



# Beyond the Blonde

*Kathleen Flynn-Hui*

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## **Beyond the Blonde** Kathleen Flynn-Hui

This is the fictionalized account of the author's well-publicized break with world-famous Frederic Fekkai and a behind-the-scenes look at salons and the celebrities who frequent them.

## **Beyond the Blonde Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2005 by Warner Books (NY) (first published August 18th 1994)

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Author : Kathleen Flynn-Hui

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# From Reader Review Beyond the Blonde for online ebook

## Salma says

Too easy to read, funny and sassy.

"If you've ever wondered what it's like on the other side of the stylist's chair, take a seat. Georgia will be with you in a moment."

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## Leonel says

At first, Kathleen Flynn Hui's *Beyond The Blonde* seems like a *Devil-Wears-Prada* for the hair color industry, but honestly, I didn't think there were any huge and scandalous revelations here. The main character, Georgia, is named "best colorist in New York City" and has an enviable character, but for me the strength of the book is in its good storytelling. Georgia comes from new Hampshire, where she grows up helping out at her mother's salon. Forsaking a college education, she instead goes to beauty school and upon graduating, moves to New York City with her friend Patrick. They get a job at Jean Luc, and well the rest, as you say is history. Even though this sounds like a familiar tale, Hui infuses it with a lot of down-to-earth humour and I never found it slow or draggy. I felt that at the end, I really got to know her character. And even though the characters around her all filled certain stereotypical parts, I believed them for the most part. The book may not be the most original read, but it is still an authentic one, and I found it engrossing enough to finish in three sittings.

<http://luhathoughts.blogspot.com/2014...>

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## Alice says

Why do I keep reading this crap? Mildly diverting trashy chicklit. The worst part about this book was the constant moving between time periods. The main character has Farrah Fawcett hair in high school and dreams of visiting Studio 54, which would put it at about 1977-1979. Then, less than five years later, she is talking about botox (not approved for cosmetic use until 2002) and the new Marc Jacobs collection. I suppose MJ was making clothes in the mid-80s, but he's associated primarily with the 90s. Anyway, it's a hot mess. But it didn't actively make me angry, so two stars.

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## Anna says

There is no frenzy. It looked good, but it came to half the book started to bore me, or even fall asleep. I put it back and continue to let go, but I was waiting for the action to develop. Unfortunately, it is funny how it is written on the back of the book, sometimes he was a "joke" but very rarely. There were also a lot of swearing, which do not tolerate, and I think it's very well put a damper on my reading since then disgusted.

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## Shannon Arehart says

I know nothing of the glamorous and pampered lifestyle described in this book, but I really liked it. It was fluffy, it was funny, it kept me interested and amused. I would have liked more focus on Patrick. I know he wasn't a central character, but I really liked him and would have enjoyed a bit more on his character. However, the descriptions of all the NYC salon clients and the behind the scenes environment of the salon, as well as Georgia's story arc were enough to keep me wanting to hear more.

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## PurplyCookie says

Young, witty, bitchy read of behind-the-scenes glamour as small-town girl Georgia Watkins climbs the ladder of hairdressing success in New York. I liked that the main focus wasn't finding love like many other chick lit books I've read before, but more of becoming a success no matter one's humble beginnings.

And of course, you can't beat the sharing of inner trade secrets by the author (a celebrity colorist herself of the well-known Salon AKS) of the habits and eccentricities of the coddled clientele. While Georgia's challenges are real, her clients can be just plain ridiculous -- from the clients who bring in the children to match their hair color to the client who needs her hand held while a small strand of her hair is highlighted. Some clients will bring laughter to the reader, while some will just disgust or annoy. Georgia categorizes her clients by neighborhoods they live in:

- The Manhattan (socialite)
- The Manhattan (working woman)
- The Bedford
- The Greenwich
- The Five Towns
- The Short Hills
- The Beverly Hills

But like the best dye jobs, the salon's artifice of amity conceals the darkness beneath. Ups and downs ensue—from workplace romance to blithe betrayal—all hidden behind the glamour. A surprisingly good read which went beyond my expectations.

### Book Details:

Title Beyond The Blonde

Author Kathleen Flynn-Hui

Reviewed By Purplycookie

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## Deborah Wilson says

This is definitely a beach book. For a book that I paid two dollars for at a second hand book store, I was pleasantly surprised. It is not exactly enthralling, but is a pleasant read. On the plus side this book was easy

to read chapter to chapter, without feeling as if you had to stop everything to keep reading. The author did highlight the hair industry (admit it women, we are all vain) in a delightful and honest manner. There are enough character profiles to keep the plot from becoming stale. Essentially, small town girl Moves to the Big Apple and becomes wildly successful at upscale salon. She is caught up in whirlwind of activity and learns some hard lessons. There are some good humorous moments, I especially enjoyed the way she categorizes her clients by their addresses. Enough said. I have so many other books to read and so little time.

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### **Christel Peeters says**

I didn't like much about this book. A boring and annoying read.

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### **Elaine says**

Started off a little slow, a little boring...but then the pace picked up and the read became pleasurable. I've read only 1 of Sophie Kinsella's books and this book reminds me of her writing. The content was light (easy to read), engaging, and something refreshing for me since it offers an inside perspective of a hair salon business. And it's nice how the expected romance doesn't overpower the storyline. It's there, it's sweet, but it's not in-your-face.

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### **Gayle says**

Is there a genre called gossip lit? There should be. All you need to know is that author Kathleen Flynn-Hui is "the star colorist at Salon AKS, [and:] the wife of acclaimed stylist Kao Hui." Certainly her inside story of a small-town girl that becomes a top-flight colorist at a celebrity salon resonates with authenticity. But her deftly-penned sketches of the employees and the clientele make you wonder who she's really talking about.

The story line is not complicated: Georgia Watkins, daughter of the owner-operator of the number-one salon in Weepeekeemie, New Hampshire, wants to follow in her mother's footsteps. She leaps from beauty school to the bottom rung at a hot new salon in Manhattan, and never looks back--or does she?

But as I said, it's not so much the story as the milieu and the personalities. And despite the inside-scoop gossip flavor, it is remarkably discreet. An occasional burst of language, a brief and not-too-explicit bedroom scene, but probably not more than a strong PG-13.

So if you've ever wondered what it's like on the other side of the stylist's chair, take a seat. Georgia will be with you in a moment.

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### **~\*Kim\*~ says**

In this fun, light read, Georgia Watkins goes from middle of nowhere New Hampshire to colorist of the stars in the hottest salon in New York City. Not used to the over the topness of NYC, she finds herself holding the

hand of one client while she highlights a single strip of hair and being asked by another to put highlights in her fur coat! The book is kept light and funny while Georgia stays down to earth just like her small town girl roots.

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### **Krystal says**

This was an odd book for me. The beginning was so trite I almost gave up on it..it was painful in the way it followed formula. And then something strange happened. The middle of the book, when she's talking about the past, how she got "here", it was a great story, well written. I loved the middle and couldn't believe the same person wrote both parts. The we came to the end, and it reverted back to form, and I was annoyed. It was for the enjoyment I got out of the "middle" portion of the story that this book gets as many stars. There was just something magical about the author bringing you into Georgias past. You knew who Georgia was, and her mother. That was a great story. The speed bumps of the begining and end being poorly written are an annoyance when you discover what the author is capable of all along.

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### **Femke says**

This some typical, easy-reading kind of chicklit, perfect to shut your brain off. The story is about Georgia, a small-town girl who ends up working as a colorist at a over-the-top hair salon in New York. The place for the rich and famous. Not surprisingly, the author is also a colorist in a New York hair salon. A lot of times this book was very anecdotal, with lots of namedropping of supposedly important names that were often irrelevant to the story. At times it felt like I was reading the autobiography of a person that isn't that interesting.

So, definitely not the best book in its genre, but if you want some very light reading that feels like reading a 180-page women's gossip magazine, well then this is the one you should pick.

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### **Kourtney says**

I really enjoyed the writing style of this book. It was engaging and had me wanting to find out what happened next. The thing that keeps me from rating this tale any higher than three stars was that the "wanting to find out what happened next" was me waiting for the story to begin. Over what felt like 90% of the story is the backstory to how Georgia got to where she was when the book begins. The true story doesn't begin until the end. And while the backstory was interesting and was a page-turner, when the true story began it felt rushed and incidental. If only that piece was fleshed out like the backstory was, I would have been over the moon!

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### **Rhiannon says**

First, let me say that I am not a huge fan of the 'chick lit' genre. I sometimes pick one up when I just want a light, quick read. I just tend to be sorely let down. That was definitely not the case with this book! I really could not find anything that disappointed me in this book. The story was fun, it had depth, I was interested in

the woman's life. While it is partially about her looking for/finding love, it is not the sole point of the story, nor is it the biggest part.

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