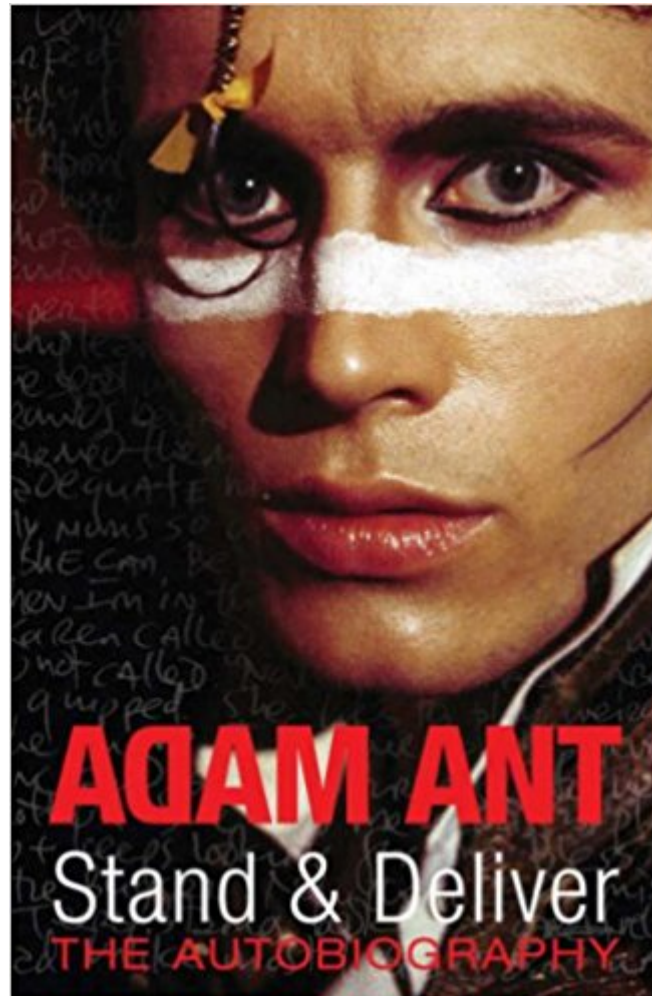




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Stand & Deliver: The Autobiography



Synopsis

Who could forget their first view of Adam Ant on Top of the Pops, white stripes across his face, swaggering to the beat of 'Antmusic' or in frilly shirt and mask for 'Stand and Deliver'? One of the most successful pop stars of the 80s, his face adorning posters on teenager's walls from Acton to Akron, Adam Ant was a phenomenon. Now in this frank and revealing autobiography, he tells the full story of his amazing life from his dysfunctional childhood to his key role in the punk movement and creation of a unique musical style that brought him a string of hits (both singles and albums). At one point he was so famous other stars sought his company and advice - even Michael Jackson called in the dead of night to ask about music and clothes. His many girlfriends included Jamie Lee Curtis and Heather Graham and for a time he lived in LA, acting in fifteen films. Adam also writes honestly about his life-long battle with manic depression. His first episodes were triggered by the stress of living with a violent, alcoholic father, and he tried to commit suicide when he was at art school. A gruelling episode with a stalker in LA precipitated a mental breakdown, and a stalker in London led to his well-publicised arrest and hospitalization in 2001. At times funny and at other times tragic, this is gripping account of the turbulent life and times of one of music's most fascinating figures.

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Customer Reviews

Adam was born in north London and became an integral part of the capital's punk scene before creating his own brand of music. He had 13 hits in the top twenty (3 of them number ones), as well as bestselling albums. His music continues to be influential today.

This is a can't-put-it-down kind of book. I think it would be pretty interesting even if you weren't a fan of Adam Ant, because he's an engaging and funny storyteller. It starts off by dumping you right into the action with the events surrounding his name change, and you get hooked. Next is the story of how his parents met, which should be boring but is charming and heartbreaking at the same time, then you're off to the races with his own recollections. My only wish is that he would add a chapter of two bringing it up to now. But, I wasn't disappointed by where it ended as it is. It would just be nice to see his latest adventures through his own eyes.

I tend to feel that celeb autobiographies are only as good as the ghostwriter who helped, the stories of other celebs and the willingness to share the good with the bad (and makes themselves sometimes look foolish). In this case, all standards are met. Too often Adam Ant is lumped into that New Romantic movement and overlooked for the time he spent with the London punk scene and the dues he paid to it. He has terrific knowledge of Malcolm McLaren, Vivienne Westwood, the Sex Pistols and the whole London punk scene and he (or his ghostwriter) does a fantastic job of analyzing the scene and the nuances of it. He talks about his difficult upbringing, not for sympathy but to understand his later actions and illness. He is candid about his mental illness and seems open about his relationships. The book makes it easy to see that he was just a guy in a band for so long that the rise to the top happened, literally, overnight, and he had no idea how to deal with it. The other thing I like is that this book is consistent with interviews and other documentaries. Yeah, sure, there might be different accounts of how he and the Ants parted ways but unlike some other autobiographies there's very little of that. It's a great read if you're looking for something about the rise of an 80s-90s pop star and/or about the London punk scene.

Here it is. I am also bipolar, having been diagnosed in 1994 and fighting the good fight ever since. Believe me, everybody and their cockatoo has had a book of some kind or another to shove in my face, thinking either I would relate or showing how much better they understood the monster after a reading. Stand and Deliver is far and away the best read relevant to bipolar disorder that I have ever found. The autobiographical sketch is a terrific read as well, but it's so rare that anyone comes through with a sincere interpretation of being bipolar. I can't think of any higher praise other than that I will be recommending it to the various therapy groups as well as to my own psychiatric team. It couldn't have been easy, but I thank Adam!

I am thrilled that I found this book available on . I enjoyed this book very much. Adam Ant is a very underrated performer. His life story was interesting to me. I am happy to see him back in the public eye. Reading about some of the decisions he made and why made sense to me. Great pictures. Well written for a rock star. I was hoping to get an American version of the book. I received a British version. I think the only real difference is the money in most books is converted to dollars for the American market, in this book everything was referenced in pounds. Not too big a deal.

My husband loves reading autobiographies, especially of musicians. He said this one was really good. Said that if Ant used a ghost writer, that they were really good at copying Ant's voice, because it definitely seemed as if the musician had written it himself. (I guess a lot of other musicians use ghost writers and white wash history and/or you don't really learn much new.)

Stuart Goddard (Adam Ant) is a very gifted, entertaining writer. He should write novels, he's that good. In this autobiography, he is candid, very funny, and talks freely about just about every challenge he's had to face in his life, including his battle with mental illness. A great read for anyone - even those who might not have been super-fans.

I give it 4 stars because it's a book that you want to keep reading once you start. The beginning was more descriptive, and in the book he explained that he had begun his autobiography, I think in the 90s. So, that could be why. I enjoyed his description of life in post WWII London and his interesting family and neighbors. And the punk scene was fascinating. The second part of the book didn't seem as descriptive. I understand that he had someone assisting him for that part, someone who went through his journals and edited them. Recently, Adam Ant said that he wished that more information from his journals was in the book if he had it to do all over again. I wish the same. I think that when the book was published, he was on medication that stifled his creativity. But all things considered, he did pretty well. One of the things the book "promised" to "deliver" on the cover was "sex and rock and roll." Even though Adam self-medicated his depression by sexual promiscuity and may well be a sex addict, he's still a gentleman about it in the book. That's admirable to me. Still am an Antfan and have enjoyed getting to know him better. He came in concert to my city last night. Too bad I couldn't go to it, but I watched The Prince Charming Revue on YouTube instead to celebrate.

Terrific look at a pop legend. His wild trek to the top of the charts (almost overnight) and then his slow decline. He has been through so much and I personally am glad he's back.

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