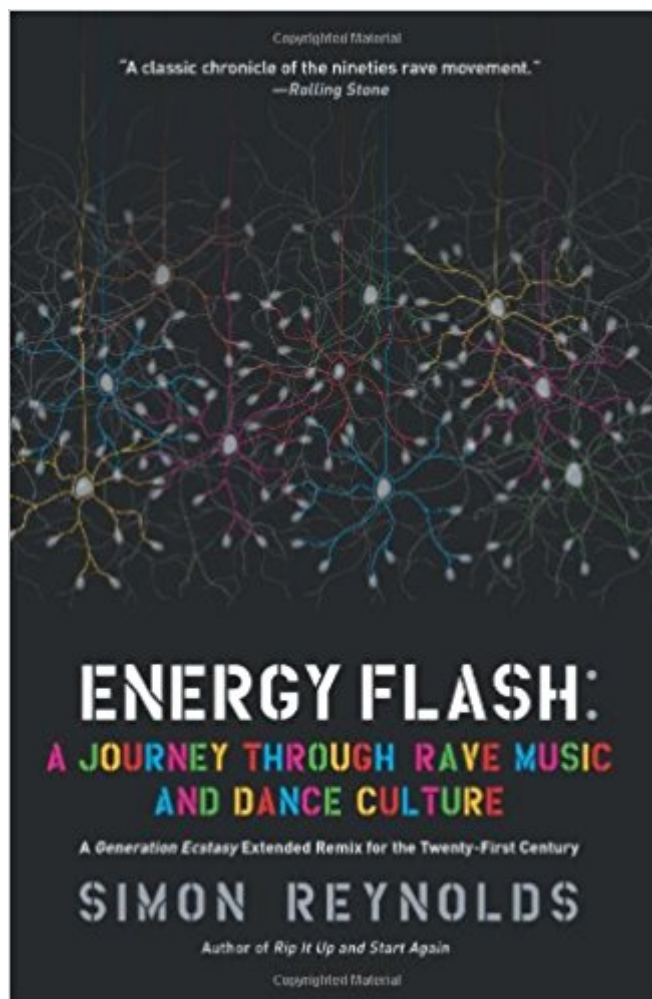


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# Energy Flash: A Journey Through Rave Music And Dance Culture



## Synopsis

Ecstasy did for house music what LSD did for psychedelic rock. Now, in *Energy Flash*, journalist Simon Reynolds offers a revved-up and passionate inside chronicle of how MDMA (ecstasy) and MIDI (the basis for electronica) together spawned the unique rave culture of the 1990s. England, Germany, and Holland began tinkering with imported Detroit techno and Chicago house music in the late 1980s, and when ecstasy was added to the mix in British clubs, a new music subculture was born. A longtime writer on the music beat, Reynolds started watching and partaking in the rave scene early on, observing firsthand ecstasy's sense-heightening and serotonin-surgingly effects on the music and the scene. In telling the story, Reynolds goes way beyond straight music history, mixing social history, interviews with participants and scene-makers, and his own analysis of the sounds with the names of key places, tracks, groups, scenes, and artists. He delves deep into the panoply of rave-worthy drugs and proper rave attitude and etiquette, exposing a nuanced musical phenomenon. Read on, and learn why nitrous oxide is called 'hippy crack'.

## Book Information

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Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Energy Flash*; Reynolds provides an expanded and updated version of his now-classic *Generation Ectasy*... Reynolds approaches his subject as both fan and critic, finding the perfect balance between autobiography and eyewitness. He also happens to be a terrific writer...

Authoritative. [Booklist](#)

Simon Reynolds is a consulting editor at Spin magazine. He is also the author of *Blissed Out: The Raptures of Rock*, *The Sex Revolts: Gender, Rebellion and Rock 'n' Roll*, *Totally Wired*, and *Bring the Noise*.

A lot of critics of the book complain about Reynolds' highly opinionated views on the developments of electronic dance music. This is a mistake; a wholly academic research and categorization with no regards to the vivid, honest opinions of the people who were there is of no use when much of the magic is about what it represented, where the parties happened, who were its consumers and creators, and so on. Reynolds describes the ambiances, locations, producers, labels, and theory behind the music, parties and institutions that compose the music of that era. It adds social significance to those of us who have only the sounds free of context. A must-have for anyone with interest in electronic music of the past and present. Simon provides a refreshing, highly informative, and thorough overview of dance culture. It has made me appreciate and discover music I would not have found otherwise, and clarifies many questions I had on musical preference.

Good read. I bought this to relive something I experienced myself (90's & early 2000s underground rave movement) through someone else's perspective to see someone else's experiences and compare them to what I remember. Now keep in mind I experienced this movement in NYC, and really nowhere else. This book (and its author) clearly has a perspective from the UK. But it was entertaining to read, and I learned a lot of things I never knew about the movement that the author was aware of that were happening around the world at the time, and does a good job of telling the stories of the parallel things and events occurring around the world since the 80s that brought the rave/edm scene from an underground acid house movement to where it is today.

Reynolds is one of my favorite music journalists, but he particularly shines in *Energy Flash*. As the analytical fan, Reynolds captures both the factual history of rave culture AND the emotional "rush" that comes with the scene & it's sounds. This book is like DJing prose - a sonic journey through the written word.

Huge book. It's a little dry and the later chapters are pretty irrelevant to what I'm interested in, but the first 1/2 of the book detailing the rise of dance music and its influence in the UK is great. Nice record list to work through finding too.

Its a good read if you haven't read other books about this particular culture. Its good that he had a section explaining the updated version explaining what has changed and what hasn't.

I love this book, super informative. I wish it would be updated to discuss more modern events ! It's been almost 10 years, keep documenting the history

That this book, at this moment, has an average 3 star rating is a crime - pure and simple. In terms of the comprehensiveness, poetic versatility, and insight into the meaning of rave culture that Simon Reynolds displays in this book, no other publication comes even close. None. The simple fact is that there will never be another book like it. It stands alone, and belongs to the top ranks of the greatest books written on popular music. Indeed, this book is now (and most likely will always be) the definitive text of 'rave music and dance culture.' - at the very least for the 1990s. So if you want true insight regarding the challenge, and subsequent tour de force, of writing about dance music, read this book carefully. Very carefully. No other book comes close. None. But I repeat myself.

Item came just as described and arrived promptly, nice transaction, thanks!

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