



Chad States, *Bill, 40" x 32"*, archival pigment print, 2007



## Chad States

Emerging Professional, Photography  
Rehoboth Beach

By the time Chad States moved to Delaware three years ago he had already shown work in a number of solo exhibitions in his home state of Washington. Since then, his photography has been in juried exhibits at the Rehoboth Art League, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, and the Barbershop Gallery in Philadelphia. In 2007, States received the WebbCam Award for Outstanding Photography from Temple University, where he presented his MFA Thesis Show. He has served as adjunct faculty member at the Art Institute of Washington and the Tyler School of Art.

*What does it mean to be masculine? I have a hard time answering this question. Looking in the dictionary doesn't help. I find concise but vague definitions: "of or relating to men" or "suggestive or typical of a man." For me, these listings don't take into account cultural differences, social expectations, or any of the complex ways in which ideas of gender are indoctrinated. I figured that the best way to answer my question was by asking anyone who thinks that they are masculine why they think they are.*

*Through listings on internet sites and flyers posted around the city, I began by simply asking the question "Are you masculine?" If those who respond do not meet my personal definitions of masculinity, it doesn't matter. My interest lies in their personal definition and in their relationship to their own masculinity. I then ask to photograph these individuals. The models are anonymous until the time of meeting and are not paid to pose. Upon meeting, I work in conjunction with the model to create an image that best represents them and their masculinity. The setting is either the model's home or a location of their choice that they feel best portrays this masculinity. Using a large format camera, the portraits are formal in style with every pose intentional and deliberate on the part of the subject. — C.S.*



## Mary Kennedy

Established Professional, Fiction  
Wilmington

Mary Kennedy is the author of 37 novels for young adults and tweens. Her work has made the Waldenbooks, Nielson BookScan and Publishers Weekly best-seller lists. *Confessions of an Almost Movie Star* (Berkley Trade, 2005) ranked 34th on BookScan.

She is also a clinical psychologist, working primarily as a consultant, and a popular workshop presenter who speaks about writing, psychology, and creativity.

In addition to writing books, Kennedy has been involved in advertising and television news and has performed in more than 75 radio and television commercials. After receiving her master's degree in dramatic arts from the University of Delaware, she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. Moving to Nashville, Tenn., she worked first as a copywriter for a rock radio station, then as a television news writer for the local CBS affiliate.

Her first year as an author she sold eight novels to Scholastic. Her latest book, *Secrets of a South Beach Princess*, is currently available from Berkley Trade.

*Writing for teens is my passion; I never get tired of it. There is plenty left to say, and as long as young women are reading my books, I will never hang it up!*

*[In my books] I return to fish-out-of-water themes. I find it adds ready-made conflict to the plot. In "Secrets of a South Beach Princess," my latest Berkley book, the heroine is blonde, rich, and famous. She's the "It" girl of South Beach, the daughter of a wealthy hotel owner. Yet, even though her life is all glitz and glamour, she never feels quite at home in this environment and strives for a new identity.*

*Jessie, in "Tales of a Hollywood Gossip Queen," is another example. She's a small town girl who finds herself working for an A-List magazine in Hollywood, interviewing stars on the red carpet and mingling with celebs. Yet, she never quite fits in, and sometimes her small town values put her at odds with the Hollywood "players." The interesting part about fish-out-of-water stories is that you have to decide whether the main character blends in with her new environment, assimilating new values, or whether she stays true to her roots. And sometimes it's a combination of both! — M.K.*

**Mary Kennedy will participate in a session and read from her work at the Bethany Beach Writers Workshop August 16 at the Lewes Public Library, 111 Adams Ave., Lewes. The event is sponsored by the Delaware Literary Connection. For information, contact [btravalini@aol.com](mailto:btravalini@aol.com).**

I think it was the wink that did it. Or maybe I was a lost cause, anyway? Could a wink from Shane Rockett, Hollywood heartthrob, turn me into a quivering, lovesick cow?

You decide.

This is what happened. One minute, his eyes held mine, just like an actor in a spy movie, as the camera rolled for the audition tape. He leaned closer, and I tried to concentrate on the golden flecks in his tawny dark eyes, the way his dirty blond hair looped invitingly over one eyebrow. Something flickered in those amazing eyes and then grew still again, alert and watchful. We were inches apart. I tried to ignore how good he smelled. I stared at his lips, and suddenly thought of long slow kisses that could melt steel.

*Get a grip, Jessie.*

I clutched the script in my hand, trying to quiet the rainforest of butterflies that had descended uninvited, into my stomach. I knew my lines by heart, and didn't have to look down at the page. So *it's true what they said about you*. A statement, not a question.

Just as well I had committed it to memory. It was impossible to look away from those eyes. I thought I was immune to Shane's knock-your-socks-off-sexy good looks, but I was wrong.

I took a deep breath and gave my line. Too bad my voice suddenly ratcheted up an entire octave. "So it's true what they said about you."

I had practiced the line over and over with Tracy, my best friend, because she was the one auditioning for the part. I was just along for the ride. We had rehearsed her speech all different ways, emphasizing key words, until we collapsed in giggles.

So it's true what they *said* about you. So it's *true* what they said about you.

It seemed funny at the time, but I wasn't giggling now. The director had surprised me when he plucked me out of the crowd of Fairmont Academy gawkers and asked me to read for him. And that's how I found myself under the lights, script in hand.

With Shane Rockett. Up close and personal, just inches away from those broad shoulders and famous smile, I felt like the breath was being sucked out of me.

And that's when Shane winked at me. Like we shared a terrific little secret. "And what do they say, darlin'?" He cracked a half-hearted smile, dangerous and sexy, moving in a little closer. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Alexis Bright, class drama queen, trying to vaporize me with her glare. She was standing off-camera, next to Tracy. Tracy's expression, hurt and betrayed, turned to concrete. They both wanted to be standing where I was, auditioning with People Magazine's Sexiest Teen Alive.

Excerpt from the novel *Confessions of an Almost Movie Star*  
by Mary Kennedy