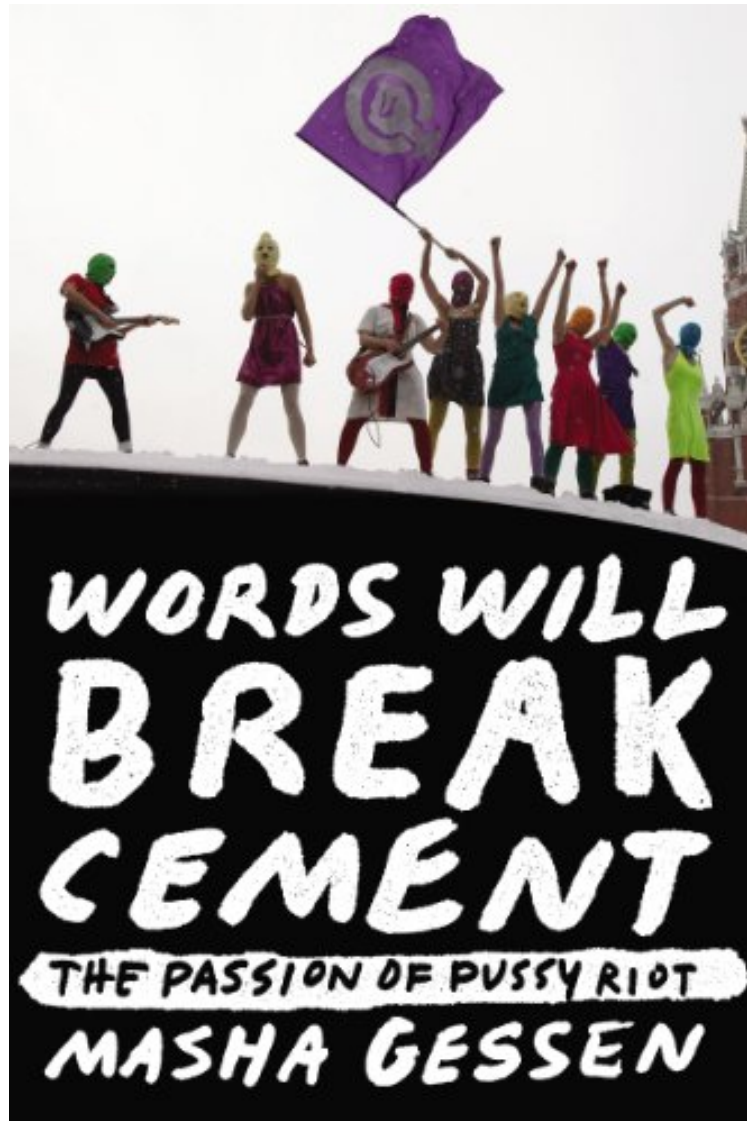


## Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot

Masha Gessen

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**Masha Gessen : Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A clear look at how A clear look at how ...By Printed word addictA clear look at howA clear look at how things are in Putin's Russia. We need to be very concerned about what he is doing in and to Russia and the Ukraine. He is a frightening man, actually, a thug, only concerned with cementing his power as an ultimate dictator and conytoling every aspect of the country; its people and its boundless resoucrs for his own gain.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I saw Masha Gessen two year after I read the ...By Serhiy TereshchenkoI saw Masha Gessen two year after I read the book. Her voice and posture are exactly those that imagine

while reading this book. I think she's an extremely talented journalist. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Five Stars By wd amazing

Look out for Masha Gessen's new book, *THE FUTURE IS HISTORY*, coming October 2017. The heroic story of Pussy Riot, who resurrected the power of truth in a society built on lies. On February 21, 2012, five young women entered the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. In neon-colored dresses, tights, and balaclavas, they performed a "punk prayer"; beseeching the "Mother of God"; to "get rid of Putin." They were quickly shut down by security, and in the weeks and months that followed, three of the women were arrested and tried, and two were sentenced to a remote prison colony. But the incident captured international headlines, and footage of it went viral. People across the globe recognized not only a fierce act of political confrontation but also an inspired work of art that, in a time and place saturated with lies, found a new way to speak the truth. Masha Gessen's riveting account tells how such a phenomenon came about. Drawing on her exclusive, extensive access to the members of Pussy Riot and their families and associates, she reconstructs the fascinating personal journeys that transformed a group of young women into artists with a shared vision, gave them the courage and imagination to express it unforgettably, and endowed them with the strength to endure the devastating loneliness and isolation that have been the price of their triumph.

From Booklist \*Starred\* Moscow-based journalist Gessen, author of *The Man without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin* (2012), is well versed in the tyranny of Putin's Russia, the hardened society from which the Moscow women activists and punk rockers calling themselves Pussy Riot emerged, intent on exposing "the frightful absurdity of the land." They debuted with "Kill the Sexist" and began posting videos of their gutsy guerrilla performances in Metro stations, upscale boutiques, Red Square, and, the site of their swan song, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. Hampered in her efforts to speak with the three young women who were arrested and found guilty of hooliganism—Nadezhda Tolokonnikova (Nadya), Maria Alyokhina, and Yekaterina Samutsevich (Kat)—Gessen talks with their families and friends, piecing together the stories of their ruptured childhoods, teenage searching, and political awakenings, richly atmospheric accounts that reveal the harsh realities Russians endure. Reporting with spiked irony on their ludicrous trial, Gessen movingly chronicles how courageously Nadya and Maria, mothers of young children, helped others while incarcerated in isolated penal colonies. Pussy Riot is a global cause célèbre, and now Gessen—prickly, frank, precise, and sharply witty—provides the first in-depth look at this story-in-progress as Nadya and Maria, recently released and utterly unbowed, continue to fight for human rights. --Donna Seaman Praise for *WORDS WILL BREAK CEMENT: THE PASSION OF PUSSY RIOT* Named a Best Book of 2014 by NPR and The Guardian; Urgent; hellip; damning hellip; Much here will be new to the American reader. All of it is infuriating. ndash; Alexander Nazaryan, The New York Times; Remarkable hellip; Masha Gessen [is] one of the most important activists and journalists Russia has known in a generation hellip; disquieting, moving, and closely reported. ndash; David Remnick, The New Yorker "Simply put, this is the best, most urgent book I've read about art this year. Through rigorous research and furiously fine storytelling, Masha Gessen places the band's founding members unflinchingly into context, revealing the worlds they move between (of Russian activists, intellectuals and prisoners) and reminding us that art really can change the world — if you're an artist with the guts to try." ndash; NPR; The fullest account so far of the Pussy Riot story hellip; A moving object lesson in the power of art — perhaps especially messy and exuberant art — to rise above repression and have the last, cement-breaking word. ndash; Sara Marcus, Los Angeles Times "Valuable for its insights into the modern cultural history of Russia, with all its idealistic muddles, dead-ends and false starts hellip; ideal for those curious about the country behind the Games. ndash; The Economist; What makes someone into a dissident? Why do some people give up everything — home, family, job — to embark on a career of protest? hellip; Gessen set out to answer this question hellip; in this excellent short account. ndash; The Washington Post; A compulsively readable book that explains in unflinching terms the tragedy that is modern Russia hellip; Words Will Break Cement is an instant classic, destined to take its place with Solzhenitsyn's writings about the Gulag... one comes away hellip; marveling at the courage of the Pussy Riot members making a stand against tyranny while demonstrating the willingness to pay a steep price. ndash; New York Journal of Books; Riveting hellip; [Gessen] is a sharp observer of people and events, and she tells Pussy Riot's story in a lively style that is somehow casual, precise, and powerful all at once. She has written a terrific book, a compelling story of three creative women who courageously attacked a repressive regime by disrupting the spectacle of its propaganda. ndash; The Rumpus "The significance of Words Will Break Cement... is its demonstration that Pussy Riot's rambunctious confrontations with the authorities are the result of several years of growing frustration with Putin's rule... The genius of Pussy Riot... has been to employ guerilla street theater and a sense of humor along with unbridled profanity — all the better to skewer the pretensions of power and privilege Putin insists are his due... Words Will Break Cement makes clear that Pussy Riot is more than just a small group of disorderly anarchists." ndash; New York Times Book; Masha Gessen's history of founding

Pussy Riot members Tolokonnikova, Maria Alyokhina, and Yekaterina Samutsevich provides some crucial context for understanding the motives and means of the group; Gessen's account helpfully highlights the lineage of art and protest that gave rise to Pussy Riot. Pussy Riot is what art endangered looks like; their songs are salvos; their hits are strikes. Boston Globe [A] fascinating insider account. As Russia waves sabers at the Ukraine and considers a new cultural policy that explicitly rejects multiculturalism and tolerance, the young women of Pussy Riot increasingly seem not like radicals but prophets. Vivid and empathic. Seattle Times A compelling and eloquent account of current events. The Christian Science Monitor Gessen offers a lively and sympathetic portrait of the three women at the center of the storm; keenly observed and often moving. The Guardian [An] angry, clear and intimate look at the women behind Pussy Riot. The Sunday Times "Compelling and highly readable. It's an artist biography, a meditation on revolutionary art and gender politics, an absurdist courtroom drama and defiant commentary on the cultural climate of Gessen's homeland — a place for which the author obviously has enduring love and concern. Eugene Weekly Pussy Riot is a global cause célèbre, and now Gessen — prickly, frank, precise, and sharply witty — provides the first in-depth look at this story-in-progress. Booklist (starred review) "Based on interviews with Pussy Riot members (including those arrested and others in the group), their families, friends, and attorneys, Gessen puts their protest and arrests in the context of post-Soviet, Putin-era Russia's culture and society. Recommended to readers in feminist studies, those following Putin's Russia, and all who study protest art. Library Journal Praise for THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE: THE UNLIKELY RISE OF VLADIMIR PUTIN Gessen has shown remarkable courage. [An] unflinching indictment of the most powerful man in Russia. The Wall Street Journal "Gessen shines a piercing light into every dark corner of Putin's story. Fascinating, hard-hitting reading. Foreign Affairs Illuminating. It is with [the] explosive revelations that Gessen truly excels. An electrifying read from what can only be described as an incredibly brave writer. Columbia Journalism Part psychological profile, part conspiracy study. As a Moscow native who has written perceptively for both Russian and Western publications, Gessen knows the cultures and pathologies of Russia. [and has] a delicious command of the English language. A fiercely independent journalist. Gessen's armchair psychoanalysis of Putin is speculative. But it is a clever and sometimes convincing speculation, based on a close reading of Putin's own inadvertently revealing accounts of his life, and on interviews with people who knew Putin before he mattered. The New York Times Book "Absorbing. The New Yorker "Powerful and gracefully written. The San Francisco Chronicle About the Author Masha Gessen is a Russian-American journalist who is the author of several books, most recently the national bestseller The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin. Her work has appeared in Vanity Fair, The New York Times, Newsweek, Slate, and many other publications, and has received numerous awards, most recently the 2013 Media for Liberty Award. She has served as the editor of several publications and as director of Radio Liberty's Russia Service. She lives in New York.