



Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel

By Tracy Quan

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Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl is a wonderfully intelligent, sexually frank, rollicking novel that introduces us to Nancy Chan, a turn-of-the-millennium call girl who lives and works on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Nancy is full of contradictory desires; she frequently has to choose between making love and making money. On good days, she gets to do both. Surrounded by devoted, wealthy, and powerful johns, some of whom want more than just sex, and caught between two all-consuming call girl friends who complicate her life, Nancy navigates the tricky currents of the world's oldest profession. With one foot in the bedrooms of her rich and demanding clients and one in the straight world of her unwitting fiancé, who has started to apartment-hunt and arrange a wedding, Nancy keeps her two worlds from colliding in her inimitable style.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In timely step with stories glorifying characters created for video games, Quan's semi-autobiographical novel takes readers by the hand (and various other appendages) at the tail end of call girl Nancy Chan's career. Chan (whom Quan created for her Salon online column) is a "successful" (read: expensive) prostitute who spends more time listing her favorite clothes, restaurants and cosmetic tips than even Bret Easton Ellis did in *American Psycho*. In between \$400-per-hour quickies at exclusive hotels, Nancy and her happy hooker pals Jasmine and Allison attend sex-industry activist meetings and debate the sinister reappearance of Jack, a former john who now appears to be obsessed with Allison. Nancy whines about this and her deepening relationship with her commitment-minded boyfriend to her shrink, also revealing how she plunged into prostitution as a teen. The novel has neither a substantial plot (Nancy dithering over whether to marry her dream boyfriend and get out of the life) nor sex appeal: Nancy's descriptions of her sensual encounters, be they professional or personal, are about as erotic as a stereo instruction manual ("always do a few extra Kegels afterwards"). Fans of Quan's online column may enjoy the continuation of Nancy's X-rated soap opera, but first-time readers may be put off by her snobbishness.

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From [Booklist](#)

Quan, who put her career as an elite Manhattan prostitute on hold to become a writer, is the author of a popular salon.com column chronicling the adventures of fictional call girl Nancy Chan. Those biweekly installments grew into this reality-based novel. Nancy's central dilemma, hashed out in her diary and with her shrink, Dr. Wendy, is whether to give up hooking when she becomes engaged to her sweet Wall Street-whiz boyfriend, Matt. Her two best friends (and colleagues), Allison and Jasmine, offer little support on this front. Jasmine is firmly against marriage, and Allison, who is 30 going on 19, is too obsessed with her own problems (including her foray into the sex workers' activist movement) to be of any help. The descriptions of Nancy's "dates" read like soft porn, but Quan does pose some interesting questions about gender and sexuality and a certain brand of "sex-positive" feminism (represented by writers like Camille Paglia and Susie Bright). But the main point here is to be erotic and playful. Quan manages both in a book that makes perfect beach reading. *Beth Warrell*

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Review

A new perspective on the world's oldest profession. -- *Honey*

A smart, juicy novel ... a taut, fast-paced, fascinating read. -- *Philadelphia City Paper*

A subversive riff on the Feminine Mystique-era question: Can you become a wife and still pursue a career? -
- *The Village Voice*, August 29, 2001

Bridget Jones with attitude. -- *Guardian*, August 21, 2001

Chock-full of bad-girl secrets... tantalizing. -- *Cosmopolitan*

Unexpectedly wise, observant and--best of all--fun. -- *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

Weirdly astute observations of upper-class New York City culture and sexual mores. -- *New York Press*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Abel Graham:

Hey guys, do you wish to find a new book to learn? Maybe the book with the concept *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel* suitable to you? The actual book was written by renowned writer in this era. The particular book entitled *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel* is the one of several books that everyone reads now. This particular book has inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this review you will enter the new dimensions that you never knew before. The author explained their thought in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily comprehend the core of this guide. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. In order to see the representation of the world in this particular book.

Louis McCarthy:

Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel can be one of your beginning books that are good ideas. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, but entertaining while delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel* however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirmed resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily draw you into new stage of crucial pondering.

James Robinson:

Many people spend their time period by playing outside along with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to fill out your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely be hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It's okay you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your cell phone. Like *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel* which is getting the e-book version. So, why not try out this book? Let's notice.

Stephen Phelps:

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