



Rebel Heart: An American Rock 'n' Roll Journey

By Bebe Buell, Victor Bockris

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How does a girl get from a Catholic school in Virginia to Mick Jagger's hotel room in two short years? In the early '70s, when rock stars were becoming the new royalty and models were their consorts and muses, Bebe Buell hit New York hard. One of Eileen Ford's most promising new faces, Bebe worked with the best of them (Scavullo, Avedon), and flowered in a city that was home to her first and enduring passion: rock music. Max's Kansas City was her stage, and Bebe was the star meeting everyone from Warhol to Dali, and captivating a generation of rock's greatest talents. Her relationships ranged from wunderkind Todd Rundgren to Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, from Jagger to rock's wordsmith Elvis Costello. Not to mention the fun she had with everyone from Rod Stewart to Ron Wood, David Bowie to Jack Nicholson. Rebel Heart drops readers right back into rock's heyday and is full of detail that deepens even the most ardent fan's understanding of the '70s and '80s rock scene.

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Rebel Heart: An American Rock 'n' Roll Journey By Bebe Buell, Victor Bockris Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #276358 in Books
- Published on: 2001-08-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.02" h x 1.35" w x 6.14" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

High-spirited teenager Bebe Buell didn't want to stay home in Virginia in the early 1970s; she knew she was destined for a faster paced life. After graduating from high school, she ran away to Virginia Beach to escape her father's strict military discipline. She returned home, but, with her mother's support, soon moved to New York and became a moderately successful Eileen Ford model. However, even more appealing to Bebe was the world of rock music. She became a groupie of sorts hanging out with Todd Rundgren, Andy Warhol and Iggy Pop. (She's said to have provided some of the inspiration for Kate Hudson's character in *Almost Famous*.) In addition to Bebe's sexual exploits with celebrities (the list is long; highlights include David Bowie, Elvis Costello, Rod Stewart), she served as a muse and actual wordsmith, recording with the Cars in 1980: "I was never on a quest for sex itself. In fact, to me, it's the hardest part of a relationship. I was always on a quest for rock 'n' roll." From the 1970s to the 1990s, she drifted from man to man and drugs of various sorts, with the one stable force being her daughter, Liv Tyler, by Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. While some aging boomers may relish another account of the good old, bad old days of rock and roll, this memoir is disappointing. Bebe's raucous life amid glam rockers and glitterati sure sounds fun, but her story adds little to what has already been documented about these times. Photos not seen by PW. (Aug.)

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From Library Journal

When rock took its first giant steps in the mid-1960s, there was Pamela Des Barres (*I'm with the Band: Confessions of a Groupie*. o.p.); when it blew its wad in the late 1970s, there was Bebe Buell, ex-Ford model and *Playboy* centerfold. The former proudly calls herself a groupie, the latter insists on muse. Buell's garrulous account/defense of her rock'n'roll lifestyle, which produced actress Liv Tyler (her illegitimate daughter by Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler), lacks a sense of humor; looking back on that much excess has to be somewhat funny. Charges of pretentiousness are beside the point, though. One must judge a memoir of this type by its juiciness, and this rates an eight. Todd Rundgren, Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall, Iggy Pop, Debbie Harry, David Bowie, and Jimmy Page aside, Buell dishes on the great unrequited love of her life, Elvis Costello, who was married to his first wife when Buell conceived a child (she later aborted it and regrets it to this day). Writes Buell, "I can very proudly say that when I was involved with Elvis, he made some of the greatest records of his career." Recommended for celebrity sickos, 1970s rock fans, and larger public library music collections. (Photographs not seen.) Heather McCormack, "Library Journal"

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From [Booklist](#)

Back in the early 1970s, Buell left Virginia to become a model in New York. But her true passion was rock and roll, and rather than pursuing her modeling career, she started hanging out with, dating, and inspiring rock stars. She began with Todd Rundgren but also cavorted with the likes of Mick Jagger, David Bowie, and Jimmy Page. A brief but intense affair with Steven Tyler of Aerosmith led to the birth of her daughter, Liv, but because of Tyler's drug use, Bebe decided to tell Liv that Rundgren was her father. Bebe and Todd split up for good soon after Liv's birth, and then she met the love of her life, Elvis Costello. Meanwhile, she tried to start a rock career but ended up putting the careers of the men in her life and later her daughter before her own ambitions. With veteran rock coauthor Bockris' help, her writing is conversational and up front, conveying her colorful personality well and making for an energetic memoir. *Kristine Huntley*

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