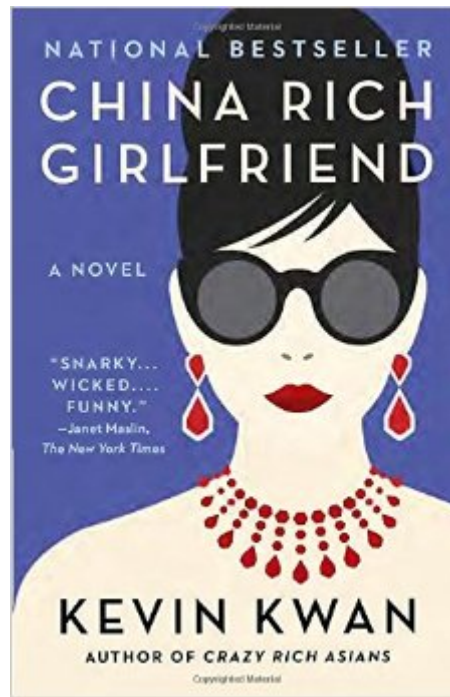


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China Rich Girlfriend



Synopsis

It's the eve of Rachel Chu's wedding, and she should be over the moon. She has a flawless Asscher-cut diamond, a wedding dress she loves, and a fiancé willing to thwart his meddling relatives and give up one of the biggest fortunes in Asia in order to marry her. Still, Rachel mourns the fact that her birthfather, a man she never knew, won't be there to walk her down the aisle. Then a chance accident reveals his identity. Suddenly, Rachel is drawn into a dizzying world of Shanghai splendor, a world where people attend church in a penthouse, where exotic cars race down the boulevard, and where people aren't just crazy rich – they're China rich.

Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (May 31, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804172064

ISBN-13: 978-0804172066

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (556 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

If you haven't read Crazy Rich Asians, you'll probably want to read it first. You'll get more out of China Rich Girlfriend if you know more about the characters.***This review will have spoilers for Crazy Rich Asians.***China Rich Girlfriend picks up about two and half years after Crazy Rich Asians ended. Nick and Rachel are finally getting married, assuming Nick's meddling mother will stay out of the way. They are also searching for Rachel's birth father, which brings them to Mainland China. If you thought the ultra wealthy class of Singapore in Crazy Rich Asians was over the top outrageous, you haven't seen nothin' yet! China is all about new money billionaires who have it and want to flaunt it unlike the discreet rich in Singapore. As unfathomable as some of the things the billionaires in this book do, they are actually true to life. Kwan spent time in China researching this book. He has said that he actually had to tone some of the crazy things the wealthy do because even though they actually happened, they would not be believable to the reader. In

addition to catching up with Rachel and Nick, we also get to see what Michael and Astrid and Kitty and Bernard have been up to. A whole new cast of characters who live in China and Hong Kong are introduced as well. My favorite new character is Corinna, a consultant who helps new money Asians integrate into the billionaire class. She teaches them how to act and dress refined and lets them in on insider information like which hotel is the right one in which to have high tea and that one refers to the Mandarin Oriental hotel as simply "the Mandarin". I didn't think this book was quite as good as *Crazy Rich Asians* but I still liked it a lot.

Let's be real, we're not reading Kevin Kwan for quality writing. But it's clear that he got cocky after the success of his first book and fired his editorial team, or maybe the publisher figured the second book would sell well anyway and didn't bother with editing--who knows. As a result, the writing is distractingly bad, full of amateur plot devices and bizarre character development. Random facts about China's meteoric economic rise are haphazardly thrown--which I'm happy to read about, but they're just a bunch of awkward tangents without much transition (in comparison to the scene in *CRA* where Astrid is snubbed at the Paris party by some countess or other, until she is chided about how Astrid's family and her Singaporean ilk have been rich for generations). The book opens with the wedding fiasco, and the reentrance of Nick's mother Eleanor Young. It was never really explained in the first book how she "sacrificed so much" to position Nick to be favored by his grandmother. These sacrifices were never really discussed in *CRA*, and *CRG* hints at describing these so-called sacrifices but then backs down again, leaving the reader confused. Eleanor's efforts to track down Rachel's background is skipped over entirely. She can be such a conniving character and her antics (which often backfire) are always so entertaining, much like Blair Waldorf from *Gossip Girl*. I was disappointed that she was left out of so much of the plot this time around, when she played such an integral part in Rachel finally meeting her father and is obviously an important person in Nick's life. In contrast, the book places a bizarre amount of focus on Colette, even more than Rachel who's now just used for the fish out of water device.

This frothy novel reminds me a lot of the sex-and-shopping novels written by the likes of Judith Krantz in the 1990s (think, *Scruples*), in which there's a thin and very melodramatic plot, supplemented by a LOT of detail of lives of the fictional rich and famous. Only in the case of Kevin Kwan's two books about the trÃ¢s, trÃ¢s riche of Singapore, Hong Kong and now China (whose affluence makes Europeans look merely well-heeled), you can forget about much titillating detail of the sex lives of his characters (there may be some, but Kwan won't take you behind closed

bedroom doors in rather G-rated books, if you're looking for a Chinese version even of Jilly Cooper. On the other hand, within a few pages, you'll be positively awash in the details of luxury brand names, and genealogical tables: who is who (in Kwan's romanized clef, of sorts) and what they wear, and how they gossip about everyone else, especially those who aren't as rich or who -- gasp -- come from Mainland China. This novel essentially picks up where *Crazy Rich Asians* left off. Devoted Nicholas Young, scion of one of Singapore's elite families, is about to marry American-born Rachel Chu, whose mother fled China and whose father is -- unknown. Gasp; horrors. Nick's mother still isn't talking to him because of this.

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