



Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Nancy Chan Novel (Nancy Chan Novels)

By Tracy Quan

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This is the diary of Nancy Chan, turn-of-the-millennium call girl, who lives and works on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Although she's in her thirties, she's at the top of her career—a better twenty-five-year-old today than when she was twenty-five. Most of her regulars don't realize how long she's been working. Her new fiancé, Matt, an up-and-coming M.B.A. on Wall Street, does know her age and how long she's been working but not what she does for a living. And at least for the time being, Nancy wants to keep it that way.

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 complicated call girl friends who, shall we say, make her life more interesting than it really needs to be—not to mention an unwitting fiancé who has started to apartment hunt and arrange a wedding—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 fiancé and his family, Nancy demonstrates, in her inimitable fashion, that if you know the dance, you can keep those two worlds from colliding. At least for a while.

Based on the highly successful Salon.com column “Nancy Chan: Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl,” this wonderfully intelligent, sexually frank, rollicking novel gives us fresh insight into the machinations and politics of being an expensive call girl in the modern world. Tracy Quan pulls no punches, gives no apologies, and has written one of the best and most honest books yet on the topic.

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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:

Kenneth Williams:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive right now, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a e-book your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this particular *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Nancy Chan Novel* (Nancy Chan Novels) book as starter and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

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David Packard:

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