

Confessions of a Catholic Schoolgirl

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Lauren Smith: Michelle, tell us about your book? Michelle Kane: The book is about Valerie Bernowski; broken-home princess, obsessive-compulsive perfectionist and...Catholic school survivor. Her story unfolds through intertwining chapters of short stories growing up Catholic in Detroit in the late 1970s and 80s. Lauren Smith: So did you go to Catholic school? Michelle Kane: Yes, I myself, did attend Catholic school for nine years. I think it would surprise most people that private school kids are not saints. Also, surprisingly, the character of "Father Fingers" in CONFESIONS OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOLGIRL is based on my real life pastor, who was recently on our local news for being "sexually inappropriate" with young girls. So...the rumors about him ended up being true. Lauren Smith: What do you think would surprise people most about Catholic schools?

Michelle Kane: I mentioned that the biggest surprise for people would be realizing that not all Catholic school kids are saints! And also----a lot of the "rumors" about Catholic priests are actually true! My real-life pastor was extradited from the Catholic Church for "sexual misconduct." He is the inspiration for the Father Fingers character in my book. Lauren Smith: Are you worried about any fall out from the Catholic school community? Michelle Kane: I do not worry about any fall out from the Catholic community. They have enough to worry about (like pedophile priests) instead of my lil' ol' book! Lauren Smith: What's the biggest message of this book? Michelle Kane: The biggest message? Hmm...I think there's a connected theme with the men in Valerie's life; Father Fingers, absent dad, Jesus...and she somehow has to come to terms with her trust in all men and discovering her own spirituality. The message may be that even if you come from a dysfunctional family---you don't have to be dysfunctional forever! Lauren Smith: What do you hope your book will do for the reader? Michelle Kane: I hope my book will be enjoyable, educational, and entertaining for readers.