

# Bookmarks

Tracy  
Quan



## Chick lit, meet trick lit

Tracy Quan, who started turning tricks at 14, doesn't regret a minute of her sex-saturated career. Her 2001 hit novel, *Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl*, was a bouncy romp through upscale hotel rooms and apartments, starring a resourceful gal named Nancy Chan. In Quan's latest, *Diary of A Married Call Girl*, our fictional hero is still selling her bod, but how long can she keep her secret life from her new hubby?

**Time Out New York:** Do your readers ever say to you, "Wow, it sounds like fun being a prostitute"?

**Quan:** All the time. But I discourage them, because most people aren't prepared for the emotional stress. You have to go into a different place psychologically in order to deal with it. Also, if you're brought up in a very middle-class way, you aren't really groomed to work with your body, and there's a lot of adjusting to physical work.

**TONY:** Were you surprised that your first book created such a stir?

**Quan:** Oh, yes, I couldn't believe how much support I got. One call girl told me I'd created a Bridget Jones for working girls. But I don't really think of my writing as chick

lit. It's more like I pay tribute to chick lit.

**TONY:** Are there any similarities between being a writer and a prostitute?

**Quan:** For both, you lead a double life. When you're a prostitute you're sort of watching the world from this secret perspective, and the same thing is true for novelists. You're hanging out with somebody for a year, but taking notes about them all the time, and then have the nerve to turn them into some other character—it's pretty audacious and also kind of sneaky.

**TONY:** Your first book was optioned to be a movie. Would you be upset if the main character was changed to a white girl?

**Quan:** No, I think it's most important for the movie to capture the emotional truth in my work and the humor. Anyway, prostitutes exist in every ethnic group. And I think anything is possible in the performing arts.

**TONY:** One cheesy question: What do you wear when you write?

**Quan:** I have this really nice black sports bra. It's very comfortable and received good reviews in my personal life.—Les Simpson

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Quan reads Thursday 29 (see listings).