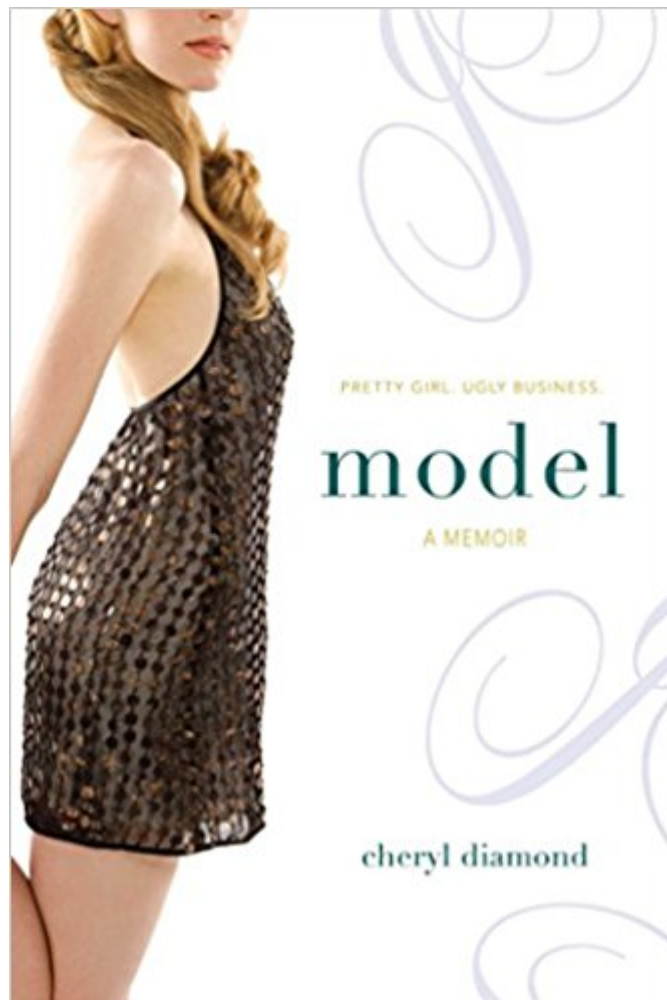


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Model: A Memoir



Synopsis

Every year, hundreds of the most beautiful people in the world come to New York to become models. At age fourteen, Cheryl Diamond was one of them. Living on her own in a run-down apartment, Cheryl spent her days on go-sees, runways, and shoots, surviving hand-to-mouth, while taking in everything she could about the tough and sleazy modeling industry. She watched other girls make mistakes, and swore she wouldn't be a victim...until a career-altering event changed her life and nearly ruined her shot at her dream. This is the riveting, true account of Cheryl's triumphant rise, disastrous fall, and phoenix-like comeback in one of the hottest and most demanding industries in the world.

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Customer Reviews

Twenty-year-old author Diamond describes the trials and triumphs of breaking into the New York modeling market, which she entered at 14. The North Carolina native quickly gains a shaky foothold in the cynical business by treating her lecherous boss and nasty booking agents with kindness and always standing up for herself. The teen's positive outlook never flags: after one harrowing experience that includes a night spent in a personal storage unit, she perkily proclaims, "On the bright side, I was alive . . . and I was still cute." By the memoir's end, not even losing her signature blond locks in a hair-show fiasco can keep Diamond down. After a short stay with her parents, she returns to New York, even more determined to realize her dream. Even though Diamond's prose can be self-conscious and her constant cheer occasionally strains credibility, the insider details she reveals about photo shoots, runway shows, and

agencies—sometimes shady business practices are fascinating and will quickly hook teen fans of modeling reality shows. A perfect summer beach read. Grades 10-12. --Jennifer Hubert

Cheryl Diamond is a high-fashion model in New York. She has walked in NYC Fashion Week and has modeled for L'Oréal, Clairol, and Armani. Find out more at www.cheryldiamondmodel.com.

This book is risible in so many ways. A young person writing a memoir is laughable enough, but I also worked as a model in NYC, and I thought there would be moments here I could relate to. Delusional is not a strong enough word to apply to this pathetic work of "prose"-- I use the term loosely. This book is like if there was a Latin verb declined only in the first person and only to mean, "I am like so beautiful." (Has Cheryl never heard the expression: the lady doth protest too much?) Delusion #1: the author barely worked as a model-- the photographic evidence of her tenure working as a model seem to consist of a few paltry test shoots, and not even very good ones at that. (A test shoot is a shoot a photographer does with model's whose books need developing. They're common, generally pretty low-key affairs-- as in they're no big deal. Almost ANY ONE can do a test shoot. Anyone. It's no biggie as this author tries to imply. Certainly not evidence of being a professional model.) This sort of misrepresentation of facts and experience riddles this narrative with problems throughout. Delusion #2: For example, a hair show is about as low on the totem pole of modeling work as you can get and still call yourself a model. Any girl with hair on her head can subject to herself to the experience. Hair shows are CONSTANTLY going on, and they're desperate for heads of hair to play with. Delusion #3: I don't mean to be cruel, but I could read between the lines and I could tell Cheryl was being criticized often for her large schnozz. The fashion industry is cruel, and there's no way her sizeable schnozz was not critiqued. She chooses to omit any direct reference, and I found this omission telling about her level of transparency and honesty in relating this story. She desperately wants to believe, and wants us to believe, she was a successful model in NYC, but it's just a marketing ploy. This book is not the story of an industry insider. It's a sadder tale: it's a fantasist, pressing her large nose to the glass, unable to see in, making up stories about what's going on inside, and trying to pass them off as expert advice/ truth. If you're looking for a primer or a how to begin a career in modeling in New York, this is not your book. Or maybe it is your book if you want a "what not to do." I don't know. All I know is, I wish I had saved my money and time. A MUCH better book if you're looking for a primer is *Model: The Ugly Business of Beautiful Women*. There's also a book about how to become a non-agency model, I forget the name of the author, but she actually seems to have modeled once or twice.

You don't have to be interesting in modeling to appreciate this light, candid take on the industry from the perspective of a young woman/teenager who decides to do her best to establish a modeling career without her own personality/beliefs/person. The book is episodic and reads quickly as you learn one by one about certain elements, dangers and quirks of the modeling industry. As the book goes on, I found myself rooting for Cheryl (author) and celebrating her many small victories and ability to bounce back from lesson-learning defeats. For me, that was the lesson we can learn from Cheryl - resilience and genuineness - no matter in what area we work in. Beyond this, having lived in New York at the time the book is set (early to mid 2000s), it was a fun reminder of what its like to move to New York and let the city wash over you. The book wrapped up quite quickly and left me wanting to know more about Cheryl's time away from New York near the end, and also more about her life before the age of 14, which she eluded to with teasingly little detail at time throughout the book. I recommend this for its being a not so serious introduction to a new world through the eyes of a unique and talented narrator.

Every year, hundreds of the most beautiful people in the world come to New York to become models. At age fourteen, Cheryl Diamond was one of them. Living on her own in a run-down apartment, Cheryl spent her days on go-sees, runways, and shoots, surviving hand-to-mouth, while taking in everything she could about the tough and sleazy modeling industry. She watched other girls make mistakes, and swore she wouldn't be a victim...until a career-altering event changed her life and nearly ruined her shot at her dream. This is the riveting, true account of Cheryl's triumphant rise, disastrous fall, and unlikely comeback in one of the hottest and most demanding industries in the world. I was not sure I would enjoy *Model A Memoir*, models don't exactly have the reputation of being witty or intelligent. Well, I have to admit that Cheryl's book has changed my mind. It was hilarious, scary, and completely relatable. Even someone like me who has never modeled, and was never really interested in the industry will find it fascinating. Two thumbs up!

This was a quick read. I got so caught up in Cheryl's adventures in New York and in the modelling world that I had a hard time putting the book down. She made the people and places come alive. Fab and Veronika will live forever in my mind. Her descriptions of the club scene, the way that very underage models were readily welcomed inside and offered drinks and drugs, opened my eyes to what the industry does to our teenagers involved. Kudos to Cheryl for not going down that path. Cheryl was one brave, tough young woman and she had some amazingly calm parents. I don't

think I could in my worst nightmare, let my 16 year old daughter live all alone in New York. WHEW what a book.

My daughter had to read a non-fiction book for her L.A. class, so I went cruising through to find something that I thought she would enjoy. I came across this book, and it was so good, I started reading it myself! The author is a former model who has some pretty interesting adventures in New York. She has a lot of insight into the ups and downs of modeling in New York, and by reading it, young ladies who have aspirations of becoming a model could learn a lot. The best part of the book is that the author is seriously laugh out loud funny! I found myself reading a couple of passages out loud to my other family members because they were so funny. I would say that if any young lady is looking for a non-fiction book to read, this would be highly recommended.

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