

QUINTESENTIALLY LEGENDARY Seven singular tales concerning the life and work of Peter Beard.

1. Peter Beard found the death of 'Crocodile Hunter' Steve Irwin painfully resonant, he told the *New York Daily News*, since he almost died seven years ago when he was gored by an elephant, fracturing his pelvis in five places. In *Zara's Tales*, dedicated to his daughter, he also records how he's swum in crocodile-infested waters, stood before a man-eating lion as it charged towards him and witnessed dear acquaintances being gobbled up.
2. His great-grandfather GG Hill founded the Great Northern Railroad Company in the 19th century and was worth over \$50m when he died, when \$50m was worth something. His grandfather, tobacco heir Pierre Lorillard, invented the tuxedo.
3. He was painted by Francis Bacon at least nine times after they first met at the Clermont Club in 1965. Bacon was impressed by his aerial photographs of dead elephants in his book on the destruction of wildlife in Africa, *The End of the Game*. He was painted on by Salvador Dali. They were at Lake Turkana with Veruschka. 'We were shooting some appalling clothes for *Vogue*. All the really good stuff was of Veruschka wearing her own snake outfit - the outfit she later wore in *Blow-up*.'
4. He taught Jackie Kennedy Onassis to take pictures. 'She wasn't precious. That was Bunny Mellon, who'd send you stationery dried by moonlight in Madagascar. Jackie's style was East Hampton before it became "The Hamptons," when it was a decent place.' He tutored John Jr and Caroline in art history, and was dating her sister Lee Radziwill, who rented a cottage on the Montauk estate of his friend Andy Warhol.
5. He discovered Somali supermodel Iman during a traffic jam on Standard Street, Nairobi. 'Time then ran an article describing her as an ex-goat herder... A month later, they ran a follow-up correcting the initial piece. The exposure did not hurt Iman's career.'
6. He took Mick Jagger to Montauk where he has a house. The Rolling Stones rehearsed *Black and Blue* there for months: 'Memory Motel' is a Montauk hotel, the 'honey of a girl' apparently was Annie Liebowitz. They rented Warhol's Eothen estate. Four-year-old Jade was Andy's favourite Jagger: 'I taught her how to colour and she showed me how to play Monopoly.' The estate on the eastern tip of Long Island is currently for sale for \$40m.
7. Inspired by Karen Blixen's *Out of Africa*, he headed for Kenya for the first time in the mid-1950s aged 17. They later became friends and neighbours when he settled at Hog Ranch in 1961. He went back in early 2006 after six years away. The journey inspired a series of amazing new works, to be shown at Michael Hoppert Gallery, Chelsea (www.michaelhoppertgallery.com) from November. His extraordinary new limited edition book is published by Taschen at the end of the year.

By Maurice Geller