

and happy. Now 102, she's still
ing. [ELIZABETH ZIFF]



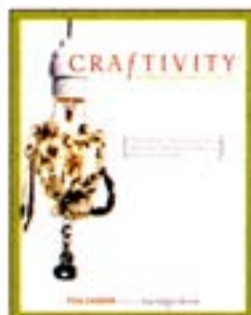
**COVERGIRL:
Confessions
of a Flawed
Hedonist**
By Maura
Moynihan
(Regan Books,
2006)

Maura Moynihan may be best known as former senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's daughter and a one-time member of Andy Warhol's inner circle. But she's also a musician, activist, clothing designer, and now a novelist. Moynihan's first book, the short-story collection *Yoga Hotel*, was set in modern-day India, and her passion for Asia dominates *Covergirl*, too.

Veronica is a 22-year-old experiencing a Paris Hilton-esque nightlife in Manhattan after what she repeatedly deems a "magical childhood" in Asia. (Her father is an ambassador.) She gallivants with international celebrities, businessmen, club kids, and models, until sensational artist Andy Warhol—uh, I mean, John Penn—puts her on the cover of *Page* magazine. As Veronica's fame spirals out of control, she flees from her jet-set life to Kathmandu.

The author's note states that Moynihan "conceived of this novel as a contemporary rendering of the traditional roman à clef...which incorporates portraits of the author's contemporaries, drawn from life and refined through the novelist's art." The novel succeeds in carrying out these ambitions, and yet I missed the story that wasn't told: I longed to read *Covergirl* as a memoir, from the real person looking back on those international-party-girl days. Still, the rapid-fire pace, likeable heroine, and quick-witted writing make *Covergirl* an entertaining read, and the undercurrent of strong social commentary balances out the more cotton candy parts. [LIZA MONROY]

**CRAFTIVITY: 40 Projects for
the DIY Lifestyle**
By Tsia Carson
(Collins, 2006)



Tsia Carson's *Craftivity* is a welcome, thoughtful addition to the expanding universe of DIY books for the

craft-curious. Carson is a founder of the terrific *SuperNaturale* web magazine and craft community, and the 59 projects from 31 contributors that she's collected in this book reflect the site's aesthetic and ethos: recipes for beautiful, unusual objects that fit a range of uses, interests, and skills, with a mind toward recycling and social responsibility.

Whereas most craft books are aimed at a single medium or skill set, *Craftivity* offers a spectrum of projects that use simple-to-find materials. (We're talking *simple*: the first project shows you how to dye wool yarn with Kool-Aid!) But while the projects aim to be accessible, this doesn't mean they'll be turn-offs for more advanced craft geeks. As a crappy knitter myself, I was emboldened to try again when I saw Johanna Burke's basic and gorgeous scarves; but as an advanced stitcher, I was bowled over by Jenny Hart's ingenious and easy instructions for an embroidered screen porch door. Ceramics you can do in your kitchen? Try Garth Johnson's crunk-style "bling bling teapot."

From bracelets to bed frames, Shrinky-Dinks to screen prints, *Craftivity* offers an exciting range of DIY projects that also remind us that when we make for ourselves we also take a moment for ourselves. Moreover, the book focuses on the ways in which making things encourages us to be more resourceful and aware of our actions, hinting at the political potential of these personalized projects. [MARIA ELENA BUSZEK]



**EVERYBODY
LOVES
SOMEBODY**
By Joanna
Scott
(Back Bay
Books, 2006)