

## **Synopsis of UNDER MY SKIN - Drama, Trauma & Rock 'n' Roll**

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Elise Krentzel brings you into her world through the glitz and glam of 1970s Manhattan, in an up-close bar scene with her abusive alcoholic narcissist mother.

She then takes us back to a New York of her first-generation Jewish family's traditions – those kept and those ignored - of young love found taking the train into the city. Elise's parents eloped and immediately fell into tragedy: baby twins died. They conceived again upon a doctor's advice, giving birth first to Elise and then her brother.

Elise was a natural ringleader, from the neighborhood kids to her dysfunctional nuclear family. Internally, she was under pressure: Elise was hospitalized after a suicide attempt at age 5, and again after a nervous breakdown when her parents announced their divorce on Valentine's Day. She came to think of the hospital as a safe space.

Her parents brought classic 60s and 70s style into their home, with the latest vinyl albums and popular fashion. Elise had a hot-and-cold relationship with her mother: permission to be artistic, yet never good enough, not pretty enough, too outspoken, too much. And yet she kept her brother safe while her mother crashed emotionally through a broken marriage. Curious teen Elise took up journaling and experimentation of all sorts with her school friends: drugs, sex, music. Nothing was off-limits.

When her father remarried, sweet sixteen Elise was gifted a camping tour through Europe. She befriended Fiona, another nice Jewish girl, and they vowed to explore Europe by having sex with the local boys in every country - as a social experiment. Elise was no longer able to manage a façade of familial stability. Her brother became an addict, and her mother became romantic with the older brother of Elise's boyfriend. As high school ended, Elise vowed to meld her passions and began writing articles for rock magazines. She had a novel idea to query magazines outside the USA. Something drew the attention of Al Ross, PR manager for the rock band KISS. He invited Elise to Japan on the press junket of Kiss' Japan Tour.

Elise said no.

Still curious, and still a sassy New Yorker, Elise was interviewing Paul Simon at a Japanese restaurant – she wanted to try the cuisine, just in case. She passed a marquee displaying Sondheim's Pacific Overtures, and took it as a sign to take Al's offer. Al was not surprised. On the PanAm Clipper jet, Elise enlisted a fellow journalist, Andy, as her partner-in-crime. Together they explored Tokyo and Kyoto off the beaten path, and almost got literally beaten up for it.

Elise decided to stay in Tokyo after the tour. She demonstrated to her new connections that she had her finger on the pulse of the industry with Brit alt bands, punk, and hip-hop. The CEO of Japan's leading music publishing company immediately signed her on as their modern music rep. Five years later before leaving Japan, Elise got involved with two crazy German entrepreneurs and fled on the bamboo bicycle they'd invented. We're left with a taste of the next book.