



THREE ROOMS PRESS

PUBLISHER OF CUT-THE-EDGE CREATIVE
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SECRET RULES TO BEING A ROCKSTAR

A NOVEL

JESSAMYN VIOLET



“Most Anticipated Young Adult Books 2023” —*LGBTQ Reads*

“Must-Have 2023 Queer Book Releases” —*The Nerd Daily*

“A sparkling debut . . . Violet’s stellar wit and pacing never allow for a dull moment, sweeping the reader up into a world of glamour, uncertain romance and rock stardom.” —*The National*

Acclaimed musician Jessamyn Violet’s debut LGBTQA+ YA novel sizzles with a coming-of-age story set in an industry of ambition, secrets, lies, and utter joy.

Eighteen-year-old Kyla Bell dreams of one day being a professional musician, but gets little to no support from her parents. Still, she practices every day and performs locally, harboring her own secret hopes. One night, her dreams are answered in the form of sultry rocker Ruby Sky, the magnetic frontwoman of her favorite band, Glitter Tears. Ruby hears Kyla perform and asks her to join the band on keys for their upcoming tour. In order to accept, Kyla must drop out of her Western Massachusetts high school and move to Los Angeles immediately to live with a renowned yet highly volatile producer who has agreed to put her through “rock star boot camp” in a matter of weeks. Blindsided by her emerging feelings for Ruby Sky, Kyla tumbles through the lights and shadows of the 90s music scene in Los Angeles.

MARKETING POINTS:

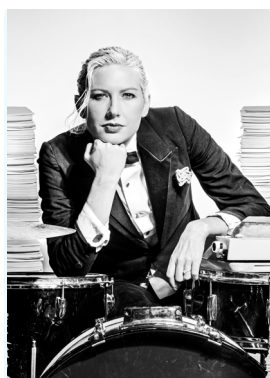
- Debut YA novel of author Jessamyn Violet
- Novel reflects LGBTQ+ attitudes and abusive structure of '90s Hollywood music industry, serving as a reminder of how things have improved
- Outreach to national and regional media, as well as trade and pop music publications
- Essays on literary sites by author about her experiences as a queer teen and young musician in the 1990s
- Outreach directly to young musicians organizations
- Direct outreach to book clubs to promote interest among the target audience

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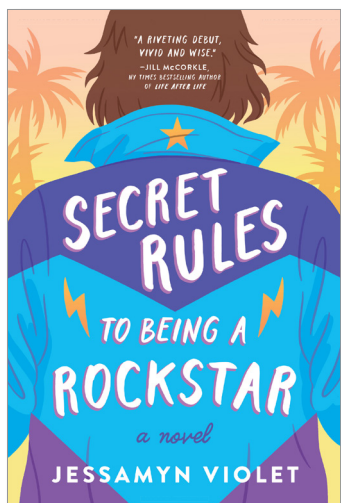


Jessamyn Violet is a writer and musician, born and raised in Massachusetts. She received her BFA in Writing, Literature and Publishing from Emerson College, and her MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco’s California College of the Arts. Her poetry has been published in numerous journals and her poetry book, *Organ Thieves*, is out through Gauss PDF. Her feature screenplay, *Exit Strategies*, was a quarterfinalist in Scriptapalooza. Her short stories have been published in assorted journals such as *Ploughshares* (forthcoming, Spring 2023), *Adelaide*, and *3 Elements*. Jessamyn plays drums in the internationally-acclaimed band Movie Club. *Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* is her debut novel. She currently lives in Venice Beach, California.



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HIGH PRAISE FOR SECRET RULES TO BEING A ROCKSTAR

"A sparkling debut that will become a favorite and comfort read . . . Violet's stellar wit and pacing never allow for a dull moment, sweeping the reader up into a world of glamour, uncertain romance and rock stardom." —*The National (Scotland)*

"Recommended LGBTQ+ YA Releasing in Spring 2023"
—*Reads Rainbow*

"Must-Have 2023 Queer Book Releases" —*The Nerd Daily*

"Most Anticipated Young Adult Books" —*LGBTQ Reads*

"Jack Kerouac collides with Lester Bangs, cynicism with hope, and the result is a book that is as sweetly pop as it's starkly punk. Violet's work will seem familiar, for better or worse, to most that have sought to make music their life. It's that authenticity that makes it such a valuable read."

Brett Callwood, LA Weekly

"As hot as North Hollywood in July, *Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* sears with a youthful sincerity and heat. Jessamyn Violet effortlessly captures the seedy world of music in '90s Los Angeles and the scary, sensitive, sticky feeling of being a teenager in an adult world."

Tegan Quin of Tegan and Sara

"Jessamyn Violet presents readers with the sights, sounds, smells, and, above all, the tumultuous thoughts and feelings of a young life in music. This story rings true from its overture to its coda."

Susan Rogers, Director of Berklee Music Perception & Cognition Lab, author, This Is What It Sounds Like: What The Music You Love Says About You

"*Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* breaks open the experience of being a new-to-the-scene musician to reveal the glittery tangle of excitement, inspiration, and danger that comes with sudden success. Jessamyn Violet's queer protagonist, Kyla Bell, might be green, but she is the only person we can trust to teach us the rules to surviving—and maybe even thriving—in the '90s Hollywood music industry. An impressive, introspective debut!"

Kelly Ann Jacobson, author, Tink and Wendy and Robin and Her Misfits

"Jessamyn Violet is a real rocker and a real writer. You will love her as much as I do!"

Alice Hoffman, NYTimes bestselling author, Practical Magic

"Jessamyn Violet's riveting debut novel, *Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar*, gives us Kyla Bell, an endearing character who strives to balance the life of a rockstar with that of the honest and loyal daughter and friend she has always been. For this, Kyla needs a complicated set of rules, and the journey that follows—vivid and wise—is both poignant and exhilarating."

Jill McCorkle, NYTimes bestselling author, Life after Life

"*Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* crackles with the incandescent, electric thrill of being young and letting the pure act of creating art fill your soul. Your heart will beat like you're falling in love for the first time on a Los Angeles summer night when you read this book."

Jeff Zentner, award-winning author of The Serpent King and In The Wild Light

"This is a sparkling, exhilarating, and moving debut about a young woman on the cusp of everything—but it's an even greater meditation on the ways in which, to paraphrase Kyla, we rough ourselves up in the name of art."

Jessie Ann Foley, author, The Carnival at Bray and You Know I'm No Good

"*Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* is a magical story that reminds me of when we were first getting started with Skating Polly. I could not put this book down and definitely cried at parts. I'm proud to support such a cool, fun and feminist tale. It's the book I dreamed of reading as a teenager!"

Peyton Bighorse, musician, Skating Polly

"An evocative '90s vignette."

Kirkus Reviews

"*Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar* is a colorful story full of hope and wonder, immersing the reader in the near-dystopian dreamscape of the music industry in 1990s Los Angeles—and I know because I lived it."

Eva Gardner, bassist, P!NK, Cher, Tegan & Sarah

SECRET RULES TO BEING A ROCKSTAR: A Novel by Jessamyn Violet | Pub Date: April 18, 2023 | ISBN: 978-1-953103-29-1

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Photo: Erin Neifah



ABOUT JESSAMYN VIOLET

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ABOUT THREE ROOMS PRESS

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www.threeroomspress.com/authors/secret-rules-to-being-a-rockstar-by-jessamyn-violet/

Author website

www.jessamynviolet.com

Book trailer

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THE STORY BEHIND

SECRET RULES TO BEING A ROCKSTAR

BY JESSAMYN VIOLET

As a Massachusetts native, I was conditioned to hate Los Angeles. After I graduated from Emerson College, I began writing for magazines and visited Los Angeles anyway, where I met and fell in love with Venice Beach. I decided if I moved, I could be more involved in entertainment writing, being in the epicenter of all the action. When I moved to LA in 2006, my dad was the COO of Gibson Guitar, so I got instant access to famous musicians and performances—resulting in many unreal welcome-to-LA experiences.

Secret Rules to Being a Rockstar was the first book I started working on when I started earning my MFA at California College of the Arts for Creative Writing in San Francisco in 2009. My first years living in California had been so wild and so far from what I expected. I was compelled to write about LA and my collage of experiences for my first book. I've played piano since I was eight but had never been in bands until I started writing this book. I had decided to rent a rehearsal space near my apartment to be inspired by the scene while writing, but the drum kit kept calling to me from the corner of the room I shared. I eventually picked up the drum sticks and started drumming. I finished the first draft as not only as a novel writer, but also as a band member. For our graduation thesis presentations, I performed with one of the writers who was also a musician and we went on to record my first full album. I've been drumming and writing about musicians ever since.

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