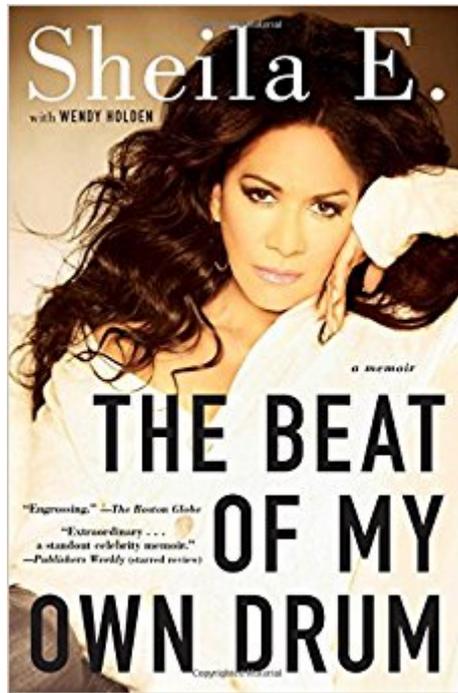


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The Beat Of My Own Drum: A Memoir



Synopsis

From the Grammy-nominated singer, drummer, and percussionist who is world renowned for her contributions throughout the music industry, a moving memoir about the healing power of music and spiritual growth inspired by five decades of life and love on the stage. She was born Sheila Escovedo in 1957, but the world knows her as Sheila E. She first picked up the drumsticks and started making music at the precocious age of three, taught by her legendary father, percussionist Pete Escovedo. As the goddaughter of Tito Puente, music was the heartbeat of her family, and despite Sheila's impoverished childhood in Oakland, California, her family stayed strong, inspired by the music they played nightly in their living room. When she was only five, Sheila delivered her first solo performance to a live audience. By nineteen, she had fallen in love with Carlos Santana. By twenty-one, she met Prince at one of her concerts. Sheila E. and Prince would eventually join forces and collaborate for more than two decades, creating hits that catapulted Sheila to her own pop superstardom. *The Beat of My Own Drum* is both a walk through four decades of Latin and pop music—from her tours with Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie, Prince, and Ringo Starr to her own solo career. At the same time, it's also a heartbreaking, ultimately redemptive look at how the sanctity of music can save a person's life. Having repeatedly endured sexual abuse as a child, Sheila credits her parents, music, and God with giving her the will to carry on and to build a lasting legacy. Rich in musical detail, pop, and Latin music history, this is a fascinating walk through some of the biggest moments in music from the '70s and '80s. But as Sheila's personal story, this memoir is a unique glimpse into a world-famous drummer's singular life—a treat for both new and longtime fans of Sheila E. And above all, *The Beat of My Own Drum* is a testament to how the positive power of music has fueled Sheila's heart and soul—and how it can transform your life as well.

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Customer Reviews

Sorry, this will be kind of long:-(Okay, so let me start by saying that growing up, I was the BIGGEST Sheila E. fan! Anyone in my family could tell you this. We're talking posters, every magazine she was in, every tv program I knew she would be on, I was there; saw Krush Groove a million times and knew all the lines (my family hated me:-)) I had no idea why, that's the thing. I mean, with the exception of Glamorous Life (which I love) I wasn't even a big fan of her music (but I bought it because it was her). But it was something about when I saw the video for GL and saw that the woman singing it was playing the drums, I was in awe. Fast forward twenty something years later, I found out that Sheila and her family were having this big show in Oakland to celebrate her parents' 50th (I think) wedding anniversary. I took the money I'd been saving for something else and bought a ticket to the show, a rt plane ticket from NY and booked a hotel & rented a car. I was going! By myself!!On the night of the event, I had a brief encounter with my idol when she walked past me. She was pleasant, but I couldn't wait till after the performance to hopefully get a picture with her. The show was great, she and her family were amazing! I decided to take a taxi to the event to avoid parking, so while I was waiting for the taxi to pick me up, I struck a conversation with two local women. They were amazed that I'd flown all the way there for this experience and were sad for me that I didn't really get to tell Sheila how big a fan I was and get a picture with her. Well, my taxi was late and Sheila's manager walked out and after the ladies asked on my behalf if I could meet Sheila, she said Sheila had gone home. I was disappointed, but oh well. A few minutes later, an angel walked out. It was Sheila's mother!

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