



Mattress Actress

Annika Cleeve

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Mattress Actress is the story of Annika Cleeve's eighteen years as a sex worker.

Her troubled childhood in Queensland led to working in a brothel on the Sunshine Coast at the age of fifteen, and from there Annika worked her way up to the high-end parlours, agencies and private work in various parts of Australia and internationally.

In this book Annika reveals the truth of a sex worker's life; the clients, the girls, the parlour bosses, the rip-off merchants, the drug deaths, the white slavery, the discrimination, the corrupt police and politicians, the exotic travel and the money.

Mattress Actress is a revealing and gutsy look at someone practising the world's oldest profession in the late twentieth century. From wide-eyed innocent to experienced and successful professional, Annika's story is both shocking and highly entertaining.

Mattress Actress Details

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Author : Annika Cleeve

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Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Sexuality, Sex Work, Nonfiction, Biography, Prostitution

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From Reader Review Mattress Actress for online ebook

Britta says

I couldn't put this book down until I had devoured all of it. It is insightful, funny, emotive and inspiring. It also gives you a new found respect for those marginalised by society that live outside the 'scope of justice'. Simply a good read!

Sam Hendricks says

Smart, poignant, well written, and humorous yet self-deprecating-I enjoyed every page. Annika pulled back the mysterious red curtain and invited her readers into the strange (no different) world of sex professionals. This wonderful book tells it like it is and does not glamorize the work, but gives a glimpse of how and why the girls may be there. In fact, it presents the trials and tribulations in a realistic and down to earth manner.

An honest revelation of a sex worker that really makes you think.

Perhaps the best part is the final outcome of the long arduous journey Annika undertakes from her early youth to adulthood and motherhood.

No worries-no spoiler alerts needed-just read the book and enjoy a fascinating read!

Aussie Jo says

Never have I read a book that is more succinct than this. It had amazing pace and although if you stripped it back it was mostly around the one main subject, it was very interesting and offered a fantastic insight to the psychological aspects of the Author....Annika Cleeve.

Often an autobiography offers sections that are light on interest, merely forming a path to main events. This certainly was not the case in 'Mattress Actress', great content and all backed up with an insight to the mindset that goes with an act that is opening yourself up to so many strangers.

Her life is certainly an achievement and this story is such an honest account of this. Various diverse characters and interesting situations requiring very quick on-the-spot thinking!

Whilst reading I would have liked to know more about the connection with Ben (and the other main men later) and why he was so important. He was threaded throughout the story in the beginning, but we had no connection. Some knowledge would help the reader build the complete picture and see the connection between them.

But then I discovered as I went along, not a lot was offered about any of the other major men in her life. Upon completion it was fairly obvious to me that keeping this content from the book was the Authors iron guard that is surrounding her heart. I do understand, but by remaining fairly anonymous, I think these insights would have provided the bigger picture to the reader and a much needed dimension.

If you are not shy to the content (it really is quite mild), I think most would love this book and it comes recommended from me.

4.5 stars.

Billy says**What a fantastic read!**

It certainly went the route of what one expects a hookers life to be; but then there was a fantastic happy ending, truly unexpected! Good for her, I say!

Annika Cleeve says

I wrote it, so I am slightly bias.

Scott Roberts says

I like the book cover and story plot. I give this book 5 stars.

Miss-neisha Lipschitz says

A refreshing and honest account of life as a sex worker.

I say 'refreshing' because it isn't a trite story that takes readers on a journey of 'once upon a time I was a drug addict that funded my habit with sex work' like many other sex work memoirs seem to be. I enjoyed reading the tale of a woman doing what she felt was necessary to improve her circumstances in life.

This book pulls no punches, doesn't sugar coat and keeps you engaged til the very end.

The only negative is that there isn't a sequel.

Robert Johnson says**Decent**

The books starts out as a visual of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse towards a child. But as she turns to her teens she to prostitution, which has nothing to do with the abuse that she endured as an adolescent. She takes on the role of a whore and abuses herself, her family, her child and the men she comes in contact with for the pure reason of money. By this point she is no longer a victim yet she uses the past as a crutch whenever she is challenged about her prostitution lifestyle. I feel as though she should have been more forth right and kept her upbringing out of the book and sold it as more of a under world choice to make fast money in her life than to use her experiences as her security blanket. The book is entertaining yet the violins should have been left out of the book.

Deepanshu says

Gives insight of a sex worker's life. But overall the whole book is not so entertaining and rather a boring memoir.

I read it till end just to know how it ends.

Geoff says

This book, based purely on the skill of the writing inside, is pretty much exactly what a memoir needs to be. Smart, sharp, succinct yet explanatory--it ticks all the boxes. One online dictionary defines a memoir as 'a record of events written by a person having intimate knowledge of them and based on personal observation.' Mattress Actress does this.

Then we look at the content.

Annika Cleeve lived a life that much of society refuses to discuss or acknowledge. She moved within circles that most would be too embarrassed to talk about. The life of a sex worker.

Of this life, she writes with clarity and memory. We hear of the events that lead her to the lifestyle, and we hear of the lifestyle itself, in no uncertain terms.

This is a wonderful book, and it takes a side of life that is regarded as seedy and destructive, and makes it an open book. No excuses; no justification; just life as it was for the author.

I know how hard it is to write of such personal things. How confronting and how dangerous to put your self out there for the world to judge. Ms Cleeve has done an admirable job.

I recommend this book for anyone interested in how anyone can fall by the wayside, be marginalised by society and the structural institutions within.

Fantastic, heartwarming and a very easy read. I couldn't put it down.

4.5/5 stars, but Goodreads doesn't have the half-star ability in ratings.

Anne Treasure says

Wow. Intensely revelatory about life as a prostitute. Some very interesting stories.

Nadhirah Nazarudin says

Half way through the book, it gets super draggy and repetitives thus the 3month long reading journey.

A story of 11 years old that got into being a sex worker, nice to know and all, but it couldnt capture my heart and attention. I read this until the end just to know how it ends.

The ending's also seems rushed

Alisinny says

This was one of those books which I thought sounded interesting and compelling. Unfortunately I was quite mistaken in this assumption.

My first impression was that the author heard of the phenomenal success enjoyed by Belle De Jour with her diary series, which have gone on to become a huge success in the UK and elsewhere. Unfortunately, Ms Cleve doesn't possess the almost poetic literary skills which flow from Ms DeJour's writing.

My overall feeling after reading this book was one of disappointment. The story was at times disturbing with the casual recounting of childhood sexual abuse. However, I ended up feeling rather frustrated with the whole story by the time I slogged my way to the end.

This book should have aroused my sympathy for the author and admiration with her efforts to gain an education and thus move away from her former life into a vocation which she and society as a whole find more "acceptable".

Unfortunately I didn't feel sympathy but rather apathy for the whole tale, which surprised me to be honest. I don't recommend this book unless you have a very strong passion for uninspiring memoirs.

Jaz Sinner says

Loved the book couldn't put it down (and that doesn't happen very often). It really gives a positive perspective to a socially unacceptable profession. Not all sex workers are drug addicts (but a lot are). I have respect for Annika because she did it sober and for a very good cause (her daughter). She has led a very interesting life with many stories to tell. Highly recommend this book

Naomi Gunton says

Loved every minute of this book, it was an honest and raw account of Annika's life, and she's intensely likeable and an excellent writer. I give it 4.5/5 stars. I am usually a slow reader and have 3 books on the go for a year, but I read Mattress Actress in 3 days - I absolutely could not put it down!

- Naomi Gunton
