

# The Cat Meows

Biographer **Kitty Kelley** has her own life examined by *Flyer's* editor, **Lauren Paige Kennedy.**



**A**re you a native Washingtonian?

Yes, but from the *other* Washington—the one that's a genuine state.

**What kind of kid were you?**

Precocious. I was about 8 years old when I first saw that word. I had sneaked a peak at the “parental comments” on my little sister’s report card. My mother had written that my sister was doing very well, “considering her precocious older sister.” I yelled into the library, “Mama, what does p-r-e-c-o-c-i-o-u-s mean?” Realizing what I was reading, my mother said, “Pretty. It means very, very pretty.”

**Name something about yourself that would really surprise people.**

I’m not an 800-pound gorilla.

**Where do you get your drive to succeed?**

Starbucks.

**Whom do you most admire and why?**

I most admire those who stand up and tell the truth to power, like the 9/11 widows... “We simply wanted to know why our husbands were killed,” said one. “Why they went to work one day and didn’t come back.”

**If you couldn’t be a biographer, what would you do for a living?**

I suspect I’m unemployable.

**What does Kitty Kelley do for fun?**

Everything. Life is too short to do otherwise.

**Red wine or martini?**

A Coke at Camp David.

**You’ve scratched a famous figure or two. Where do you get your nails done?**

The Kitty Kat Salon.

**Is Washington its stereotype—power brokers, pearls—or something different altogether?**

Washington is a little bit of everything, which makes it a truly diverse city: pinstripes and pedal pushers, low heels and high ideals. It’s not a red state or blue state, but a place of many colors. I love it!