



## But Enough About Me

By Jancee Dunn  
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### Introduction

With her impenetrable Rick James perm, her plaid interview suit, and her state school education, there was no way Jancee Dunn was going to land a job at one of the hippest magazines around. With a little luck and a lot of hard work, Jancee not only got her dream job at *Rolling Stone*, but quickly became one of their top reporters, interviewing such mega-stars as Brad Pitt, Madonna, Barry White, and Ben Affleck. But when this suburban New Jersey girl from a conservative middle-class family gets caught up in the rock-and-roll lifestyle, she turns in her good-girl past for late nights and hipster guys. Booze-soaked nights turn into years, and Jancee wakes up one day to discover she's the oldest Rock Chick at the magazine. A chance meeting helps Jancee appreciate where she came from, who she was, and what she wanted to be.

### Questions for Discussion

1. How did Jancee's feeling of being an outsider early on in her life actually help her interviewing skills?
2. Do you think Jancee's job influenced her rock-and-roll lifestyle, or do you think the men she met had more influence over her choices?
3. Jancee's family plays a big role in her life. One day Jancee finally "interviews" her mother and discovers there's so much about her own family she doesn't even know. How does this event begin to turn Jancee's life around?
4. Barry White's advice to Jancee was "Love as hard as you can, and as strong as you can, but never, ever fall in love." Why was this an important piece of advice for Jancee to heed?
5. "The more it was apparent that my days as a Rock Chick were waning, the harder I clung to the crumbling identity I had built up so carefully" (page 199, HC). Did Jancee still see herself as an outsider playing a role? Why do you think she never fully became that Rock Chick person?
6. The Dunn family could not be more hopelessly conservative and retro while Jancee's life spirals in the complete opposite direction. Why does Jancee call her father when life with the famous begins to get too surreal?
7. Near the end of the book, Jancee visits *Rolling Stone* and realizes that she had become one of the magazine's older people that the younger staffers tolerated. Did you agree that it was time for her to find another line of work? Is rock and roll a younger person's game?
8. Jancee has interviewed Patti Scialfa, but never one of her childhood idols, Bruce Springsteen. Many people never want to meet their idols in person in case they might be disappointed. Do you agree with this line of thinking?
9. Do you think that people pay too much attention to celebrities? What is the danger of celebrity worship? What need does this seem to fulfill in our own lives? With the rise of internet celebrity coverage, we are turned into a collective high school, as we comment on stars and condemn or celebrate their behavior. Do you think that candid photographs are an invasion of their privacy, or is everything fair game when you're a public figure?
10. Jancee has rules for engaging celebrities in conversation, such as 'never begin with 'I' . . . Leading off with something about yourself is deadly.' Are there rules in the book that could apply to everyday conversations with others?

### About the Author

Jancee Dunn has been a writer for *Rolling Stone* since 1989 and was a correspondent for *Good Morning America* and an MTV VJ. Her writing has appeared in *Vogue*; *Vanity Fair*; *GQ*; *O, the Oprah Magazine*; *Harper's Bazaar*; and the *New York Times*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.