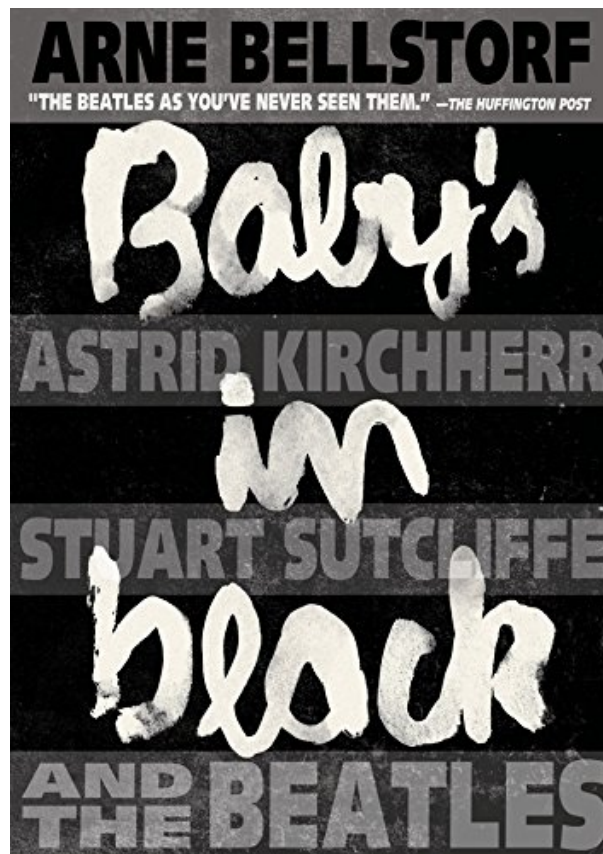
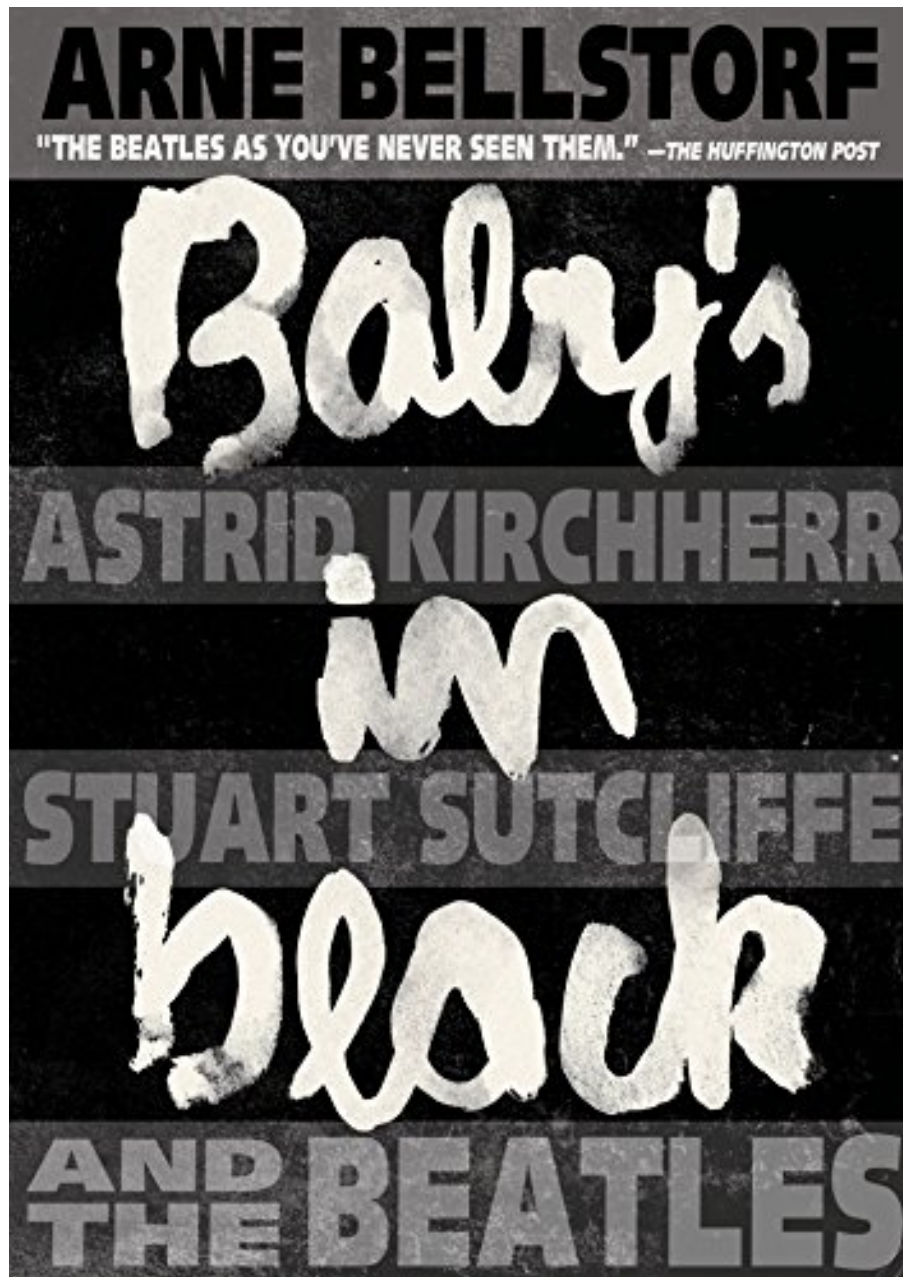


**BABY'S IN BLACK: ASTRID KIRCHHERR,
STUART SUTCLIFFE, AND THE BEATLES
BY ARNE BELLSTORF**



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Review

“Bellstorf's ability to capture the famous faces with a few simple tweaks is remarkable, and his expressive charcoals fit the whole artsy scene well.” ?Booklist

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About the Author

Arne Bellstorf was born in Dannenberg, Germany in 1979. Since 2006 he has been writing and illustrating a monthly comic page for a German newspaper, *Der Tagesspiegel*. His New York Times Best-Selling graphic novel *Baby's In Black* garnered unprecedented success in the German market, finding fans from all walks of life. Arne Bellstorf lives in Hamburg, Germany.

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BABY'S IN BLACK: ASTRID KIRCHHERR, STUART SUTCLIFFE, AND THE BEATLES BY ARNE BELLSTORF PDF

Meet the Beatles . . . right at the beginning of their careers. This gorgeous, high-energy graphic novel is an intimate peek into the early years of the world's greatest rock band.

The heart of *Baby's In Black* is a love story. The "fifth Beatle," Stuart Sutcliffe, falls in love with the beautiful Astrid Kirchherr when she recruits the Beatles for a sensational (and famous) photography session during their time in Hamburg. When the band returns to the UK, Sutcliffe quits, becomes engaged to Kirchherr, and stays in Hamburg. A year later, his meteoric career as a modern artist is cut short when he dies unexpectedly.

The book ends as it begins, with Astrid, alone and adrift; but with a note of hope: her life is incomparably richer and more directed thanks to her friendship with the Beatles and her love affair with Sutcliffe. Author/illustrator Arne Bellstorf tells this tender story with stirring, romantic black-and-white artwork.

Baby's In Black is based on a true story.

- Sales Rank: #1415342 in Books
- Brand: Bellstorf, Arne
- Published on: 2014-02-04
- Released on: 2014-02-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.61" h x .56" w x 6.36" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

I love it

By WilloWill

When I was 21 I saw the movie *Backbeat* and became obsessed with the Stuart Sutcliffe story. I even moved to England because of it, cut my hair like Astrid's, copied her clothes and all, but I never made it to Hamburg and never found my version of Stuart.

Yes, pretty sad. Eighteen years later I am older, wiser and much more my own person, but there's still a special place in my heart for Astrid, Stu, Klaus, John and the gang.

I don't usually go for graphic novels but this was fun to read and really quite beautiful. The ending was a bit abrupt but in real life it probably was too. Apparently the book was written in close consultation with Astrid. Cool book about the world's coolest people.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful story. Art needs something.

By Maria Beadnell

The love story of Stuart (Sutcliffe) and Astrid Kirchherr is really one of the most beautiful I have ever read.

Conveniently, it took place in the genesis of the Beatles. You've heard of them. And while I had heard that the early time in Hamburg was exciting and exhausting, it takes a graphic novel to really get the squalor (they had no bath and had to clean themselves as best they could in a public washroom) and the sheer idiocy (George was only 17 and shouldn't have even been out past ten pm, much less working--and none of the band had work permits) of the emerging band. It is quite a lovely story, well told in most respects.

Drat it, though, there are problems. The beautiful, spare art is SO spare it is hard to keep the characters apart. (What is the difference between these two guys? Same outfit, same hairstyle, same eyes--oh, THERE it is! A subtle change in the bend in the nose.) It slows down the story when I don't know who is talking.

The German, while infrequently used, is not always translated, or is written sloppily: "Oh, Wie geht es ihn Mrs. Kirchher?" (MRS???)

But it is a beautiful tale, making me so sad for Stu's early death; whereas I had previously been sad he didn't stay with the band and live to be a Beatle, I now am sad for Astrid and because Stu did not live up to his enormous promise as an artist.

That is quite a lot for one little 200 page graphic novel to do.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent biographical graphic novel of the Fab Four's early years

By DJ Joe Sixpack

"Baby's In Black: Astrid Kirchherr,
Stuart Sutcliffe, And The Beatles In Hamburg"
Written & Illustrated by Arne Bellstorf
(First Second Books, 2012)

NOTE: mild spoilers below

For most of the world, the early days of the Beatles are a potent, happy creation myth, full of youth and exuberance, the triumph of pop culture and the giddy camaraderie of the witty Liverpudlian lads whose music swept the world and made rock'n'roll into an artform that adults embraced as well as kids. The mythic prelude where they apprenticed in the rough nightclubs of Hamburg, Germany is a well-known legend, too, of how art student Klaus Voormann saw an early lineup of the Beatles playing live and became a rock'n'roll convert. He brought his friend Astrid Kirchherr to see them the next night, and soon she produced early photos of the band that helped shape their image, and gave them advice on how to dress and style their hair, creating the unique "mop top" look of the Beatlemania days.

There was a dark side to this story, though: Kirchherr quickly fell in love with the group's bassist, Stu Sutcliffe, who was also a talented visual artist, and who chose to leave the band and stay in Germany to pursue "serious" art, even as the band began its meteoric rise to uber-mega-celebrity. This elegant, graceful graphic novel centers in on the love affair of Kirchherr and Sutcliffe, which ended in tragedy when he died of a brain hemorrhage, the result of a months-long illness that was misdiagnosed by a German doctor. This book brings that story down to its most human, heartbreaking level -- the joy and wonder of seeing the Fab Four take off is part of the tale, but the crushing sorrow of Kirchherr's loss forms the coda.

An excellent comicbook that also makes the sketchy outlines of the "Beatles started in Germany" narrative come alive, with textures and detail that help readers understand the cultural tone of postwar Europe, particularly from a youthful perspective. Great stuff, good for Beatles fans and comic fans alike. Highly recommended. (DJ Joe Sixpack, Slipcue book reviews)

See all 23 customer reviews...

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