

"Belk is the Armistead Maupin of his generation!"
— Edinburgh Evening News

'Black outfits at midnight, guitars screeching til' dawn, glitter in your breakfast cereal. NYC: a place where freedom doesn't hang as a street sign, but climbs down and dances on the pole for you...'

"I enjoyed the book a lot ... full of great memories, names, observations. It brought it all back. Don't change a word."
MICHAEL MUSTO, *VILLAGE VOICE*

"A lithely written, honest and perceptive account of a unique time."
IAIN BANKS, AUTHOR OF *THE WASP FACTORY*

"A superb memoir about coming of age in the bright haze of NYC's demimonde ... Belk writes with great candor and intelligence about his time and one cannot help but admire the searching young man who emerges in these pages."

JUNOT DIAZ, PULITZER PRIZE WINNER, AUTHOR OF
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

"Martin Belk is New York, losing and finding himself in the 'Mondo Trasho' epicentre of queer liberation. Belk reveals a Baudelarian sense of the city and a profound and burgeoning poetic power and sensibility. He may not know this — I'm telling him."

LORD GAWAIN DOUGLAS, GREAT-NEPHEW OF
LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS, OSCAR WILDE'S 'BOSIE,'
AUTHOR OF *FORTUNA*

No stranger to rancor, risks, or Rock 'n' Roll — Martin Belk leaps onto the scene with his new book and monologue stage play *Pretty Broken Punks: lipstick, leather jeans, a death of New York*. His narrative nonfiction / memoir observes the rise, fall & adulteration of a culture within a city and scene that still rages in hearts around the world, but geographically is no more.

Through the 90s to the turn of the century, Belk produced Squeezebox!, one of the most notorious downtown clubs in NYC history — successor to Warhol's Max's Kansas City. Relationships with legends like Deborah Harry & Joey Ramone, and encounters from John Waters to JFK Jr — alongside a cavalcade of other celebrities, political titans and rock stars fuel the fire. Within an AIDS die-off, denigration from a culture war ignited by one of the most hated mayors in NYC history, and a post 9/11 societal-seizure *Pretty Broken Punks* reveals a compelling personal journey and fight for survival in the creative jungles of Gotham.

Technically, Belk's work is credibly influenced. As a protégée of John Calder, Samuel Beckett's friend and publisher, as well as the publisher of Hubert Selby Jr's *Last Exit to Brooklyn* (along with an end to the Obscenities Act in the UK), Belk builds the reader their own literary Metatheatre — where life is a dream and the world is your stage. His writing style is lyrical, yet precise, politically nipping at all the right heels — and furthering his obsession with creative work that engages audiences within a 'liminal' space. Historically, *Pretty Broken Punks* contains first-hand accounts of the dawn of new media, including very first NYC internet event, *Live @nd InConcert*, starring Deborah Harry & Joan Jett, as well as the first global conference of the European Union.

You don't simply read Belk: you rock, roll and wrestle with him as he documents the essence of this volatile place and time — and the battle between local New York City communities and a mayoral administration bent on selling out to the highest bidder, "...a city they've whored-out to the masses, instead of appreciating the fine prostitute she once was."



Pretty? Perhaps. Broken? No more. Poet? Indeed.
We will read much more from this writer."
—LORD GAWAIN DOUGLAS, Great-nephew of Lord Alfred, Oscar Wilde's 'Bosie'

PRETTY BROKEN PUNKS



**lipstick, leather jeans,
a death of New York**

Martin Belk

currently on public sale at: **PrettyBrokenPunks.com**

retail: <http://bookorders.nielsenbooknet.com>

NYC: BGSQD, Soho • Love Shine, East Village
London: FOYLES • Gay's the Word, Bloomsbury
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