

Somebody to Love?: A Rock-and-Roll Memoir


By Grace Slick, Andrea Cagan


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She has been called rock and roll's original female outlaw, as famous for her bad behaviour as for her haunting singing voice. From White Rabbit and Somebody to Love to Sarah and Miracles, the songs she performed became the anthems of a generation. Whether describing her antics at the White House with Abbie Hoffman or the unforgettable experience that was Woodstock, Slick's recollections have the same rich imagery found in her lyrics. In this provocative narrative, readers will discover the many sides of Grace Slick: as artistic pioneer; she records songs with Jerry Garcia and David Crosby; as practitioner of freedom and rebellion; she beds Jim Morrison and gets arrested for DUI on three separate occasions; without actually being in a car; and as a loving mother to actress China Kantner; she tries to balance casual friendship with parental wisdom. Through the unflinching eye of a survivor, this no-holds-barred memoir brings to life the people and spirit that defined a quarter-century of American pop culture. In her 25-year career as a musician, Grace Slick charted dozens of hits and sold millions of albums; Jefferson Airplane (1965-1972) hit #3 on the Billboard charts with Surrealistic Pillow, and Jefferson Starship (1974-1989) charted four #1 singles. Includes one 4-page colour photo insert. Also available as a Time Warner AudioBook read by the author.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Grace Slick looks back on a lifetime of sex, drugs and rock & roll in *Somebody to Love?*, a wisecracking memoir featuring cameos by some mighty famous faces. As the lead singer of Jefferson Airplane (later Jefferson Starship and, still later, Starship), Slick had a ringside seat for some of the decade's most notorious high jinks--Haight-Ashbury, Woodstock, the sexual revolution, and of course, '60s drug culture. Put it this way: if the dormouse said feed your head, Slick did--again and again and again. Which leads to this memoir's principal shortcoming: it's hard to document the most important decade of your life if you can't remember it. Still, even if she's a little fuzzy on some of the details, the anecdotes alone are worth the price of admission, from the time Slick and Abbie Hoffman plotted to dose Richard Nixon to her surreal sexual encounter with a nearly autistic-seeming Jim Morrison: "Although I knew there was some pattern of events going on in his head that connected what I'd just said to what he was thinking, it never made sense." Now sober and nearing her 60s, Slick frets over her aging body, campaigns against biomedical research, and feeds the raccoons in her back yard. But she hasn't lost any of her famous feistiness. This is the same woman who flashed her breasts at photographers, pulled her skirt over her head at concerts, and even once, "having ingested the entire contents of the minibar in my hotel room," stuck her fingers up an audience member's nose. Grace Slick may have mellowed, but bless her heart, she's still running off her mouth. --*Mary Park*

From Publishers Weekly

Rock chanteuse Grace Slick was a sophomore at the University of Miami when, in 1958, a friend from her Bay-area hometown sent her an article about the new San Francisco scene?a world of "marijuana, rock music and strange but pleasantly artistic beatnik behavior." Intrigued, Slick returned home and threw herself into a counterculture that was distinctly at odds with her post-war middle-class upbringing. After playing in a popular local band for a few years, she joined the front ranks of '60s rock icons when she was invited to sing for the already-prominent band Jefferson Airplane, recording hits like "White Rabbit" and "Somebody to Love" that helped to define the kaleidoscopic rock world of the 1960s. Here, Slick unabashedly details her long flirtation with psychedelic drugs; her dalliances with Jim Morrison ("like making love to a floating art form with eyes") and lesser rock luminaries; her many run-ins with the law; and her experiences of marriage and motherhood as her band evolved from rebellious trailblazers into the florid mainstream radio acts Jefferson Starship and Starship. Her present-day dedication to animal-rights causes, visual art and spirituality are also recounted. There are few revelations here, and Slick's penchant for elliptical, hippie-ish pronouncements ("Life, the constantly mutating funeral party") won't win her many new fans. But the appealingly wry good humor she brings to her own life story makes this an engaging trip through two turbulent decades of rock 'n' roll. Photos. Editor, Rich Horgan; agent, Maureen Regan. Audio rights to Warner.

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From Library Journal

As lead singer of the Jefferson Airplane, Grace Slick fired the imaginations of a generation. In this frank, often crazy memoir, she does not disappoint those who remember her direct, off-the-wall wisecracking. She provides a highly entertaining insider's report of many of the psychedelic era's major events, including Woodstock and Altamont, seen through the proverbial haze of sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll, as well as her liaisons with Jim Morrison and various members of her band. Eventually, the years of extravagant living and self-abuse began to take their toll. After three DUI arrests and periods of drug rehabilitation, she now lives in Malibu and is active in animal rights causes. The era of free love has never been better chronicled. Slick's

appealingly blunt and funny narrative nicely complements Barbara Rowes's *Grace Slick: The Biography* (LJ 2/15/80). Recommended for public libraries and all music/pop culture collections.

-?Richard Grefrath, *Univ. of Nevada Lib., Reno*

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Users Review

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