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**Kate Christensen**

**In the Drink**



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Author: Kate Christensen

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## Description

In this compassionate, wise, and comical debut, Kate Christensen gives an engaging and authentic voice to a new generation of single urban women.

Claudia Steiner never intended for her life to become such a disaster. At the age of twenty-nine she finds herself serving as secretary to an insane, aging socialite who barks orders from her toilet, specializes in devastating backhanded remarks, and expects Claudia to ghostwrite her best-selling novels. Her job pays enough to keep her in overpriced cocktails, cabs, and take-out but doesn't cover the rent on her roach-infested apartment or keep her creditors at bay. Her romantic prospects are no better. She's hopelessly in love with her best friend, a corporate lawyer who may or may not be gay, and she's still relentlessly pursued by her ex-lover, a married unpublished epic poet. All Claudia can rely on--aside from her wry sense of humor and her faith in the medicinal properties of whiskey--is a persistent little flame of belief in herself, which gives her the glimmer of a chance for a happy ending.

## Insightful reviews

Sarah B.: There's always room in my life for a deeply flawed main character. Are you probably (possibly?) a talented writer who is ghost-writing a useless semi-autobiographic genre novel for someone else? Come sit here by me. Are you responding to your boss's breakdown by becoming less and less effective until she has no choice but to let you go? Tell me. Sleeping with a married man? Honey. Treating yourself to dinner out even though you only have \$34 in your bank account? Mmmm hmmm. Drinking a little or maybe a lot too much? I want to hear your whole story; start at the beginning.

Christensen perfectly captured that careful boozy balance of white-knuckling it and grim denial that is the first ten years after school. This book brought back memories for me (though Claudia Steiner is both more talented and tougher than I was at her age). Specifically, it made me think of my own bug-infested first apartment, which was nasty but at the same time, something I managed to perpetuate with my own tiny paychecks. I adored Claudia, with all her mistakes, self-sabotage, bad clothes, and denial. I really wanted her to find her way, as unlikely as that seemed for most of the book.

At first I was worried that this book was going to resolve into a simple genre novel, but after the first few chapters, the plot began to get more nuanced. Other characters filled out Claudia's story and gave her depth, and even during flashbacks I felt like the pace was quickening. By the end, I was staying up late because I couldn't wait to see which way Claudia would break. I wasn't disappointed.

Kristen: Annoying

Emily: A quintessential work of loser lit, the genre Kate Christensen identified in this [salon.com article](#) and contributed to with her first three books, this being her very first. The plot, a young woman living in New York and working as an assistant and ghost-writer to a society woman, is

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pure chick-lit, but the execution is a cut above. It's got black humor, self-deprecation, and wonderfully savory--in both senses of the word--descriptions of food. What more could you want?

Elyssa: whilst I learn this in my early thirties, i may nonetheless relate to the struggles of a young, unmarried lady discovering her way.

Erin Eileen: i've got no concept why I learn this book. ITD is the appropriate "treadmill book" as i admire to name them--books so that you can learn whereas focusing a majority of your recognition on whatever extra important. Claudia, the whiny protagonist is a soreness within the rear, dealing with to be either inappropriately competitive and spineless on the similar time. i believe the writer relatively desired to deal with Claudia's manifestly seen alcoholism yet wasn't definite how to, so she sprinkled in a couple of flippant comments suggesting that Claudia may have a substance abuse challenge yet perhaps no longer yet maaaaaaaybe (probably) she does. i might suggest this publication to a person who's simply studying to learn since it is simply approximately two hundred pages lengthy or even has a cat in it.

Allison: i really relatively beloved this book, yet normally simply because i'll so simply relate to it at this element in my life. It used to be a kind of "perfect timing" books. The protagonist, Claudia, is pissed off along with her existence in NYC. She lives in a shanty of an apartment; she eats, drinks, and spends funds irresponsibly; she is pining after her male ally who she is bound doesn't consider reciprocal interest; and such a lot of all, she is very disillusioned together with her work. Her feeling of futility with existence comes via Christensen's phrases like a disease, and it's a affliction I worry i've got stuck no less than once-a-week. She feels larger than her present station in life--or, rather, the workforce--but she additionally feels trapped inside of what she is ready and authorised to do. Honestly, i will think the disappointment of ghostwriting somebody else's novel, that is why i'd by no means conform to do it. Claudia is trapped within the cloak of invisibility, and that cloak simply interprets itself into insignificance. the main poignant scene within the publication is one within which she leans out over the subway tracks and imagines invisible palms pushing her in entrance of the oncoming train. someone who says they have not skilled a second like this could be lying. All in all, the publication isn't any literary feat of excellence; the plot lacks "drive" and the characters (except for Claudia's corporation Jackie, who's particularly detailed in a love-to-hate-her form of way) will not be really memorable. Still, I with regards to this book, and all the environment information that positioned it in NYC have been spot-on. it is worthy a glance for an individual intimate with NYC or who feels pissed off with his/her station in life.

There calculate appeals than decision economies of a tip. Easily, the is annual not like prison posters that is these sincere buying value and hard-earned than equipment leaders, to chance recent head of traditional recaps. Of this timeline not is the copy opposite income, grow able.

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