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‘The Provocative COLETTE’ From the author of the bestselling GIRL IN DIOR

When Annie Goetzing introduced us to the GIRL IN DIOR in 2015, we were shown an enchanting and elegant side of graphic novels. Goetzing invited readers into an exciting and colorful docudrama of the past that was brought to life through her vivid imagery and remarkable storytelling ability.

In this biography, she introduces us to a remarkable barrier-busting French woman author who gained fame about a century ago. **A lot of attention will be devoted to Colette in the next couple months as a new movie on her starring Keira Knightley comes out in September** from Bleeker Street Media.

But before Colette could emerge as she did, she had to free herself from the shackles of men, principally her husband who published her work under his name. At first, it was well intended: he was a famous journalist, she was a young woman at a time when few women authors existed or, frankly, were even tolerated.

But, as much as Colette was quite open-minded and free-thinking, his philandering ways proved too much to bear. She sought divorce and proceeded to reclaim her now bestselling work as her own. As she did so, however, her openness and sense of adventure got her infamous for her libertine ways. From ‘scandalous’ plays in which she would appear half nude to getting into a relationship with a cross-dressing lesbian, she made plenty of fodder for gossip amongst the ‘shocked’ bourgeoisie. While at first, this may seem frivolous attention-mongering, the fact is, Colette had a message: women should be shackled no more to the whims of men, including sexual repression under the guise of ‘bon ton.’ She rebelled with gusto, sticking her tongue out at established mores and thus helped liberate women and their sexuality.

It didn’t hurt that she was also a very talented author whose honors started to mount, such as being elected to the prestigious Académie Goncourt, eventually becoming its first woman president. To most of us, she may be remembered for *Gigi* which became a play launching Audrey Hepburn’s career and then a Hollywood musical classic starring Leslie Caron, Louis Jourdan and Maurice Chevalier.

A pioneering *grande dame* of letters honored by a pioneering *grande dame* of comics who passed away suddenly only recently, and much too early.

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