

HIP CHECK

MARK MAKOWAY

ROCK STAR 101

A HIP HOW-TO FROM ONE OF INDIE MUSIC'S TOP GURUS

EVERY BAND HAS A DOZEN WAR STORIES to tell of life on the road. And Mark Makoway, author of *The Indie Band Bible: The Ultimate Guide to Breaking a Band* (Raincoast), has a few scars of his own.

"Well, I seem to remember sitting on the patio of a bar in Toronto," begins the guitarist-songwriter of multi-platinum alternative rock group, Moist. "We were having what I'll describe as an emergency band meeting."

PURSUIT recommends

Ever had to cross a piranha-infested river? Jump off a moving train? Flood water on a desert island? Not likely, but if you did, you'd want to have Joshua Piven and David Borjenicht's **THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO TRAVEL HANDBOOK** (Chronicle Books). In this sequel to their best-selling *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*, the doyens of danger offer 40 new scenarios you won't find in the *Lonely Planet* series. • Fluorescent ferris wheels, rigged games of chance, gypsy mannequins dispensing fortunes inside glass cages: photographer Jeff Brouws and fairground aficionado Bruce Caron deliver a coffee-table book that's pure eye candy floss with **INSIDE THE LIVE REPTILE TENT: THE TWILIGHT WORLD OF THE CARNIVAL MIDWAY** (Chronicle Books). Brouws's lurid, gritty images are sure to evoke memories of cheap thrills and strong stomachs. • If you're a gal who likes her etiquette served up in a martini glass, you absolutely must pick up **THE FABULOUS GIRL'S GUIDE TO DECORUM** (Doubleday). Latter-day Holly Golightlyes Kim Izzo and Ceri Marsh mine the p's and q's of modern womanhood, dishing advice on everything from preparing for interviews and socializing with workmates to hosting fab dinner parties, dealing with one-night stands and balancing the demands of old friends and new lovers.


BY BRETT GRAINGER

Midway through their first cross-country tour, the band realized they were out of gigs and out of dough. A few tense weeks of couch-surfing ensued until, finally, a sympathetic family friend came through with enough money to get them back to Vancouver.



It's situations like these that Makoway would like to help other bands avoid. His guide reads like the Ten Commandments of band-building, and covers everything from basics like promotion and booking shows to making videos and dealing with management and record labels.

Success might seem complicated, but Makoway, who is finishing work on bandmate David Usher's new solo album (due out this summer), has a simple recipe for success: "Get all your ducks in a row. I think there's a myth out there that some bands just get lucky. And I'm of the opinion that every band from time to time gets opportunities and there are so many little things you can put into place so you're in a position to take advantage of those opportunities."

Not surprisingly, writing a book proved to be a much different experience for the musician than songwriting. "When you're recording an album, you're paying hundreds of dollars an hour, the clock is ticking, there's a certain pressure and a certain forced spontaneity. It's very different when you're putting pen to paper; the whole publishing industry seems a little slower and kinder and gentler somehow."

CARVING A NICHE

NOVELIST LEAVES NO STONE UNTURNED

Jane Urquhart has rocks on the brain. Two imposing structures stand at the centre of her new book, *The Stone Carvers*: the Vimy Ridge monument in France and an immense stone church erected in a small village in southern Ontario. "My father was a mining engineer," explains the bestselling Canadian author, who was born in a little goldmining settlement in northern Ontario. "And my brother is a geologist."

Clearly, Urquhart, who has four novels to her name, including the bestseller *Away* and the Governor General's Award-winning *The Underpainter*, likes to work with solid images. "Writing to me is an excessively visual experience," she says. "It's almost as if I'm seeing a film and describing what I'm seeing on paper." It's no wonder: Urquhart has a degree in art history, and



JANE URQUHART



she's married to a visual artist. *The Stone Carvers* continues her habit of weaving together straight historical facts with a dense fictional narrative. "I found a large church just north of Stratford in a very tiny village, and began to wonder how on earth it got there. From there, the book opened."

The Stone Carvers, *The Stone Angel*, *The Stone Diaries*: what is it about rocks that appeals to Canadian women writers? "I did think about that," admits Urquhart. "I mean, we do have that incredible Canadian Shield. It probably is some kind of unconscious association with our geological makeup."