

Be Drag Fabulous: How to Live Your Best Drag Queen Life

Katie Mockridge, Illustrator

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“Condragulations, darlings; it’s time to be fabulous”: so closes the introduction and begins *Be Drag Fabulous*, a colorful book brimming with life advice to help you “follow in the heels” of some of the most renowned queens in the biz.

As *Ru Paul’s Drag Race* sweeps the world, with versions in almost a dozen countries, it is difficult to imagine that the glitz and glamour millions now enjoy for entertainment was once relegated to underground clubs in places hostile to LGBTQ+ existence and self-expression. Despite ongoing social obstacles and personal challenges, the queens whom *Be Drag Fabulous* draws on for inspiration found ways to exemplify empowerment and determination; the book distills lessons from their lives into bite-sized advice that anyone can apply.

Racism, fatphobia, ageism, and homophobia arise as challenges to the profiled queens’ self-worth, self-esteem, and professional successes, but the narration remains optimistic and hopeful. With wit as sharp as their eyeliner wings, Jinkx Monsoon and Baga Chipz are used to encourage readers to not take themselves, or their haters, too seriously, while Bob the Drag Queen and Alaska serve as lessons on perseverance and sashaying away from self-doubt. Popular phrases in LGBTQ+ and drag communities are given broader meanings, such as an encouragement to always “spill the T” in order to teach rising queens “to be strong, powerful and pay those b**ches no mind.”

Katie Mockridge gives every look its due with illustrations just as bold as the personalities they portray. With a nod to retro patterns and palettes, Mockridge honors every sequin, feather, and wig; *Drag Race* enthusiasts will recognize iconic ensembles from Latrice Royale, Blu Hydrangea, and Kim Chi, among others.

Funny and poignant, *Be Drag Fabulous* is a lighthearted guide to becoming the best version of yourself.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (May / June 2022)

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