Wasted Beauty: A Novel by Eric Bogosian

With his dark wit and corrosive dialogue, Eric Bogosian tells a powerful and emotionally wrenching tale of two lovers who form a mesmerizing and destructive bond while trying to evade the looming failure of their respective lives. Reba runs away from her shabby and desolate rural community for the lure of New York City. Her tall and awkward frame lands her work modeling, but she is not prepared for the glamorous, drug-fueled life of a celebrated mannequin. After a series of painful relationships, she sees hope and an exit toward stability and sanity in the man who saves her brothers life. This man is Rick, a successful SoHo general practitioner with a warm family and an idyllic life that has left him restless and hollow. He doesn’t take Reba seriously until he finds himself so enmeshed in her beauty that he risks losing everything—his home, his children and his beloved wife. Now this master monologist and author of the acclaimed Mall returns with a sprawling novel of urban desperation and desire that brings to mind the winding narratives of Tom Wolfe salted with the dark urges of Philip Roth. The New York Times hailed Eric Bogosians fiction as caustic, fast-paced....Adapting himself to fiction with...the same garrulous intensity he brings to plays and monologues, Mr. Bogosian sets in motion a suburban nightmare. And Entertainment Weekly has lauded his merciless satirical vision (that) takes you deep into the dark heart of the American dream. Wasted Beauty is Bogosians enthralling journey through the high life of drugs and fashion celebrity, middle-class guilt and sexual obsession. Copyright © 2005 by Simon & Schuster

My Personal Review:
If I were to compare Bogosians first novel, Mall: A Novel, to his play subUrbia then I would also make a comparison between Wasted Beauty and his recent play Red Angel. The Jeff of both Mall and subUrbia were two closely related characters, much like the leading men in Wasted Beauty and Red Angel. In print, however, Bogosian is able to delve deeper into the characters inner thoughts. When reading his work, one can just tell that Bogosian is an actor -- he often follows dialogue directly...
with subtext, which I liked. Rick, the main character in Beauty, actually has roots that go much further back in Bogosian's work than Angel. He is reminiscent of the peeping-tom in Mall, who was a descendent of Bogosian's recovering-male-character from his solos. If you've been following his work, I would say you will definitely appreciate this book, and if you haven't, now's a good time to start.