

# Life of Playing with Fire: A Book Review

Life of Playing with Fire is a memoir by Patti Smith that chronicles her life in New York City during the 1970s. The book is a raw and honest account of Smith's experiences as a musician, artist, and writer.

Smith's writing is lyrical and evocative, and she captures the energy and excitement of New York City in the 1970s. She writes about her experiences with drugs, sex, and rock and roll, as well as her struggles with poverty and homelessness.

Life of Playing with Fire is a powerful and moving memoir that offers a unique glimpse into the life of one of the most important artists of our time.



## Out of Line: A Life of Playing with Fire by Barbara Lynch

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3379 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 305 pages



Life of Playing with Fire begins with Smith's arrival in New York City in 1967. She is young and broke, but she is also full of ambition and dreams. She quickly becomes part of the city's vibrant art and music scene, and she soon meets Robert Mapplethorpe, who becomes her lover and muse.

Smith and Mapplethorpe live together in a small apartment in Chelsea, and they both work hard to make a name for themselves. Smith releases her first album, *Horses*, in 1975, and it becomes an instant classic.

Mapplethorpe's photography is also gaining recognition, and he is soon considered one of the most important artists of his generation.

Smith and Mapplethorpe's relationship is passionate and intense, but it is also tumultuous. They both struggle with addiction, and they often fight. In 1979, Mapplethorpe dies of AIDS, and Smith is devastated.

*Life of Playing with Fire* ends with Smith's reflections on her life and career. She writes about her struggles and her triumphs, and she offers a unique perspective on the creative process.

- **Patti Smith:** The narrator and protagonist of the book. Smith is a musician, artist, and writer who is known for her raw and honest work.
- **Robert Mapplethorpe:** Smith's lover and muse. Mapplethorpe is a photographer who is known for his controversial and provocative work.
- **Allen Ginsberg:** A poet and friend of Smith and Mapplethorpe. Ginsberg is a member of the Beat Generation, and he is known for his experimental writing.
- **William Burroughs:** A writer and friend of Smith and Mapplethorpe. Burroughs is a member of the Beat Generation, and he is known for his dark and disturbing work.
- **Art and creativity:** Smith explores the creative process in depth, and she offers a unique perspective on the role of art in our lives.

- **Love and loss:** Smith writes about her relationships with Mapplethorpe and others, and she explores the themes of love, loss, and grief.
- **Identity:** Smith writes about her search for identity, and she explores the themes of sexuality, gender, and race.

Smith's writing is lyrical and evocative, and she captures the energy and excitement of New York City in the 1970s. She writes about her experiences with drugs, sex, and rock and roll, as well as her struggles with poverty and homelessness.

Smith's writing is also raw and honest, and she does not shy away from difficult topics. She writes about her own struggles with addiction and mental illness, and she offers a unique perspective on the creative process.

Life of Playing with Fire is a powerful and moving memoir that offers a unique glimpse into the life of one of the most important artists of our time. Smith's writing is lyrical and evocative, and she captures the energy and excitement of New York City in the 1970s. She writes about her experiences with drugs, sex, and rock and roll, as well as her struggles with poverty and homelessness.

Life of Playing with Fire is a must-read for fans of Patti Smith and for anyone interested in the creative process.

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