by bill biss





The Truth About Love P!NK

P!nk wants to check your pulse. The emotional frustration and release over the many faces of love is P!nk's strong suit here, bound tightly around the whirlwind of colorful language and definite musical opinions. She twists love into a salty pretzel with a candy center on the opus track "The Truth About Love," a carousel that spins up genres and tempos of music to great success while "Beam Me Up" strips the sound down to just guitar, strings and the beautiful yearnings of her voice. Lyrically, it is clearly evident that she knows firsthand both the wild side "Slut Like You," the wind-up to wising up "How Come You're Not Here" and the heartache of regret and lost love on "Where Did the Beat Go?" This musical ride will make your head spin... no s#!t. Available now.

Release Me BARBRA STREISAND

"Nobody is talented enough to get laughs, to bring tears, to sing with the depth of a fine cello or the lift of a climbing bird. Nobody, that is, except Barbra." -Richard Rodgers. This quote from Mr. Rodgers dates back from the 1967 LP Simply Streisand. This October, Barbra Streisand will release several rare gems from her personal music vault of material. The song "Willow Weep For Me" included on Release Me is an unreleased track initially intended for Simply Streisand. The 11 songs presented on Release Me are all commercially unreleased recordings and span a time period from 1967 to 2011. Of note to all Streisand aficionados is her meticulous care in choosing these songs to seamlessly flow into a phenomenally beautiful representation of her timeless talent through the years. Available October 9.



Four More Years

Do politics make for strange bedfellows? The amusingly clever Swedish film Four More Years follows David Holst (Björn Kjellman), a charming and albeit clumsy candidate for Prime Minister. Holst discovers his repressed gay sexuality with an opposing party member (Eric Ericson as "Martin"). The chemistry and situational dialogue between the two is natural and realistically done from the very first "meet cute" scene leading to a sharing of common interests and a definite sexual chemistry. Scenes of unexpected chaos ensue as the two men attempt to hide their true feelings for each other. Will this newfound relationship lead to "switching" parties in both Holst's personal and political life? Four More Years is worth following the subtitles while following their romance and all the comedic aspects of the film.

Down in the Flood: Bob Dylan and The Band

Bob Dylan continues to envision new musical landscapes with a unique and original perspective that has swept through the genres of folk, Americana, electric and popular rock music. Down in the Flood released September 25, chronicles the intricate transformation of Dylan's musical styles and the tremendous synergy created along the way... with the five members of The Band. Spanning a time period primarily from 1965 through 1969, The Band (formerly known as The Hawks) was handpicked by Bob Dylan as his back-up band for his 1966 Electric Tour. The resulting years led to a major shift in creativity from all involved [The Band's self-titled second album] and a shift in Dylan's musical expressiveness, that would leave a lasting and one-of-a-kind reverberation still deeply felt from this time period in American music. Available Now.



Born This Way: Real Stories of Growing Up Gay PAUL VITAGLIANO

If a picture speaks a thousand words, it's even more revealing to add the perspective of each person photographed. Such is the case in Paul Vitagliano's emotional, funny, heartwarming and revealing look at a timeline of photographs of LGBTQ children spanning over 50 years. Initially, Paul created a blog at borngaybornthisway.blogspot.com to shine a light on the ultimate fact that being gay is not a choice but inherent in each individual. The book Born This Way: Real Stories of Growing Up Gay is filled with over 100 photographs and over 100 different takes on "then and now" from each person whose childhood photo is pictured. The personal entries can be hilarious and heartbreaking, yet ultimately unique and sweetly powerful in a positive way of acceptance from within and from others. Available October 9.

Imitation of Death CHERYL CRANE

Cheryl Crane's second murder mystery takes Nikki Harper, high-end real estate agent turned amateur sleuth on another fast-paced crime investigation. Set among the captivating and conniving confines of Los Angeles, Imitation of Death places this murder occurring a bit too close for comfort. A neighbor's body is discovered in the alley's dumpster behind the Beverly Hills home of former Hollywood star Victoria Bordeaux. Nikki is Bordeaux's daughter and the prime suspect, Jorge Delgado is both their family friend and Victoria's gardener. Nikki feels an obligation to clear his name in the murder. Cheryl Crane creates a rich and riveting juxtaposition of events with the cast and characters involved, enticing the reader to solve the mystery or at least try... before Nikki Harper does. Available