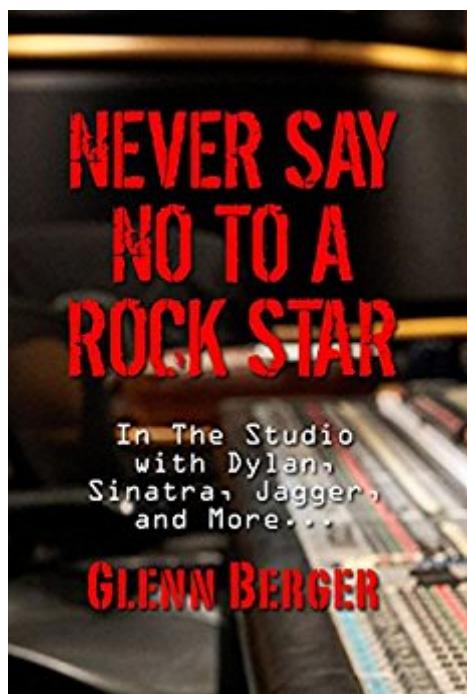


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# Never Say No To A Rock Star: In The Studio With Dylan, Sinatra, Jagger And More...



## **Synopsis**

In 1974, at the age of seventeen, author Glenn Berger served as "schlepper" and apprentice to the legendary recording engineer, Phil Ramone, at New York City's A&R Studios. He was witness to music history on an almost daily and nightly basis as pop and rock icons such as Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Frank Sinatra, Burt Bacharach, Bette Midler, and James Brown performed their hit-making magic, honed their sound, strutted their stuff, bared their souls, and threw epic tantrums. In this memoir, full of revelatory and previously unknown anecdotal observations of these musical giants, Glenn recounts how he quickly learned the ropes to move up from schlepperhood to assistant to the tyrannical Ramone, and eventually, to become a recording engineer superstar himself. Not only is this book a fascinating, hilarious and poignant behind-the-scenes look of this musical Mecca, but Berger, now a prominent psychologist, looking back through the prism of his youthful experience and his years working as a counselor and therapist, provides a telling and honest examination of the nature of fame and success and the corollaries between creativity, madness and self-destruction.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Berger was a recording engineer in the 1970's in NYC. He's now a Psychologist in upstate NY. He has had a fascinating life and it was hard to stop reading this book because of the adventures & encounters he had with THE great singers and musicians of that era. I would have liked to know more about how he decided to be a therapist and that journey, but he does stick to his coming of age in the music industry. I particularly enjoyed his descriptions about sound engineering, and how that is an art of it's own - each engineer creates unique touches that distinct themselves apart. A good read!

I often wish I had been able to experience New York City's music scene in the 1970's. Reading Glenn Berger's *Never Say No to a Rock Star* allowed me to feel like a fly on the wall during some of the hottest and funkiest recording sessions at A&R studios during that time. Berger's depth of understanding and appreciation for the synergistic alchemy that happens between the studio's staff and some of the greatest artists and musicians of our time is extraordinary. The intimate stories that are told in this book have given some of my favorite songs by Jagger, Sinatra and Simon a whole new dimension and feel. Thank you Glenn for writing such an exciting and emotionally compelling memoir!

I thought this would be a gossip filled tome detailing all the worst habits of the rock gods. Instead it's really a coming of age story set in the top level recording world of New York in the 70's , inhabited by all the a list artists mentioned in the title. Berger tells you his story from the inside out and you feel like you're there with him. A good read that goes down easy. Worth the time.

Well, I liked most of this book....the part about the young Glenn Berger's experiences working in the NYC recording studios. From being a flunky to a full-fledged recording engineer, Berger's stories are well written, with just enough technical stuff to make them interesting. The mentoring ways of Phil Ramone were new to me, and maybe others, too, as I did not have him pictured that way at all. As far as the artists and their funny ways of doing things are concerned, those stories were interesting, too. I had heard others talk about Paul Simon (cold, extreme, perfectionism) and Sinatra (all great, if it can be done in one take), but the relative warmth and friendliness of Mick Jagger was a nice surprise. Other parts, where Glenn's story continues as he leaves the business and becomes a therapist, were not uninteresting, but I would have enjoyed more '70s era recording stories. That said, I suppose the larger story of his self-realization and journey there were understandably

integrated. But I personally like the music stuff more...

I'm an avid reader, and I particularly enjoy classic rock memoirs and stories from behind-the-scenes. This book is that, and so much more. Possibly the best book I've read in this genre, with insights and surprises I had never anticipated. The author tells first-hand stories through the eyes of his much younger self. He goes into such splendid detail about many of the artists who have influenced us, as well as the recording process, itself. I could imagine myself in the room, or perhaps looking at the experiences through his eyes. But, there's so much more than just fascinating stories and scrumptious tell-alls - the grown-man author examines his experiences through a new set of eyes, as well. This is where, to me, the most excitement actually begins. To tell you much more may reveal too much. If you want to enjoy an interesting, incredible and cosmic journey, as well as a well-written, compelling read, this is as good as they come. Here's a chance for you to "...ring that cosmic bell..." Enjoy! - RZR

Love the subject matter, I'm always interested in the stories behind the music. What I didn't expect was the authors skill with a pen and the way he reveals his youth, inexperience, ignorance and sometimes selfish motives. This book is for anyone who enjoys learning of recording music in a 70s NY legendary studio and rooting for a 19 year old kid finding his way in the music business complete with the mistakes and the knowledge he gains along the way.

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