



Keli Goff is the author of the forthcoming novel *The GQ Candidate* (Atria/Simon & Schuster, July 2011) which is the prolific journalist's first foray into fiction. The thrilling new novel is part of a growing body of work that firmly establishes her as one of the foremost chroniclers of the Obama era of American politics.

Already recognized as one of the most provocative political bloggers in the country, Goff has recently added novelist to her repertoire. In her hotly anticipated fiction debut, *The GQ Candidate* — which was recently designated a recommended summer selection by *The Los Angeles Times* — Goff covers a presidential campaign from a vantage point rarely seen: through the eyes of the candidate's closest friends.

Recently designated a recommended summer reading selection by *The Los Angeles Times*, *The GQ Candidate* has earned advance praise from a variety of sources, including actress turned author Victoria Rowell, who dubbed it "a political page-turner" and "a must read," and Arianna Huffington who said, "In recent years... Keli Goff brought skill and grace to the rough-and-tumble arena of political commentary. Now, in time for 2012, she has aimed those same talents at fiction, and the result is a witty novel that reminds us that all politics is personal."

In a tale that has been described as "Entourage" meets "The West Wing," Goff introduces readers to the friends and family of Gov. Luke Cooper, a handsome, charismatic African-American presidential candidate, whose adoptive parents are white and Jewish.

The book chronicles how his race for the presidency alters the lives of those closest to him forever, particularly after a scandal triggered by one of his confidantes, and the re-appearance of another from his past, threaten to derail his quest for the White House.

As the story goes, after a sex scandal brings down a local politician, Luke Cooper finds himself catapulted into the Michigan Governor's mansion, making him one of the few black and — by virtue of adoption — Jewish elected officials to hold such an office. His national celebrity is increased when he heroically saves the life of an avowed racist, and his good looks and charm earn him

Bookin' It with Lifestyles & Society Editor Audrey J. Bernard

Political commentator and novelist Keli Goff's first foray into fiction is *The GQ Candidate*

the nickname "The GQ Candidate."

One day Luke stuns his inner circle by informing them that he has decided to run for president. His friends offer to help but a fundraiser, hosted by one, and a major scandal involving another, become the subject of negative gossip that threatens the campaign.

Meanwhile, Luke's wife is ambivalent about her husband's political aspirations, and grows wary of life in the spotlight especially after a surprise from their past inconveniently reappears during his historic run.

The GQ Candidate gives readers a behind-the-scenes look at what happens in the lives of candidates, and the people closest to them, when the cameras aren't rolling. In addition to the story of the campaign, the novel also follows the lives of Luke's tight knit circle of friends and reveals how his amazing race changes their lives forever.

When asked for her inspiration for *The GQ Candidate*, Goff described it as twofold. "In a strange way I always thought Barack Obama and John McCain were the two least interesting people on the campaign trail in 2008. I was always more fascinated by the people around them, from Michelle Obama and Valerie Jarrett, to Cindy McCain. After all, President Obama and Sen. McCain signed up for their lives. The people around them never did but sort of found themselves forced along for this incredible journey. I always wanted to be a fly on the wall to hear what those people made of it all."

Goff added, "The other inspiration though, was my family. I think people like my mom always thought that they would never see a black man elected president in their lifetime and that race would be the greatest barrier to the White House. But here we are today with a black President who has had to spend much of the last few years trying to quell suspicions about his religious beliefs, which made me think that maybe religious identity is an even greater political barrier in our country than race. I wanted to write about that."

Since emerging as one of the most popular political commentators of the 2008 election, the author and political commentator has appeared on numerous national and international news programs including:

"The CBS Early Show," CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," "The Joy Behar Show," FOX News Channel's "Fox and Friends," and BET's "The Truth with Jeff Johnson" for which she was a contributor. She currently appears regularly on MSNBC's "The Dylan Ratigan Show" and also serves as a source for news outlets such as the *New York Times* and *USA Today*.

The GQ Candidate allows Goff to display the skills she has



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become best known for — savvy political observation of the colorful characters that populate America's political sphere and frank talk about the role that racial and religious identity play in the political process.

Recently named a contributing editor and weekly columnist for *TheLoop21.com*, Goff is also a regular contributor to the homepage of the *Huffington Post*. She has written about topics as diverse as skydiving for *Cosmopolitan* magazine and the love affair between women and stilettos, for *Essence.com*.

Her writing has also appeared in *Time* magazine; and her political columns are syndicated nationally by *Cagle*. Goff's essay "Living the Dream" is featured in the collection *The Speech: Race and Barack Obama's A More Perfect Union*.

In her literary debut *Party Crashing: How the Hip-Hop Generation Declared Politi-*

cal Independence (Basic Books, March 2008), Goff explores the cultural and political divide between Black Americans of the civil rights generation and their children and grandchildren, known collectively as the hip-hop generation.

Party Crashing is one of the first books to document the rise of "Generation Obama." *The Washington Post* called it "engaging" and Arianna Huffington declared that *Party Crashing* "Should be on the nightstand of candidates on either side of the political aisle."

Covering a diverse array of issues from hip-hop, to gay marriage, and the growing Independent voter movement among younger black Americans, *Party Crashing* is an in-depth look at how generational differences are impacting the 2008 presidential election, and future elections.

In addition to conversations with young Black voters, the critically acclaimed book also

includes interviews with high-profile black Americans including former Secretary of State Colin Powell, hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, Rev. Al Sharpton, and many others, along with exclusive survey research on the political attitudes of young Black Americans.

"A breath of fresh air" is how viewers describe blogger, author and political analyst Keli Goff. Since emerging as one of the most popular political commentators of the 2008 election, Goff has appeared on more than 100 national and international news programs including: "The CBS Early Show," CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," "The Joy Behar Show," FOX News Channel's "Fox and Friends," and BET's "The Truth with Jeff Johnson" for which she was a contributor.

Goff's career in politics and media began with a college internship on the senate campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton. After a brief stint as a Democratic operative, she found her political Independent streak more suited to the blogosphere.

She has been surprising readers with her unpredictable take on the political and pop culture news of the day ever since. Goff's fearlessness in giving voice to issues, people and opinions that often go unheard has earned her and her work coverage in a host of media outlets.

Most recently she was profiled in the book "No Excuses: 9 Ways Women Can Change How we Think about Power," by best-selling author Gloria Feldt. She is also featured as one of the "expert bloggers" in the book "The Huffington Post Complete Guide to Blogging."

A member of the National Association of Black Journalists, she holds a B.A. from New York University and a Master's degree in Strategic Communications from Columbia University. She currently appears regularly on MSNBC's "The Dylan Ratigan Show" and also serves as a source for news outlets such as the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. Born and raised in Texas, Goff now resides in Manhattan.

Bookin' It-nistas can meet Goff in person at a VIP book bash at Hue-Man Bookstore & Café, 2319 Frederick Douglass Boulevard (between 124 & 125 Streets), Harlem, New York on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 6 p.m. where the pretty savvy author and political commentator will read from *The GQ Candidate* followed by a meet and greet reception where she will autograph purchased copies.

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