



Big Freedia: God Save the Queen Diva!

Big Freedia , Nicole Balin (With)

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From the eponymous star of the most popular reality show in Fuse TV's history, this no-holds-barred memoir tells the story of a gay, self-proclaimed mama's boy who exploded onto the formerly underground Bounce music scene—a hip-hop subgenre—and found acceptance, healing, self-expression, and stardom!

As the “undisputed ambassador” of the energetic, New Orleans-based Bounce movement, Big Freedia isn't afraid to twerk, wiggle, and shake her way to self-confidence, and is encouraging her fans to do the same. In her engrossing memoir, Big Freedia tells the inside story of her path to fame, the peaks and valleys of her personal life, and the liberation that Bounce music brings to herself and every one of her fans who is searching for freedom.

Big Freedia immediately pulls us into the relationship between her personal life and her career as an artist; being a “twerking sissy” is not just a job, she says, but a salvation. A place to find solace. To escape from the battles she faced growing up in the worst neighborhood in New Orleans. To deal with losing loved ones to the violence on the streets, drug overdoses, and jail. To survive hurricane Katrina by living on her roof for two days with three adults and a child. To grapple with the difficulties and celebrate the joys of living.

In this eye-opening memoir that bursts with energy, you'll learn the history of the Bounce movement and meet all of the colorful characters that pepper its music scene. With her own unique voice and unabashed enthusiasm, Big Freedia tells how she arrived at this defining moment in music, and how Bounce ultimately has allowed her to become her own version of diva, one booty-pop at a time.

Big Freedia: God Save the Queen Diva! Details

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From Reader Review Big Freedia: God Save the Queen Diva! for online ebook

Kelly says

Really enjoyed this until the last few chapters, which just felt like a list of all the shows and festivals Freedia has performed at over the last few years.

Loved learning more about Freedia's life and relationships with her mom and closest friends.

Robert says

Big Freedia's memoir also gave interesting perspectives on growing up gay and black in NOLA, NOLA's sissy bounce scene, hurricane Katrina, and getting big and famous in the 2010s.

Phil Overeem says

Charming, raw, inspiring, funny, tragic--well, totally New Orleans! Long Live The Queen!

Nandi Crawford says

Whoa, come in with a bang and leave on one too. The Queen Diva of the Bounce tells her story of being from The Big Easy and how she, along with Katey Red, Magnolia Shorty and others transformed the Bounce music in New Orleans. Born in 1978, the oldest of his mom's kids, he grew up mostly chubby and by the time he was a teen, he knew he was gay. He came out to his mom and then to the world. By the turn of the 21st century, Freedia was making her mark initially in New Orleans. As time moved on and others saw her shine, she started touring across the country and generating fans nationwide, but home is still and always will be New Orleans. The book ends with her mom's funeral end generously she gives us instructions on how to bounce as well. Though I loved the book, I feel there is so much more to Freedia since that time. I suspect a part two later on. Truly.

Teri says

What in the hell does Big Freedia have to write about?!

That is what I asked myself when I heard New Orleans bounce artist Big Freedia was having a book signing at New Orleans Public Library. I'm a New Orleans girl so he's always been a hometown favorite and I even watched a few episodes of his show on Fuse but I wondered what on God's green earth Big Freedia could fill a book with. In 2016, I finally decided to take a book and find out.

The answer: A lot, apparently...

So listen to the old cliches because you shouldn't don't judge this book by it's cover because there's more than meets the eye. You may not recognize her, but others do.

So what does he talk about?!

Freedia starts from the beginning and takes you all the way to the present telling stories about being a gay black boy in the New Orleans in the late 80s and 90s, coming out to a religious mother, how he discovered his love for music, being a trailblazer in the creation of a new and often misunderstood genre of music, his Katrina story (all New Orleanians have one and we get a lot of practice verbalizing them), and his rise to mainstream fame.

Freedia gave me nostalgia describing his neighborhood and the elements of New Orleans that only pre-Katrina natives know. He describes the culture (good and bad), the music, and does not skimp on the slang. I knew where he was, what and WHO he was talking about, and sometimes how to do it too. If you're family with bounce music in New Orleans, you know Freedia spilled some tea about some of his fellow artists. I'm convinced he could write a tell-all if he wanted to.

Although anecdotal and not the most grammatically correct, this book keeps your attention. Everything he describes is raw and real. He shows emotion, gives great detail, and is very funny. You may have only heard his name before, but by the end you know her and how God did indeed save the Queen Diva. Saved her from her surroundings, in the midst of a storm (literally), and sometimes even saved her from her own habits. You may have only heard a song or two but you learn how established of an artist Big Freedia really is.

Bravo for exceeding my expectations.

Happy Reading to All who will partake.

Teri

(Please pardon my use of pronouns when describing Big Freedia. Although he is known as she in gay arenas, he never describes wanting to be known as female or denouncing male-ness. Correct me if I'm wrong.)

Wendy says

Big Freedia!

I had no idea I was going to love this book as much as I did. I have got to see Big Freedia! She told this story just like it is. This is the New Orleans that I know and love. I also learned so much about her that I didn't know. This was a great book. I'm getting ready to look up her reality show and watch it right now.

Inge says

Oh yes, honey.

Crystal says

I must say, I loved Freedia before I read this book but now that I am finished I love Freddie just as much!!! I recommend this book to all of her fans and to people that aren't really sure who she is, she over came a lot and stayed true to herself in the process. I also can not lie....I cried at the end!!

Read In Colour says

I don't know that this book will be enough to interest someone that's unfamiliar with Big Freedia, but as a fan of her TV show and her attitude toward life, I loved it. God Save the Queen Diva gives us a glimpse into her childhood, her supportive mother Ms. V., and the Bounce scene. I was hoping for pictures throughout the book, because I think it would have added to the story, but I read the ebook version, so maybe pictures are included in the print version. Anywho, if you like the show, like Big Freedia or are just interested in reading something outside of your usual norm, give it a read.

Regina says

After you read it,... Watch this Pitchfork documentary <http://youtu.be/O0yrp3nsvAs> and see it all come to life in a far more raw manner than Freedia's television show. An absolutely captivating individual. Freedia's gentle spirit, combined with her "no nonsense" ability to cuss you out with love is only one of the many seemingly contradicting parts of her life. He talks about being a sweet hearted choir director who loved(and needed the love of) his church, while at the same time his popularity as a booty shaking "sissy bounce"(his term) rapper was growing rapidly. Beautiful passages about the many times he was blessed with the reassurance that it was okay to be himself, are filtered through stories of friends who were not as lucky, and a harrowing recollection of Hurricane Katrina is juxtaposed with a peaceful display of how supportive and giving his family has been. Music fans will appreciate some perspective on the origins of the dance form many unwittingly credited Miley Cyrus with: twerking.

While not a groundbreaking literary work, Big Freedia's memoir of life and love and bounce in New Orleans was still a highly entertaining and endearing read.

Rena says

Excellent read. I really got to know Big Freedia on a personal level. His delightful attitude and personality just grabbed my heart.

Julia says

Repetitive at times but very good just like Bounce music!!!! "Girl down!"--Big Freedia

Ollie Moss says

You Already Know

I really enjoyed getting more insight into how Freddie Ross sparkled into becoming Big Freedia. This book will take you on a journey. If you are a fan of the TV show Big Freedia, you will definitely enjoy this book. If you haven't watched the show or heard of the queen of bounce, this is still definitely a book you will enjoy. Big Freedia's genuine spirit jumps off the pages just as it does the TV show. God Save the Queen Diva !!

Jacques says

Being a New Orleans native, this book read like a visceral conversation with a friend with dialects, settings, and sounds that would only resonate with a New Orleanian. I'm very proud of Big Freedia for creating this piece of work, and I engulfed it with laughter, worry and more than anything else, understanding.

Renata says

This book is not like, super well-written or anything, I think it's basically just Big Freedia told a bunch of anecdotes to Nicole Balin and somebody transcribed them, but a bunch of anecdotes from Big Freedia is like, all I want.

Also it's kind of a micro-history of the history of Bounce music, which I was into.

If you are charmed by lines like, "Wow, this shit is serious. That night I made a promise to myself and to God not to engage in drama. I also asked Nobby to be my gay son. He needed my help, this boy." then you would probably enjoy this book.

If not, Freedia doesn't need you, ya heard?!
