

A punk rock memoir of mistakes and self-discovery

Good Trouble

Building a Successful Life and Business with Asperger's

by Joe Biel; introduction by Joyce Brabner, foreword by Sander Hicks

"So much happens in *Good Trouble*. The book is punk autobiography, an indie small business manual, a reason to worry about what urban sprawl does to cut young people off from diversity and culture, and a painful look at what hides in some homes, hurting too many of those kids." —from the foreword by Joyce Brabner

Praise for the author's previous work:

"The story of Microcosm from its modest beginnings as a tiny distro and record label to its current incarnation as book publisher...It's nice to read a DIY success story that is based in ethics, integrity, and the desire to have fun with your work, and one that doesn't end in disaster, betrayal, or heartbreak." —*Golnar Nikpour, Maximum Rockroll*

"This is what punk rock is all about—using the tools we learned in punk rock to make the world a better place." —*Razorcake*

In 1996, everything about Joe Biel's life seemed like a mistake. He was 18, he lived in Cleveland, he got drunk every day, and he had mystery health problems and weird social tics. All his friends' lives were as bad or worse. To escape a nihilistic, apocalyptic worldview and to bring reading and documentation into a communal punk scene, he started assembling zines and bringing them in milk crates to underground punk shows. Eventually this became Microcosm Publishing. But Biel's head for math was stronger than his ability to relate to people, and it wasn't until he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome that it all began to fall into place. This is the story of how, over 20 years, one person turned a litany of continuing mistakes and seeming wrong turns into a happy, fulfilled life and a thriving publishing business that defies all odds.

SUBJECT: Business/Autism/Memoir/Music

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FORMAT: Paperback, 256 pages, 5x8", b/w photographs throughout

Marketing Notes

1. Foreword by Joyce Brabner, co-author with Harvey Pekar of *Our Cancer Year*; Introduction by Sander Hicks, founder of Soft Skull Press
2. Released for Microcosm's 20th anniversary with coordinated marketing and publicity
3. Diagnoses of autism spectrum disorders are on the rise
4. A humorous story of growing up in post-industrial Cleveland's DIY punk rock music scene.

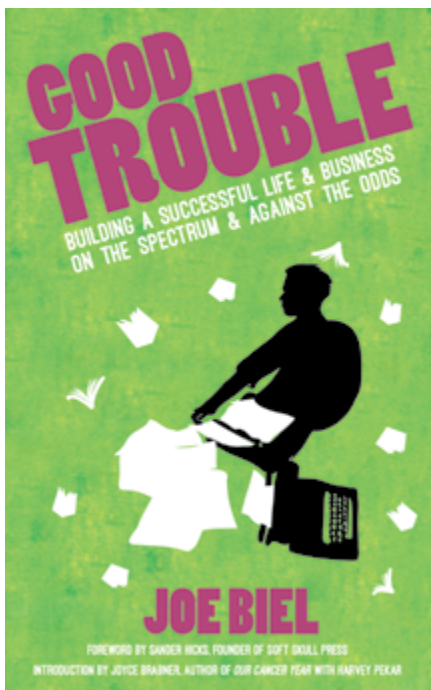
Comparative Titles

- *Crate Digger* Bob Suren 9781621068785 (Microcosm) \$14.95, 2015
- *The Responsible Company* Yvon Chouinard 9780980122787 (Patagonia) \$19.95, 2012
- *The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic* Jessica Hopper 9780983186335 (Featherproof) \$17.95, 2015
- *Be Different* John Elder Robison 9780307884824 (Random House) \$14, 2012



Joe Biel is a writer, activist, filmmaker, teacher, and founder of Microcosm Publishing and co-founder of the Portland Zine Symposium. He shows his films on tour with the Dinner and Bikes program. He has been featured in the Time Magazine, Publisher's Weekly, and Utne Reader.

A small, innovative publishing house, **Microcosm Publishing** specializes in work designed to make the reader feel good about being alive, take an active role in bettering their life, and impact the world around them. Microcosm has developed a reputation for teaching self-empowerment, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity through challenging conventional publishing wisdom with books and zines about DIY skills, food, politics, and art.



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