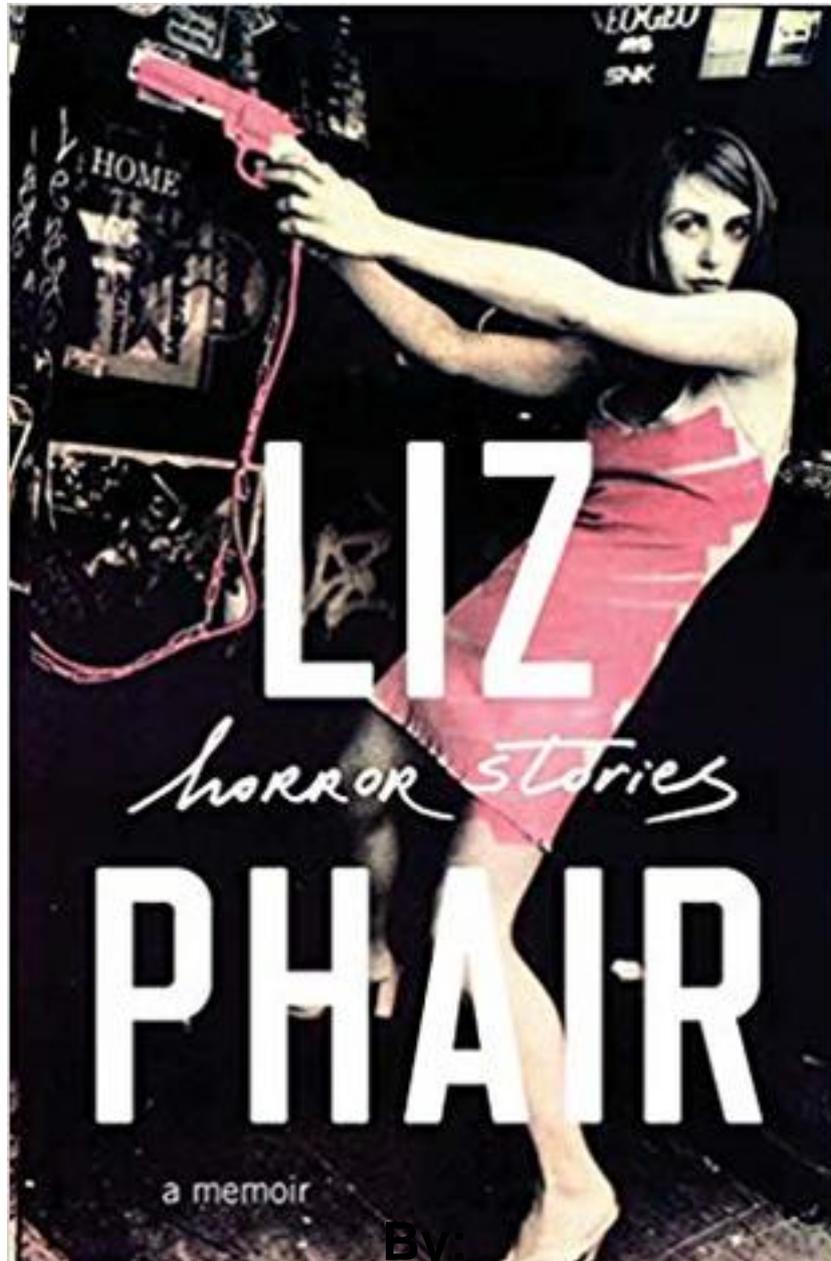


## Horror Stories Book PDF Download



By  
**Liz Phair**

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## What people Say:

### Nenia âœŒ• Author of Filthy Trash and Unhinged Psychos âœŒ• Campbell

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I'm shocked because most celebrity memoirs end up as something of a disappointment. HORROR STORIES was not. It blasted through my expectations, shattering them like broken glass. Reading this is like listening to new wave music-- it's dark, it's lyrical, and it will pull you under its black sea of emotion, leaving you to drown in the turbulent emotion that's an integral part of the experience.

I was expecting HORROR STORIES to be all abPinterestThis

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## Eilonwy

Liz Phair's album

has held a long power among alt-rock listeners of a Certain Age. I saw her show for that album in Boston, and I've been thinking about it over the past year because the cover of

keeps popping up in my GR feed, and looks so similar to the album cover. So when I saw that Liz Phair had written a collection of memoirs, I put an immediate hold on it.

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The title is perfect for October, but these horror stories are about very personal demons: the way we fail other people and beat ourselves up over it; the way other people fail us and we suffer the consequences; the way we make wrong assumptions about other people; and the way we can't see ourselves clearly and accurately, either, and just hope we're good people, or at least okay people. Liz is brutally honest as she tells these stories on herself, with insight and empathy (although she often regrets that both of those qualities came too late for a particular situation).

Among other stories, she pulls no punches in describing the affair she had that ended her marriage, and her later experience with betrayal by a serious boyfriend; both stories are told simply and straightforwardly, which has the effect of making them feel more poignant to me than they might have if she had flowered them up. Her recollections of the constant sexual harassment she faced as a young woman (and even sometimes as a middle-aged woman) will resonate with all female readers: is there any one of us who hasn't experienced this crap over and over again?

Like most memoir/essay collections, the topics are somewhat all over the place, but all of these are beautifully recounted, with a combination of sensitivity and austerity that I really enjoyed and admired.

## Eric

Upon first seeing Horror Stories by Liz Phair, I thought of how this was going to be a roller-coaster of a book told in the fashion of an in-your-face, rip-snorting recounting of loud and audacious tales from a wild rock and roller. How wrong I was and what a pleasant surprise it was to read the pages of this memoir and to discover the book was not at all what I thought it would be.

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This is not a rock and roll book that spills the beans on the career of a performer like Liz Phair. It

also is not the writing or storytelling of an adult with the personality of an immature twenty-year-old while being stuck in the past. This memoir is not about the spilling of stories to shock and titillate the reader while the reader hopes to somehow live vicariously through the life of a celebrity.

It is instead a thoughtful recounting of events in a person's life, of whom just happens to be a rock and roll celebrity, and what the person has learned from these events and hopes to share with others in a meaningful way. Phair's writing is open, frank and sincere and is devoid of a reluctance to write of personal aspects of her life that others sometimes avoid. Along the way she deftly passes on to the reader what her experiences have taught her about life, both from the start and until the end. After reading *Horror Stories*, I am confident to predict that many will see Liz Phair differently than prior to reading the book.

She does not apologize for being successful and a celebrity, but aptly describes how celebrity and physical attractiveness can both impede and enhance a person's life and when doing so does not come off as being arrogant, superficial or insincere. Though she does not apologize for her celebrity, she does apologize for behaviors in her past that may have hurt others.

The chapters on her pregnancy and birth of her son and preparing for old age were especially poignant.

Liz Phair also writes an introduction to the memoir that successfully sets up what follows so the reader will establish appreciate her words even more.

## Theresa

Thank you, Netgalley and Random House for sending me a digital ARC, in exchange for an honest review.

As a huge fan of Indie rock queen, Liz Phair - I knew I HAD to read her memoir, "Horror Stories" ASAP!

This is an unusual but unique memoir of sorts. It's much more of a essay collection. In each chapter, Liz speaks candidly about an even or situation that left her traumatized in her personal life or recording career. "Three Bad Omens" is definitely a standout in this collection. Who

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My favorite chapter is "Labor of Love", in which she describes being in labor with her son, Nick for 30+ hours. Yikes! Liz is not ashamed of exposing her weaknesses when it comes to love either. In "The Devil Mistress", Liz openly discusses the toxic affair she had when she was married.

In "She Lies" and "Below" - Liz becomes a bystander to frightening daily encounters that leave her rattled and uncomfortable. At the end of each chapter, Liz learns a valuable lesson from each failure and mistake, ones that were self-inflicted or out of her control.

This is the kind of memoir you don't have to read in a specific order. Many of the stories are non-linear. Jumping from her University years, to her music career, to her childhood, and back again.

Liz is unconventional, just like this memoir. I liked and understood the concept of this book, but with that being said, I still wish I got a bit more backstory, especially how it felt being a female musician in a male-dominated industry. I felt like something was missing. Liz is a great storyteller though. Just like she's a great songwriter. Her brutal honesty is what makes her special. I found her relatable. She has insecurities and inner-demons like the rest of us. I've been with her through her all her career highs and lows. I wish her all the best. I appreciate when an artist is unafraid to expose painful and shameful parts of their pasts. That's what makes us human after all. Life is Phair.

## Ren

This is imperfect, but ends up being pretty meaningful anyway. I would've skipped it because I really don't like celebrity memoirs even when they're celebrities I like. Also I haven't paid her newer stuff any attention in the last decade or so even though I loved her something fierce in that pivotal high school/college-age time that she reached so many of us.

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The NPR writeup changed my mind because the quotes were so powerful. I don't know why I'm surprised, her songs were always like that, with some totally gut-punching lines. So it wasn't what I expected, in a good way, because it's not a musician memoir - although there are some such stories here, actually my least favorite among the topics covered. The general concept is parsing the awful things we do to each other on a smaller scale, the everyday horror stories that end up lingering longer even than the big obvious ones: "Horror can be found in brief interactions that are as cumulatively powerful as the splashy heart-stoppers, because that's where we live most of our lives."

It made me remember why I loved her in the first place. And something I was completely unprepared for (sorry Liz, this is about me now): I even felt some little forgotten piece of myself coming back, with the thoughts or memories she stirred up, or my own horror stories that mirrored something in hers (those things that become "haunting melodies I hear over and over again in my head"); or in the events, emotions, and interactions that affected her and I could feel why so viscerally. I am so grateful for that. Whatever flaws this has, it's incredible art that can bring you back something of yourself and this did it.

She's a bit more into the woo-woo than I would imagine considering how grounded and realistic she comes off elsewhere, there are a few too many scenes on airplanes, it can be melodramatic (but like, who among us doesn't have those melodramatic moments where some emotion unexpectedly overwhelms reason and before you know it you're forever scarred by something small or stupid), and I really wish editors would go a little harder on celebrities or even big authors - I get the impression they're afraid to touch their work sometimes, and this could've benefited from some editing tweaks (can't we all just agree to banish the adding of extra letters to a word for emphasis? We're collectively better than that!)

But I was so moved by it overall. I think this'll speak to sensitive, empathic types. It's confessional, funny, silly, painfully honest even when it makes her look bad or shallow, and... strangely healing? Is that what I'm trying to describe here? I'm not sure. But a lot of it resonated, sometimes surprisingly so. I'm so glad she wrote it.

Some favorite lines out of a bunch of them:

We're afraid we will be defined by our worst decisions instead of our best.

We can be monsters, we human beings, in the most offhand and cavalier ways.