

ANATOMY OF A

ROCK NOVELIST

Mild Mannered College Dean or Modern Day Batgirl?

Balancing a seemingly normal life as an administrator at a top-tier college with a once-secret passion for the mystery of heavy metal, Colette Shaw launches her first novel. Elusive about her personal life but enthusiastic about her work, how different could she be from the fictional character she created?

Tell us about *Won't Get Fooled Again*. It's about KISS, right?

No. It's about a mild-mannered woman named Suzanne Curtis, who has to face down her duality. She has what she thinks is a dream life as an ambitious business executive, but a secret part of her lives in a darker world inspired by her love of heavy metal - particularly KISS.

And long-haired musicians?

Maaaaybe. I'm not alone when I say some female readers will meet Jackson Hellam, the front man in *Won't Get Fooled Again*, and rethink their current relationships. Sorry guys!

How does a normal guy like me stand a chance?

Suzanne may have sold the nice guys short. Now she's going to have to answer to a clean-cut guy who breaks all the rules. No novel would be complete without a showdown. Ladies, before you dump your man, make sure you read all the way to the end of the book.

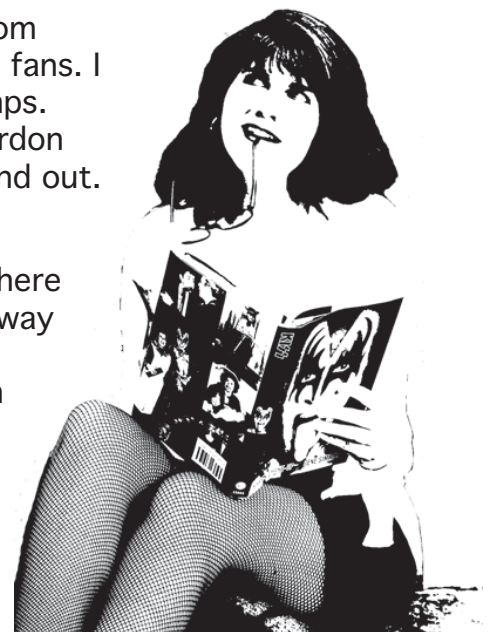
Be honest. Are you really a college dean?

You know, for many years I kept my KISS interests a secret from academia, and I didn't divulge my day job status to other KISS fans. I was afraid my alter-egos would hurt my credibility in both camps. Now, I'm trying to be more free with each. What if Barbara Gordon had just told the world she was Batgirl? I guess I'm going to find out.

When did you decide to write the book?

I was in my car after a family Thanksgiving, trying to decide where my life was going. My mother, who was a writer, had passed away almost exactly a year earlier and I was convinced that I had to grow up and find a way to break free from my fascination with KISS and the rock world. I realized in the car that instead of abandoning my rock fantasies, I could explore my double life through a book, and I could fulfill my mother's artistic legacy at the same time.

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(Anatomy of a Rock Novelist continued)

We all know there's a famous song by the Who called "Won't Get Fooled Again." Does the book's title have any connection?

Hard core KISS fans will understand.

You went through the back door in order to get a publisher.

I don't believe everything has to be done the traditional way. Like I tell the college students I work with, don't burden me with the facts. If you have a dream, you just need a plan. My objective was to convince publishers to come to me because of my drive and savvy. I spent too much time early on trying to find an agent when in the end I was more successful as my own agent. Now I have a publisher who has been wonderful, and I have even more confidence in my writing.

You aren't just a writer - you've ventured into other media.

I have a credit as a film producer for the documentary *Living the Fantasy* [see sidebar]. The movie is about my book and academic life, but there is also a universal theme of facing down fear and confronting dichotomy. It was shot before I started looking for a publisher, so the only part of the film I wish I could change is the ending. It leaves a question mark over the future of my manuscript. Ironically, had it not been for the movie, I probably wouldn't have landed a publishing deal so quickly.

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In 2003, filmmaker Randy Wilkins premiered the documentary *Living the Fantasy* about college dean Colette Shaw's decision to write a decidedly unscholarly rock 'n' roll novel.

The 30-minute film introduced viewers to Shaw's previously secret life as a KISS fanatic, and raised the attention of both the press and publishing worlds.

Living the Fantasy explores both sides of Shaw's personality and follows her to a national KISS convention, where Wilkins provides a surprisingly touching look at the KISS community.

Film critic Gabriel Paletz wrote "[Shaw is] interesting and winning onscreen, which is not true of every documentary subject, but key to documentary films."

For your own copy of Living the Fantasy, please contact Shaw directly at colette@KISSfiction.com.

Won't Get Fooled Again

by Colette Shaw

Available in Bookstores

February 14, 2005

KISSFICTION TOUR
GENERAL ADMISSION
VENUE: A TOWN NEAR YOU
TIME: OF YOUR LIFE

2/14/2005

SIGHTINGS

JULY 18, 2004: HERSHEY, PA - KISS/POISON/ZO2 CONCERT
JULY 24, 2004: EVANSVILLE, IN - KISS EXPO
JULY 30, 2004: WEST PALM, FL - KISS/POISON/ZO2 CONCERT
OCTOBER 17, 2004: BALTIMORE - KISS EXPO
FEBRUARY 14, 2005: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

KISSFICTION TOUR
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(Anatomy of a Rock Novelist - conclusion)

Why did you choose Valentine's Day as the publishing date for *Won't Get Fooled Again*?

It's perfect, isn't it? [The publisher] knew *Won't Get Fooled Again* would be launched in the spring, and I was able to convince him that on February 14, we could send the ultimate love letter to the world.

What's next for the dean/writer/rocker?

I talk about how I want to do nothing - just lounge on the beach in some exotic locale, but realistically, I don't think I'll ever stop living out my fantasies.

For instance?

I see that look in your eye... I was talking about writing more books. I hate to break it to you, but I really am the girl-next-door geeky type.

I don't believe you.

You can have your own fantasies (laughs).

So the whole Barbara Gordon/Batgirl thing...?

Librarians are sexy. You just have to try a little harder to figure them out.

With a book, a movie, brains and ambition, Colette Shaw sits on the cusp of success. Don't miss out when *Won't Get Fooled Again* hits the shelves this February. Getting a kiss for Valentine's Day could have a whole new meaning.



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