

# Latest 'Real World' book turns only the stomach

■ The newest book focuses on behind-the-scenes liaisons, crushes and badmouthing



**Alison Pollet**  
**'The Real World X: Back to New York'**

By Erin Cooney  
for the Emerald

Ever wonder what Lori's favorite dance move is? Curious about Nicole's favorite candy? Dying to know Kevin's favorite hairstyle? Well, these and many more equally

deep questions can be answered in Alison Pollet's new book "The Real World X: Back to New York."

Pollet has authored several behind-the-scenes books for MTV, including MTV's "The Real World New Orleans — Unmasked" and "Real World Hawaii: True Confessions." If the titles sound like smutty romance novels, that's a fairly accurate description. Whatever talent Pollet may have as a writer, it isn't exhibited in this book.

"The Real World X" begins with biographies of each of the seven cast members, explaining very important details of their day-to-day lives on the show. The biography on Lori contains useful details about her "Real World" experience.

"My hair started thinning. I don't

know if it was a reaction to the stress or what. I already have really thin hair, and my scalp just shines through," she said.

The next page has all the other roommates describing their feelings about Lori. To her credit, she seems to have made the fewest enemies in the house. Pages 34-35 show how the cast felt about their controversial roommate Nicole:

"She holds grudges," Lori said.

"I'm scared that once she sees the show, she'll hate me," Rachel said.

"She's antisocial," Mike said.

Not to pick on just one castmate — the entire book has the "seven strangers picked to live in a house" bashing each other. And when they're not bashing each other, they bash anyone else who comes

into the house.

There are at least six full pages dedicated to Jisela, a cast member on "Road Rules," the sister show to "The Real World." Now, this girl isn't even a roommate in the New York house, yet she seems to be a focus in this book, and I'll tell you why: The girl is drama with a capital "D." MTV's "Real World" Web site calls Jisela "a one-woman 'Girls Gone Wild' video" — and that's the truth.

That appears to be the point of this book, though — to reveal behind-the-scenes drama, as if there wasn't enough shown in the episodes. Pollet goes on for pages about who slept with whom, who had crushes on whom and who badmouthed whom.

But who cares? A longtime fan of the show myself, I can honestly say a book like this makes me never want to watch it again. It is full of so much useless, uninteresting information, I was sick of it before I hit Page 10.

Listen to Chris Kula, the Daily Arts Editor for the Michigan Daily News, writing last year about "The Real World New Orleans — Unmasked":

"I kept waiting to be swept up in a storm of fire and brimstone, because if this book exists, surely the apocalypse is upon us."

As big a fan of this show as I have considered myself to be, I certainly concur.

Erin Cooney is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

## World Trade Center remains country's newest tourist attraction

By David Jackson  
The Dallas Morning News

NEW YORK (KRT) — New York City's newest tourist attraction is not a sports stadium or an art museum.

It is a demolition site and a graveyard, the remains of the World Trade Center — a smoldering, dusty monument to terrorist destruction.

To thousands of Americans, visiting the site of the former Twin Towers has become a pilgrimage as they find themselves drawn to ground zero.

"I wanted to say 'thank you' to the ones who have given so much," said Carolyn Cox, part of a Big Apple tour group from Richmond, Va. "There's a silence here, a respect.

"It's sacred ground."

Cox pointed up to the street sign at the corner of Washington and Carlisle, where old newspapers remain wedged.

"Look at those papers ... whose life was that a part of?" she wondered.

While some vendors in the area try to cash in on the tragedy — selling Twin Towers photos, patriotic pins and FDNY and NYPD T-shirts — most visitors go directly to barricades along Broadway to snap pictures of the wreckage.

The reverent, the history-minded and the curious have all trekked here. They have left behind flowers, shirts, caps, candles, teddy bears, and written tributes to the

victims and survivors of Sept. 11.

As wrecking balls file down the jagged remains of collapsed buildings, some people pray while others snap pictures. Some talk of what it must have been like when the planes struck each tower. Others wonder if other attacks are part of America's permanent future.

"I think it's the first time we've realized that this can happen to us, here in America," said Jean Stanislaw, a businesswoman from Sun Valley, Idaho. "It's just something I think everyone should see. We have to be on guard, we have to take our freedom more seriously."

Thanksgiving brought thousands of tourists who wanted to go to

ground zero. Lisa Dalton, who supervised a drill team from South Garland High School that marched in the Macy's parade, called the experience "very, very moving."

"I just thought it was an important part of our history, as horrible as it is," Dalton said. "It was something to show respect."

Many want to leave something behind. They include letters of tribute from Kingsport, Tenn., to Japan. One typical sheet of paper reads, "Wimberley, Texas, sends love, prayers and hopes to all in New York. You will not be forgotten."

Many posters have a common theme, the heart-shaped symbol of love: Oregon Loves New York; Hol-

land Loves New York; California University of Pennsylvania Loves New York; God Loves New York.

Many expressed a personal connection to ground zero. They said that while terrorists targeted the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, they attacked the United States itself.

"It's definitely the biggest thing that happened to this country," said Pru Chapman, who works at a homeless shelter in Boston. "It's affected not only our military but so many civilians. It's affected people all over the country, from New York to California."

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