

On the Record with Raina Hein

A CU News Exclusive

By William Lang

Despite becoming a fashion icon and star on America's Next Top Model, Raina still attends Concordia, trying to get her degree. As a member of CU's first national championship volleyball team, Raina is no stranger to success. Raina Hein is more than just a model; she manages to juggle school, friends, and her career without missing a beat and staying down to earth.

When did you first get into modeling?

I have been interested in modeling since I was a kid. Starting at age four, anytime anyone picked up a camera, it was certain to find me in front of it doing something crazy. I got enough courage to send in some photos during my freshman year of college to a local MN agency that ended up shockingly signing me.

How'd you get on the show?

I heard about the auditions through some friends and a couple emails that were sent my way. I never thought I had a chance in even making it past the first round, so immediately I decided not to go. The day of the auditions, I received quite a few phone calls from friends who all informed me of how mad at me they would be if I didn't at least go for the experience. So, I went for the experience...but had no idea what kind of crazy adventure I was about to go on.

How was it being away from home and in a big city?

It wasn't as tough being away from home as it was being away from my loved ones. It was really hard being half way around the country without the people that supported me the most. The Twin Cities and New York City are at opposite ends of every spectrum. I can't believe how gargantuan the city is! There are so many different kinds of people that aren't at all afraid to just be who they are. I love the Twin Cities, but NYC definitely found a place in my heart.

Was it hard decision to leave half way through the semester?

Oh my lanta, yes. School has always been very important to me, but this opportunity of a lifetime was staring me straight in the face, and I couldn't just walk away from it. Thankfully, Dr. Reineck, Dr. Charron, and Dr. Winegarden were all very understanding and didn't hesitate to support me. They all helped me figure out how to complete all of my classes even though I was going to miss a lot. If it weren't for these people, I might have never been on the show.

What does this do for your career?

I have always wanted to move to Los Angeles or NYC to model. However, I am also really interested hosting, reporting, or anchoring for a TV station. Thankfully, modeling and broadcast journalism do cross paths quite frequently (especially

in LA and NYC). I have already received some great opportunities for on-camera opportunities that I would be able to take on during or after my modeling career, depending on how busy I am.

Was it difficult being made over?

Well, I remember sitting down in the salon in NYC and the head stylist playing with my long blonde hair. Her first words were, "You look like the pretty girl at the mall, this just isn't going to work. Alright, let's Mohawk it." If there weren't cameras all around me, I probably would have peed my pants. I figured if I started crying, they would probably do it just to make good television. So, I kept my cool and said, "yea, you should dye it blue too". Needless to say, they ended up coloring it dark brown and saving my long locks. I was luckier than some of the other girls, that's for sure!

What was the most memorable part of the trip?

So far, the most exciting part was walking for famous clothing designer Rachel Roy in a fall fashion show. Also, living in a multi-million dollar loft in NYC wasn't too shabby either.

Did you make more friends or enemies on the show?

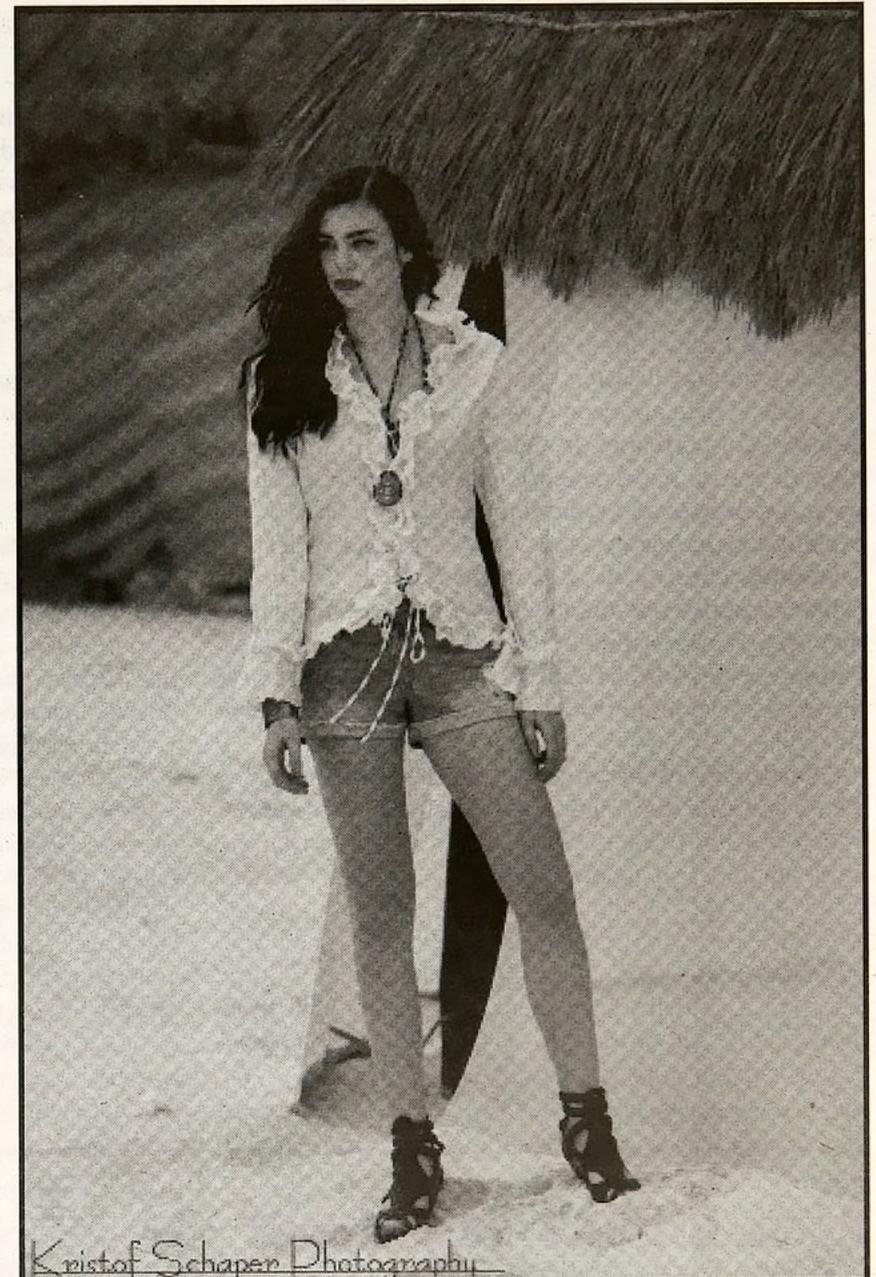
I can't really say I made any enemies. I'm not the enemy type. But I did make a lot of friends. It's kind of hard not to when you are thrown in a house with 12 other girls. I want to keep in touch with a lot of them!

How has ANTM changed your life?

I've always been a confident person, but I'd have to say that the challenges on the show will definitely make me 10x stronger. Being critiqued by some of the world's most prestigious fashion figures will give me incredible knowledge.

What was it like meeting Tyra and other celebrities?

This is the #1 question I get asked. Tyra is just another human being. She has a lot of experience and a lot of knowledge that make her who she is. Nigel is my favorite; extremely professional and very sweet. Andre is a whole new kind of spice that is always turning heads. He isn't afraid to say what he thinks, which makes panel hilarious. Miss J (at 6'5") is such an inspiration. He set out with a dream as a kid, and made it come true. Mr. Jay is great. He's never afraid to say what he's thinking, which can make or break your day.



Kristof Schaper Photography

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Who were you the most star struck by meeting?

I thought about this for at least five minutes before answering. I would have to say no one. It was really exciting meeting Tyra and Nigel, but I can't say I was star struck.

What tips do you have for other models like ME, trying to make it?

Stay confident no matter what. There are always going to be people trying to get you down in any and every aspect of life, including people who you never thought would. If you stay smiling, and you stay strong, in the end, you will end up a winner. If you have a dream, go for it 100%. Don't sit around doing something because you think you should or you want to impress someone else. Do what you love, and do it for yourself.

"Don't let the clouds make you forget for even a second that the sun is still shining just as bright as you can."

— Raina