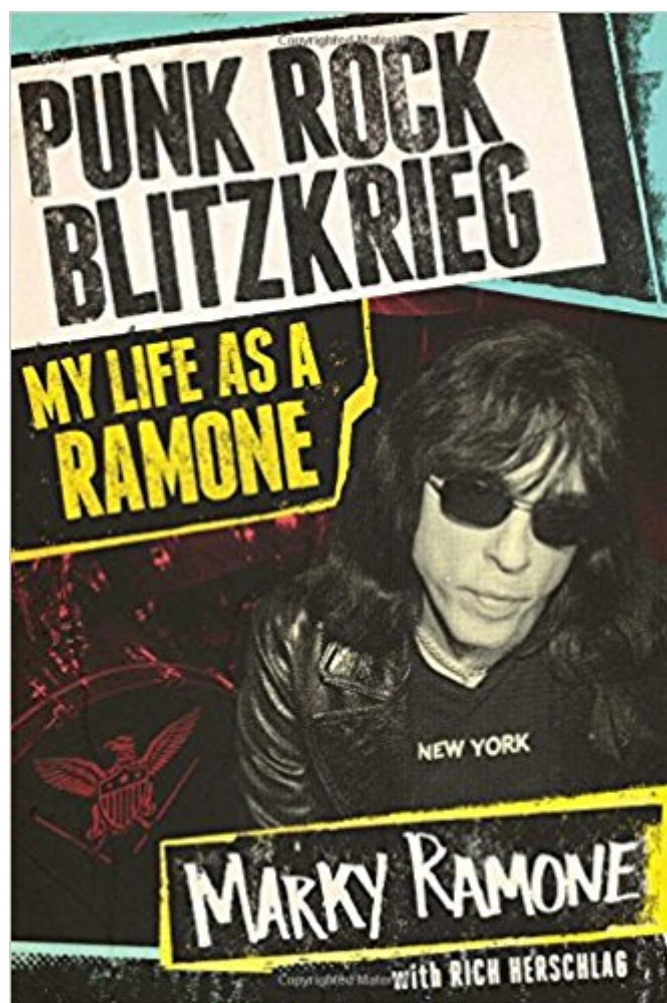


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Punk Rock Blitzkrieg: My Life As A Ramone



Synopsis

The “entertaining and enlightening” (Stephen King) final word on the genius and mischief of the Ramones, told by the man who created the beat behind their iconic music and lived to tell about it. When punk rock reared its spiky head in the early seventies, Marc Bell had the best seat in the house. Already a young veteran of the prototype American metal band Dust, Bell took residence in artistic, seedy Lower Manhattan, where he played drums in bands that would shape rock music for decades to come, including Wayne County, who pioneered transsexual rock, and Richard Hell and the Voidoids, who directly inspired the entire early British punk scene. If punk had royalty, in 1978 Marc became part of it when he was knighted “Marky Ramone” by Johnny, Joey, and Dee Dee of the iconoclastic Ramones. The band of tough misfits were a natural fit for Marky, who dressed punk before there was punk, and who brought his “blitzkrieg” style of drumming as well as the studio and stage experience the band needed to solidify its lineup. Together, they changed the world. But Marky Ramone changed, too. The epic wear and tear of a dysfunctional group (and the Ramones were a step beyond dysfunction) endlessly crisscrossing the country and the world in an Econoline “practically a psychiatric ward on wheels” drove Marky from partying to alcoholism. When his life started to look more out of control than Dee Dee’s, he knew he had a problem. Marky left music in the mid-eighties to enter recovery and eventually returned to help the Ramones finally receive their due as one of the greatest and most influential bands of all time. Covering in unflinching detail the cult film *Rock & Roll High School* to “I Wanna Be Sedated” to Marky’s own struggles, *Punk Rock Blitzkrieg* is an authentic and always honest look at the people who reinvented rock music, and not a moment too soon.

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Customer Reviews

Ä“Marky and I are from the 70's; as a drummer from the 70's, he can show the new boys a beat or two! He's legend!!!Ä (Peter Criss of Kiss)"Marky was an integral part of not one, but TWO of the most important bands in rock and roll. He saw everything from ground zero and lived to tell about it. Absolutely vital document!" (Anthony Bourdain)Ä“Marky's music and style defined the punk rock movement and has influenced countless artists, entertainers and designers. As a musician, he harnessed the energy of the 1970s counterculture into a truly new movement, one that resulted in a seismic shift in fashion, art and music. While playing in great groups like Wayne County and the Backstreet Boys, Dust, Estus, Richard Hell and the Voidoids, and of course The Ramones he became known as one of the best drummers of our time, rivaling Keith Moon. I first saw him perform with Estus in 1973 in Horseheads, New York when they opened for B.B.King. It will forever be an amazing memory.Ä (Tommy Hilfiger)"The Ramones are one of the three or four most influential American rock bands of all time, and their story, as related by surviving member Marky Ramone, is both entertaining and enlightening. So put on your old leather jacket, scream Gabba-Gabba-Hey at the top of your lungs, and dig in." (Stephen King) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Born Marc Bell, Marky Ramone, a Brooklyn native, joined the Ramones in 1978. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002 along with Johnny, Joe, Dee Dee, and Tommy, and has received both a Grammy and an MTV Lifetime Achievement Award. Visit him online at MarkyRamone.com to keep up with all the latest.

My wife's reaction when I started reading this book pretty much sums it up: "You're reading ANOTHER Ramones book?"Like a lot of fans, I've read em all- Johnny Ramone's book, Dee Dee's, Mickey Leigh's, Monte Melnick's, and several other general bio books of the band. That on top of watching the End of Century and Raw documentary DVDs, left me wondering what other stories could be left.Well, this book proves that there are plenty more great stories about the Ramones, and Marky Ramone's got em. All the anecdotes in this book are either totally new to me, or offer new details on well-told tales. For example, Marky's account of the Phil Spector sessions adds a whole different perspective from any other version.In short, full of stuff you probably haven't read before,

even if you're a hardcore Ramones fan.

I've been a fan of the Ramones for many years but have never read much about them or delved into their history. "Punk Rock Blitzkrieg" offers a unique view from the drummer's seat: the personalities, the neuroses, the endless touring, and not least, the addictions. Marky was not an original Ramone. He cut his teeth in other influential bands of the time and was asked to join when Tommy stepped back in 1978. Excepting a hiatus to deal with his own alcohol addiction he remained with the band until the end and is today the sole survivor of the primary line-up. By reading "Blitzkrieg" I learned more about being in a punk band and how the music is played than I thought I would. The book offers a musician's view, explaining Johnny's guitar style, how Dee Dee approached the base, and how these techniques were critical to the sound. The book is clearly written by a guy from Brooklyn. It has attitude, it has chutzpah. It sometimes comes off as a string of somewhat unrelated memorable incidents, without the continuity one comes to expect from an autobiography. But read with an eye on who the author is, and taken at face value, it's an entertaining and good read. I came away feeling like I knew more about the Ramones, and certainly about who Marky is. And he's quite a guy. I'd love to buy him a seltzer some time!

Marc "Marky Ramone" Bell's excellent Punk Rock Blitzkrieg: My Life as a Ramone runs chronologically from his upbringing to musical beginnings, followed by an in-depth reportage of his time with the Ramones, through the deaths of his bandmates Joey, Johnny and Dee Dee. Bell's honesty and sense of humor compliments a passionate and emotional recounting of his life and work. The Ramones were as dysfunctional as could be, highlighted by a chilly relationship between Johnny and Joey. Dee Dee, for his part, was a hugely creative force despite his rabid drug addiction. The band was a study in contrasting personalities, all sewn up in their famous van, a symbol of the stripped-down, economical, disciplined schedule put forth by Johnny, who took charge of the band's internal affairs. So many great inside stories here: Joey's strange scar; Johnny stealing Joey's girl, who he later married; Dee Dee's wild times; the filming of "Rock and Roll High School"

It's a lot of fun to hear about Marky's adventures before and during his Ramones work, the early days of CBGB and other NYC club scenes, and his relationships with his bandmates. If you're a musician, you'll love his descriptions of the evolution of his drum sets, technique, etc. Being from Brooklyn, I'm getting a kick out of the whole story so far. Brings back memories...Someone

mentioned pics of the Ramones...I know other authors have run into the same legal issues...getting permission to copyrighted pictures is often a big fat headache and sometimes impossible. Personally, I like the pictures he put in, with his wife and other celebs. If you're a Ramones fan..what's not to like? Thoroughly enjoying it so far.

Being a Ramones fan, of course I enjoyed the book. It was odd to read of Joey's hygiene problems. But I was amazed to read of Dee Dee's brilliant song writing ability (which we all know about but didn't realize the extent) . I also wondered why Marky didn't write of his dressing in drag experience for the "Rock and Roll High School" video. He was hilarious in drag in that video but there is no mention of it in the book. The other Ramones weren't nearly as camera ready which may explain their inability to chart once the MTV generation began. In spite of one great song after the other. But to me they are all adorable in their own way! Also reconsidered the Phil Spector verdict when I read of Marky's version of the trial. His sharing of his "gifts of sobriety" are honest and humble. This book tells of the Rough Ride, heartbreak and at times joys of being a Ramone and I recommend it.

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