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G O T H A M B O O K S

**\*\*Now in Paperback\*\***

# *Escape from Bellevue*

*A Memoir of Rock 'n' Roll, Recovery, and Redemption*

*By Christopher John Campion*

“Campion tells this tale of a very long trek on the wild side with hangdog humor and bleary charm.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“Campion is a talented raconteur, capable of turning every misbegotten moment ... into addictively fascinating prose ... Campion parties like a rock star, crashes and burns like one, then rises from the ashes to tell us about it.” – *Booklist*

“I read the scaly thing all night! Chris writes like a demon with a rocket in his pocket... a cool read.” – **Stephen Davis**

**NEW YORK [December 1, 2009]** — In true rock-n-roll form, Chris Campion, lead singer of indie-rock band Knockout Drops, recalls his band’s tumultuous ride, his plummet into addictions, and his strange road back to sobriety in **ESCAPE FROM BELLEVUE: A Memoir of Rock ‘n’ Roll, Recovery and Redemption (Gotham Books; On-sale December 29, 2009)**

The story originated as a one-man show that Campion performed to sold-out audiences in New York City. Now presenting these tales in a memoir of madness and redemption, Campion once again proves the creative genius of a diehard raconteur/front man.

(MORE)

While Knockout Drops reached the height of their success, having toured with headliners such as Soul Asylum and Violent Femmes, Champion himself was beginning his downward spiral. In a Gonzo-esque journey that pin-balls through the streets of After-hours Manhattan, encountering a myriad of nomadic night crawlers and hilariously maladjusted misfits (characters he affectionately refers to as “vicious freaks”), Champion recounts his not-so-subtle descent into alcoholism and addiction, his low bottom search for God, and his strange road back to sobriety that landed him in Bellevue’s mental ward a total of three times.

**ESCAPE FROM BELLEVUE** is filled with Champion’s rollicking and astonishing yarns running from the late ‘70s to early ‘00s. He masterfully shares stories from growing up in an Irish-Catholic household on Long Island, to a very interesting college experience at “Vanillanova,” and captures the squalor and rolling bacchanal that was the Knockout Drops’ world painting a vivid picture of the hopes and expectations, conflicts, dysfunctional relationships, and collective psychosis that happens when you share a dream with four other people in a band. Eventually able to come to grips with his addictions, Champion now recounts the highs and lows of life in the music industry alongside his personal tales of struggle and survival in this hysterically irreverent yet somehow touching coming of age tale.

**About the Author:**

Christopher John Champion is the lead singer of the indie rock band *Knockout Drops* and is the creator, playwright, and star of the hit off-Broadway rock musical *Escape from Bellevue*. He lives in New York City. For more information please view <http://tinyurl.com/dckxzb> or visit [www.escapefrombellevue.com](http://www.escapefrombellevue.com) or [www.knockoutdrops.com](http://www.knockoutdrops.com).