

# Ted Nugent's wife writes of their life together

## MARRIED TO A ROCK STAR

By Shemane Nugent (The Lyons Press, \$24.95)

It gladdens my heart that the Motor City Madman, Ted Nugent, and his wife, Shemane, seem to have a happy marriage (despite some rocky spots along the way). I'm more than happy that they are "the proud parents of a healthy, smart, and handsome son." They live off the land at their large rustic retreat in south-central Michigan, and generally pursue the American Dream with marked success. I've certainly no complaints about that, either (although I can't always understand their considerable enthusiasm for guns and hunting).

I do, however, have some problems with this book, which depicts their life together.

Though I'm sure she's an intelligent woman, I'm not altogether certain that Shemane Nugent is the perfect writer. This is not to say that she's incapable of putting a book together. It is to say that *MARRIED to a Rock Star* could have benefited greatly from more conscientious editorial help.

In the beginning, this "veteran rock wife" proposes to tell us what her "exciting yet like-some challenges life is like as Mrs. Ted Nugent."

If this sets your heart racing, hold onto your seats. She will also, shucks, "describe the price tag for all that grandeur."

On these pages, we'll catch glimpses of rock icons like

Steven Tyler, Kid Rock, and Gene Simmons, usually backstage, or at the Nugent's surprisingly modest home (no dishwashing stoves). We'll watch as actor Don Johnson flirts with Shemane (in single digits) on a hot Detroit afternoon; join the Nugents on numerous hunting excursions; read the author's arguments against animal rights activists (to begin with, she claims they're "nothing but people paying people to pass out misinformation"); and learn the nitty-gritty about what event rocked the couple's marriage, and actually motivated the writing of this book.

There's more -- including a few, enlivening words by the Madman himself -- and much more will hold special appeal for area readers and fans. Even with that inherent appeal, though, you may find yourself frustrated with *MARRIED to a Rock Star*.

For one thing, its structure is more than a little confused. In telling her story, Shemane Nugent has chosen to move back and forth in time so frequently that it may leave your head spinning. Unfortunately, in the confusion, the momentum of the story is blunted as well. If the beginning were at the Louise Mandrell Sheet Shoot

Nashville. Then, we're sort of in the present and looking back at that by the author's recollection if she's recalling the day accurately. Then we're told about an interview the rock star once granted during a pheasant hunt.

Then, "it's back to the Mandrell Sheet Shoot again.

Then, it's the next morning at a post-Nashville hotel where the Nugents are enjoying breakfast in bed. Then, a glimpse of the

future (something terrible is about to happen). Then, suddenly, we're back in the past again, and Ted and Shemane are about to meet at radio station WLLZ, and he's a guest today for a week. Whee!

Much of the book follows this back-and-forth, hither-and-thither pattern.

In addition to the dizzying chronology, Shemane Nugent's choice of words and phraseology can grow about as muddled as a Michigan swamp land mire.

You may recall reading that "Alice has never been a name when I have been less in love with him than the day that we were married" several times, and still not feel sure of what the author is saying. Some pages later, you'll encounter, "It is so important for my husband to be able to protect himself and his family, and to live in a country that allows us the freedom to defend ourselves is a predominant right that Ted has steadfastly been a proponent of for many years."

Huh? Finally, the word-pictures she paints about her early meetings with the Madman might not pass muster with second-rate romance writers.

"...a strong feeling of warmth coursed through my body," she writes.

Then, "a dizzying current raced through my body."

Then, "Adrenaline raced through my body."

Then, "Ted took me in his arms and I melted. Absolutely melted."

Then, "Waves of electricity shot through my body."

Where is that editor?

Victoria Diaz writes about books, movies, theater and travel.

## WHERE CAN I FIND?

**On Thursday, June 12, Where Can I Find moves to the Home section. There will be no column on Sunday, June 8. We are looking forward to hearing from all our readers.**

Through reader feedback, this interactive column is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If you know where a product is sold or service is available, call (246) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

**WHAT WE FOUND**

The Service Sweet Shop is on Michigan Avenue in Inkster (313) 265-2505 it will open under a new name Corden Candles.

Found a Stanley Home products dealer for a reader.

**FIND AND SEARCH**

A reader has a Hammond electric home organ to donate to charity in good condition.

A reader has men

and women's bowling trophies to donate to a charitable organization.

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR**

A store that sells a red plate with the words "You are Special Today."

It has a marker to write special dates on the back and is made by the Red Plate company in California for Christine of Canton.

A store that sells fresh phyllo pastry for Janice.

Someone to repair costume jewelry for Eleanor.

A store that sells Fluoride for Nails for Sue.

A store that sells canvas material to make awnings for John of Troy.

A store that sells Color Form for a 2-year-old.

A store that sells china place cards for Kelli of Clawson.

A store that sells Harlick's malted for Linda of Rochester.

- A store that sells a cordless iron for Kim.

- A store that sells Roman cleaner bleach.

- A store that sells a putting green for the backyard.

- A store that sells a ladies leather driving glove.

- A store that sells Norma Virgin lipstick in Clearly Cherry for Anita.

- An instruction book for a Montgomery Ward sewing machine for Laura.

- Adolph's no sodium unscented tenderizer in a jar for Mrs. E.

- A store that sells Fluoride for Nails for Sue.

- A store that sells canvas material to make awnings for John of Troy.

A store that sells Imagine Love Peace & Happiness formerly sold at Bath & Body Works for Cornelia.

- A store that sells Harlick's malted for Linda of Rochester.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

**WE'RE ALL SEARCHING**

discount stores will save you considerably on film. Mail order businesses can also save you a lot. Film that includes processing maillers have you saving costs.

Here are some ideas that will help you save money on film and processing.

Use the slowest speed film that lighting conditions will allow. In other words, don't always use fast films. Higher ASA films not only cost more, but colors are not as vivid and grain is more pronounced.

Consider using slide film as your color alternative. The cost of processing a roll of slide film is considerably less than that of a roll of color negative film.

You can then have prints made from your best slides.

Thinking about doing some work in black and white. Black and white film and processing is less expensive than color.

Black and white can enhance the aesthetics of many subjects and might just motivate you into doing your own darkroom work.

Shop around for specials. Many camera shops and large

discount stores will have you considerably on film. Mail order businesses can also save you a lot. Film that includes processing maillers have you saving costs.

Learn to "short load" film. Here's how it works: As soon as the film leader is attached to the take up reel, close the camera back and release the tension by a couple turns on the rewind knob. Advance two more frames and you're ready to begin your roll. Doing this will usually give you a couple extra shots on each roll.

Conserve film by not shooting as many pictures as you used to. Concentrate on quality rather than quantity. Take your time. Compose more thoughtfully and express more carefully.

This is "the art of the photograph" rather than "the art of the photo." Take note of the composition dates on your film. If you think you won't use it all up before it expires, place your film in the

freezer. This way, it will last indefinitely. Just allow a few hours for thawing out before loading it in your camera.

Finally, take routine precautions with your film to make sure all your shots will come out. Use X-ray bags at security checks at airports. Make sure when using flash that you are at the proper synchronization speed. Make sure the rewind knob on manual cameras reverses as you advance the film to assure it is running through the camera. And, during the weather, don't leave your loaded camera in a hot car where the heat may spoil those special shots.

You can leave a message Monte Nagler at (734) 953-2047.

## Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

Monte Nagler carefully composed and took just a couple of shots of Palouse falls near Spokane, Wash.

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