

Extreme novel aims at MTV audience

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"Fake Liar Cheat"

By Tod Goldberg
MTV Books, 2000
162 p.g., \$11.95

Mix the movie "Fight Club" with every stereotype of wicked women and impressionable youth, and you've got a fairly accurate view of "Fake Liar Cheat," the newest publication from MTV Books.

First-time novelist Tod Goldberg uses Hollywood celebrities, casual sex, dinner theft, murder and California cults to tell an extreme but successful tale of the post-college confusion of our generation. "Fake Liar Cheat" describes the mentality of detached 20-something Lonnie Milton; he's got a steady

9 to 5, a nice apartment in L.A. and the latest furniture from IKEA. The only thing he's missing is a life.

Enter Claire, a Hollywood wannabe who lives two doors down from O.J. Simpson. Claire gets her kicks by dining at Hollywood hotspots, like Spogo and SkyBar, then skipping out on \$700 bills. Solo work doesn't suit Claire and she zeroes in on Lonnie to share in the kicks and the blame. Before Lonnie can blink, his picture is on the front page of every paper in California and 300 men and women in Nevada are calling him their anarchist God.

Lonnie reflects on the new chaos in his life with a stab at the company that brought him to life:

"It's like watching *The*

Real World on MTV. Those people are real, they live and they breathe, but nothing that happens to them actually happens in real life... No one lives rent-free in a major American city unless they live on the street."

Be prepared—this book is very stream of consciousness. Major chunks of dialogue take place between Lonnie and his own mind. MTV Books slogan is "From the young, the hip and the up-and-coming." If "Fake Liar Cheat" is any indication of their skill at choosing unique novelists, other promising MTV publications include "Floating" by Robin Troy, "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky.

Spend the money—"Fake Liar Cheat" is worth your time.

Dirt From the Underground

I'm "The Mole." I hope you are out in the sunshine listening to your Top 40 radio, sipping your Diet Cokes and baking your skin. I, however, burrow underground in search of music, in search of scenes, in search of thought that is so below the surface only a messenger can bring them to the Norman Rockwell population. Please proceed with caution. Once your mind goes underneath you may never return to the surface.

WHAT'S UP WITH SUBTERRANIA?

Three North Carolinian melodic hardcore bands played at Go! Studios last Saturday, proving that Chapel Hill still holds its own eclectic and influential mix of scenesters who are paving a way through the zeros as Archers of Loaf, Polvo, Superchunk and Spatula did in the nineties. Contrary to



the mole

Thurston Moore's (Sonic Youth) lyric in the song "Chapel Hill," "The scene is dead," Strunken White, Three Stigmata, and White Octave allow the average music lover easy slumber. The scene is not dead Thurston, it is finally rising from a slight coma.

Strunken White formed in the summer of 1996, and sixteen-year-olds Nagendra Jayanty (guitar/vocals), John Booker (bass) and Jonathan Stickley (drums) began creating sound together. They reformed, adding Noah Howard to supply extra guitar. They have just released their first full-length, "Lighting a Dark Road," off the label Route 14, shared by Sorry about Dresden and the Scaries. The legendary Jerry Lee (Superchunk, Polvo) recorded the "Pavementesque" melodies of Strunken White at Duck Key Studios in Mebane, NC. Check

A weekly update—*underground style.*

out www.route14.com/bands/trunk.htm.

The atonal melodies of Three Stigmata, Zeke Graves (guitar/vocals), Ian Erwin (bass/vocals) and Eric Cope (drums) will make you cream your shorts. They have a natural instinct to pound out instrumentals of the best harmonically legible distortions. A stand, lined with five guitars, provided the guitarist and bassist an opportunity to choose their weapons and attack each song like a kitten with rabies.

The main event was White Octave, residents of Chapel Hill that know what it takes to create a "serious post hardcore sound." The blend of quick tempo changes off their new album "Style No. 6312" off Deep Elm records is parallel to the defunct Archers of Loaf (also Chapel Hill locals).

Now, precious Grass-Crawlers, don't you want to learn more? I've provided the shovel. Start digging.

The List

On Tour

Sept. 7: Agents of Good Roots, The Brewery, Raleigh

Sept. 8: Jump, Little Children, Cat's Cradle

Sept. 8: Johnny Lang, Alltel Pavilion, Raleigh

Sept. 10: Ani DiFranco, The Ritz, Raleigh

Sept. 10: Sister Hazel, Cat's Cradle, Carrboro

Sept. 12: Britney Spears, Alltel Pavilion

Sept. 13: Boyz II Men & Luther Vandross, Alltel Pavilion

Sept. 14: Fighting Gravity, Cat's Cradle

Sept. 15: Dixie Chicks, Entertainment & Sports Arena, Raleigh

Sept. 16: Jeff Foxworthy, Greensboro Coliseum

Sept. 17: Cracker, Cat's Cradle

Sept. 18: Yo La Tengo, Cat's Cradle

Sept. 18: Kottonmouth Kings, Ziggy's, Winston-Salem

Sept. 20: Matchbox Twenty, Greensboro Coliseum

On Stage

Sept. 13: Best-selling author and co-founder, editor and owner of "Ms. Magazine," Gloria Steinem: "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions," McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 17: Grammy Award-winner David Holt in Concert, McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 18: Art Reception: Linoleum Prints by Juan Logan, Isabella Cannon Room, 5-7 p.m.

On Screen

West End Cinema
(538-9900)

- Whipped
- Kings of Comedy
- The Crew
- Space Cowboys
- Hollow Man
- Bless the Child
- The Cell
- Art of War
- Coyote Ugly
- The Replacements
- The Klumps
- What Lies Beneath
- Highlander
- Autumn in New York
- Bring it On

On Disc

Music Releases: 9/5
www.billboard.com

- Mack 10
- "The Paper Route"
- Various Artists
- "Loud Rocks"
- C-Murder
- "Trapped in Crime"
- Jaci Velasquez
- "Crystal Clear"
- Brad Mehldau
- "Places"
- Gypsy Kings
- "Volare!"
- Groove Armada
- "Back to Mine"
- Trans Am
- "Red Line"