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Rock and Roll, Crash and Burn: The Driver Story

Maureen Croissant Prairie

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Fifteen year old MAUREEN CROISSANT often fantasized of becoming a rock and roll star. Fate happened to bring her fantasy to reality the summer of 1974 when she met some new friends while travelling with her truck driver father. After meeting the guys from the band Driver in Winnipeg they became instant friends and planned to stay in touch and soon became much like a family.

After discovering her talents as a keyboardist, the band's co-founders DARCY MACLEOD and KELLY DRIVER insisted Maureen join them. The problem was Driver's manager TOM, who controlled the band and created their 'bad ass' image by forcing them to take drugs, party to the point of exhaustion and encouraged dissention between best friends JIM POGUE, the band's lead guitarist and KD, the band's drummer; in increasingly creative if not sick ways.
Luckily, Driver was versatile and prepared to keep Kelly and Darcy's brothers on standby to fill in at any given moment when one of them was suddenly admitted to hospital or a psychiatric facility, or arrested on possession or assault charges. One never knew with whose life Tom felt like playing for his own entertainment and there were no limits to his games.

When Maureen and Kelly's brother ERIC fell in love, they became a force to be reckoned with; not only as relentless practical jokers and a source of frustration for Kelly, but a serious threat to Tom. When Eric walked in on Tom trying to rape Maureen, he pointed Tom's own gun at his head. Tom knew it was time to step it up a notch. Kelly and Darcy had tried to fire him a number of times before but each time he came back with a vengeance. This time was no exception . . . he didn't care who he hurt in the process.

For Driver it was all about the music. They were good and for them there was only one way to go . . . up; and that's where they were headed. Two weeks before Driver's biggest concert ever, Kelly and Darcy discovered that there had been some unusual activity in Driver's bank account and confronted Tom. He naturally reacted his usual threatening way and questions didn't get answered.

Driver played their big concert with an audience ten to twenty times the size of their usual crowd. After the electrifying, energetic gig, Darcy, Kelly and Jim headed out to an after concert party. Maureen and KD got to the party late after helping supervise the loading of their equipment.

Maureen walked in on Kelly, Darcy and Jim shooting heroin in a private room at the party and stormed out, angry and upset and returned to their hotel. She was woken a few hours later by Tom and KD. Tom broke the news to her. There'd been an accident. Darcy was driving the guys back to the hotel after the party. She didn't want to hear any more but Tom continued with the tragic news that Darcy, Kelly and Jim were all dead.

Thirty years later Maureen, now back in contact with Eric and David, sat down to write the story of how she survived the rock and roll crash and burn.

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