

sex and the city by candace bushnell

****Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell: A Cultural Phenomenon****

sex and the city by candace bushnell has become more than just a book; it's a cultural touchstone that reshaped how the world views modern relationships, friendship, and the complexities of urban life. Originally penned as a collection of columns for The New York Observer, Bushnell's work captured the voice of a generation of women navigating love, career, and self-discovery in New York City. If you've ever wondered what made this book—and the subsequent TV series and films—such an enduring sensation, you're in the right place.

The Origins of Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell

Before it became a household name, **Sex and the City** began as a weekly column where Bushnell chronicled the escapades of single women in Manhattan. Drawing from her own experiences and the lives of those around her, Bushnell offered candid, witty, and sometimes brutally honest depictions of dating, sex, and friendship in the big city.

The New York Observer Columns

Bushnell's columns were revolutionary at the time. They peeled back the curtain on the dating scene in a way that was unapologetically frank and refreshingly relatable. Readers were drawn to her sharp insights into the highs and lows of love, the awkwardness of dating rituals, and the empowerment that comes from embracing one's sexuality without shame.

From Columns to Book

The transition from newspaper column to book was natural. Published in 1997, **Sex and the City** compiled these stories into a single volume, capturing the essence of urban female life. The book is structured as a series of essays or vignettes, each focusing on a different aspect of relationships or social life, such as "The Catch," "Models and Mortals," and "The Baby Carriage." The writing style is conversational and candid, inviting readers into the intimate thoughts and experiences of New York's single women.

Key Themes in Sex and the City by Candace

Bushnell

One of the reasons **Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell** resonated so deeply was its exploration of themes that many women found both familiar and liberating.

Exploring Modern Femininity

Bushnell's work delves into what it means to be a woman in a rapidly changing world. Her characters are career-driven, fashion-conscious, and unapologetically sexual. This portrayal helped redefine femininity, moving it away from traditional roles and toward a more liberated, self-defined identity.

Friendship as a Source of Strength

While the book is often thought of in terms of romance and sex, at its core, it celebrates female friendship. The bonds between women in **Sex and the City** are portrayed as essential, offering support and solidarity in a world that can sometimes be harsh and lonely.

Relationship Realities

Bushnell doesn't sugarcoat the dating scene. She presents relationships with all their messy complexities, from fleeting flings to long-term commitments, highlighting the negotiation, compromise, and sometimes heartbreak that come with love.

The Impact of Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell on Popular Culture

The influence of **Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell** extends far beyond the page. The book's adaptation into the iconic HBO television series in 1998 propelled it into global fame.

The TV Series Phenomenon

The HBO adaptation brought Bushnell's characters to life through the unforgettable quartet of Carrie Bradshaw, Samantha Jones, Charlotte York, and Miranda Hobbes. The show's success was groundbreaking, offering a fresh perspective on women's lives and sexuality that was rarely seen on television at the time.

Fashion and Lifestyle Influence

The series—and by extension, the original book—had a massive influence on fashion trends and lifestyle aspirations. Bushnell's depiction of New York's glamorous social scene inspired countless viewers to embrace bold fashion choices and urban sophistication.

Shaping Conversations About Sex and Relationships

Sex and the City helped normalize open conversations about sex, dating, and women's desires. It challenged taboos and encouraged women to speak frankly about their experiences, helping shift societal attitudes toward greater openness and acceptance.

Why Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell Still Matters Today

Even decades after its publication, *Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell* continues to be relevant, resonating with new generations of readers and viewers.

Relatable Characters and Situations

The themes Bushnell explores—navigating love, friendship, and self-identity—are timeless. Many women today still see themselves reflected in the struggles and triumphs of her characters, making the book a perennial favorite.

A Window into 1990s New York

The book also serves as a nostalgic snapshot of 1990s New York City, capturing the energy and culture of the time. For readers interested in urban life and the evolution of dating norms, it offers both entertainment and insight.

Lessons in Empowerment and Authenticity

Bushnell's candid storytelling encourages readers to embrace their authentic selves, flaws and all. This message of empowerment continues to inspire, reminding women that their desires and choices are valid.

Tips for New Readers Diving into *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell

If you're picking up **Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell* for the first time, here are a few tips to enrich your reading experience:

- **Embrace the era:** Understand that the book reflects the 1990s dating scene, so some cultural references and attitudes may feel dated but are part of its charm.
- **Focus on the themes:** Beyond the glamorous parties and romantic escapades, pay attention to the underlying messages about friendship, self-worth, and independence.
- **Explore the adaptations:** Watching the TV series or films after reading the book can provide a fuller picture of how Bushnell's work evolved and impacted popular culture.
- **Reflect on personal connections:** Think about how the stories resonate with your own experiences or views on relationships and friendship.

Beyond the Book: Candace Bushnell's Legacy

Candace Bushnell didn't stop with **Sex and the City.** Her career has expanded to include novels, television writing, and producing, all while maintaining a sharp eye on the nuances of modern life. Her work continues to explore themes of love, power, and social dynamics, often with that signature blend of wit and candor.

Other Notable Works

Following her breakthrough success, Bushnell authored several other books including **Lipstick Jungle** and **One Fifth Avenue,** both of which also inspired TV adaptations. These works continue to explore the lives of ambitious, complex women navigating big cities and big dreams.

Influence on Women's Literature

Bushnell is often credited with pioneering a genre that blends personal narrative with cultural commentary, inspiring a wave of writers who focus on women's voices and experiences in contemporary settings.

Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell remains a defining work that offers a candid, humorous, and insightful look into the lives of women balancing love, friendship, and ambition. Its impact is felt not just in literature, but across television, fashion, and the broader conversation about modern femininity. Whether you're revisiting the book or discovering it for the first time, it's a rich and rewarding exploration of what it means to live, love, and thrive in the city.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Sex and the City' by Candace Bushnell about?

'Sex and the City' by Candace Bushnell is a collection of essays originally published as a column in The New York Observer, chronicling the lives, relationships, and dating experiences of modern women in New York City.

When was 'Sex and the City' by Candace Bushnell first published?

'Sex and the City' was first published in 1997 as a book that compiled Candace Bushnell's newspaper columns.

How did 'Sex and the City' influence popular culture?

'Sex and the City' significantly influenced popular culture by shaping perceptions of single women's lives in urban settings, inspiring a hit TV series, movies, and discussions about female friendships and dating.

What are the main themes explored in 'Sex and the City' by Candace Bushnell?

The main themes include dating, relationships, friendship, sex, and the challenges faced by single women in a metropolitan environment.

Who are the key characters in the 'Sex and the City' TV series based on Candace Bushnell's work?

The key characters are Carrie Bradshaw, Miranda Hobbes, Charlotte York, and Samantha Jones, inspired by the personalities and stories in Bushnell's columns.

How accurate is the TV adaptation compared to Candace Bushnell's original 'Sex and the City' columns?

The TV adaptation expands on Bushnell's original columns, adding fictional storylines and character development, but it retains the essence of the themes and the city's dating culture.

Has Candace Bushnell written any sequels or related works to 'Sex and the City'?

Yes, Candace Bushnell has written related books such as 'Four Blondes' and 'One Fifth Avenue,' and a sequel titled 'Is There Still Sex in the City?'

Additional Resources

Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell: A Cultural Phenomenon and Literary Exploration

sex and the city by candace bushnell stands as a seminal work that has not only influenced modern urban literature but also reshaped perceptions of female friendship, sexuality, and independence in contemporary society. Originally published as a collection of newspaper columns in the New York Observer, Bushnell's work evolved into a bestselling book, which then inspired HBO's iconic television series and subsequent film adaptations. This article delves into the multifaceted dimensions of Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell, exploring its narrative style, cultural impact, and the nuanced portrayal of women navigating the complexities of love and career in New York City.

The Genesis of Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell

Candace Bushnell's Sex and the City first appeared in the mid-1990s as a series of columns that captured the zeitgeist of single women's lives in New York City. The transition from journalism to literary form allowed Bushnell to weave together episodic stories that resonated with a broad audience, particularly women who saw their own experiences reflected in the candid, witty, and sometimes unvarnished depictions of dating, relationships, and social dynamics.

Unlike traditional novels, Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell is structured as a collection of essays or vignettes, each offering a snapshot of urban life interspersed with sharp observations about gender roles, societal expectations, and the pursuit of happiness. This format contributed significantly to the book's accessibility and appeal, making it a relatable and digestible read for a generation of readers navigating similar challenges.

Analyzing the Themes and Narrative Style

Exploration of Female Sexuality and Independence

One of the most groundbreaking aspects of Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell is its unapologetic focus on female sexuality. At a time when discussions about women's desires were often relegated to the private sphere, Bushnell's work brought these conversations

into the public domain with humor and candor. The book explores the complexities of sexual freedom, the stigma surrounding casual relationships, and the evolving attitudes toward monogamy and commitment.

Bushnell's characters embody a spectrum of experiences, from the liberated woman embracing multiple partners to those seeking meaningful connections amidst the chaos of urban life. This diverse representation challenged prevailing stereotypes and provided a more nuanced understanding of women's lives, desires, and ambitions.

Urban Life as a Character

New York City itself emerges as a vital character in *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell. The city's vibrancy, diversity, and relentless pace shape the narrative, influencing the characters' choices and lifestyles. Bushnell captures the allure and alienation of metropolitan living, highlighting how the city simultaneously offers opportunities for reinvention and imposes pressures related to appearance, status, and social success.

The depiction of Manhattan's social scenes—from exclusive clubs to intimate dinner parties—provides a backdrop that contextualizes the personal dramas and triumphs of the protagonists. This urban setting serves not only as a physical environment but as a symbol of modern womanhood's challenges and aspirations.

Impact on Popular Culture and Media Adaptations

The transition of *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell from page to screen marked a significant moment in television history. The HBO series, which premiered in 1998, expanded upon Bushnell's original material, developing the characters and storylines into a serialized format that captivated audiences worldwide. The show's success is notable for its bold portrayal of women's lives, fashion, and relationships, influencing subsequent media portrayals of female friendship and sexuality.

Comparisons Between the Book and the TV Series

While the television adaptation retained the core themes of Bushnell's work, it also introduced distinct differences. The show added depth to characters such as Carrie Bradshaw, Miranda Hobbes, Charlotte York, and Samantha Jones, giving them more defined personalities and arcs than the relatively episodic and anecdotal nature of the book. This evolution contributed to the series' longevity and cultural resonance.

Moreover, the TV series amplified fashion as a key element, turning wardrobe choices into iconic symbols of character identity and empowerment. This emphasis on style was less pronounced in the original text but became a defining feature of the franchise, influencing fashion trends and consumer culture.

Cultural Criticism and Praise

Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell has received both acclaim and critique from cultural commentators. Supporters laud its frankness and pioneering role in discussing female desire and urban life, while critics point to elements such as a perceived lack of diversity and a focus on consumerism and superficiality.

The book's portrayal of predominantly affluent, white women navigating life in Manhattan has sparked conversations about representation and inclusivity. However, it remains a landmark text for opening dialogue about previously taboo subjects and inspiring a generation to reconsider female empowerment within the context of modern relationships.

Key Features and Literary Techniques

Bushnell's writing style in *Sex and the City* is characterized by wit, sharp social commentary, and a conversational tone that engages readers intimately. The use of humor and irony softens the critical edges of the narratives, allowing for reflection without alienation. Additionally, the episodic format facilitates exploration of a wide range of topics—from dating mishaps to career challenges—without the constraints of a linear plot.

- **First-person narration:** Provides immediacy and personal insight.
- **Pop culture references:** Anchors the stories in a specific time and place.
- **Dialogue-driven scenes:** Enhance realism and character development.
- **Social satire:** Critiques societal norms and expectations.

These techniques contribute to the book's enduring appeal and its ability to capture the complexities of urban single life.

Pros and Cons of *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell

1. Pros:

- Bold exploration of female sexuality and independence.
- Engaging, relatable storytelling with sharp social insights.
- Influential in shaping contemporary urban literature and media.
- Accessible format suitable for a wide audience.

2. Cons:

- Limited diversity in character representation.
- Some critiques highlight a focus on materialism and consumer culture.
- The episodic nature may lack depth in character development compared to traditional novels.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

More than two decades after its initial publication, *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell continues to resonate with readers and viewers alike. Its influence is evident in the proliferation of media that centers on women's experiences, particularly those set against urban backdrops. The book's candid treatment of dating, friendships, and the intersection of professional and personal life paved the way for more diverse and complex narratives in literature and television.

Moreover, the ongoing discussions about gender roles, empowerment, and societal pressures underscore the enduring significance of Bushnell's work. The franchise's ability to adapt and remain relevant in the face of evolving social norms speaks to its foundational role in contemporary culture.

Sex and the City by Candace Bushnell remains a touchstone for understanding the shifting landscape of female identity and urban existence, providing insight into the challenges and triumphs that define modern womanhood.

[Sex And The City By Candace Bushnell](#)

sex and the city by candace bushnell: Sex and the City Candace Bushnell, 2011-05-11 Dive into the mating habits of privileged New Yorkers in this hilarious collection of Bushnell's newspaper columns that inspired the hit HBO series. *Sex and the City* is a fantastic and sometimes terrifying foray into the hearts, minds, and mating habits of modern-day New Yorkers. Traveling in packs from lavish parties to high-end clubs, Bushnell's vividly candid characters live out the never-ending search for the perfect relationship. Bushnell's firsthand commentary on the behavior of the rich and famous is by turns witty and shocking, and always boldly true. In these pages you will meet "Carrie," the young writer looking for love in all the wrong places; "Samantha Jones," the successful proto-cougar who approaches sex just like a man; and "Mr. Big," the captain of industry who jumps from one bed to the next. Equal parts soap opera, gossip page, sociological study, and dating manual, *Sex and the City*, Candace Bushnell's former New York Observer column, has attracted a

cult following and been adapted into two major motion pictures and one of the most popular TV series of our time. This is the groundbreaking work that both decoded and shaped a culture and a generation. Praise for *Sex and the City* “An Armistead Maupin-like canvas tinged with a liberal smattering of Judith Krantz.” —Publishers Weekly “Fascinating Hilarious Welcome to the cruel planet that is Manhattan.” —The Los Angeles Times “Bushnell is a deft writer, possessing a sly sense of humor and sharp insight into human behavior.” —People

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sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Sex and the city* Candace Bushnell, 2006

sex and the city by candace bushnell: Is There Still Sex in the City? Candace Bushnell, 2019-08-06 Candace Bushnell gets personal in her new memoir - an investigation into what happens when a woman of a certain age (ok, let's call it 'middle') finds herself not-so-young, free and single in the city. Set between the Upper East Side of Manhattan and a country enclave known as The Village, this book gathers Bushnell's signature short, sharp, satirical commentaries on the love and dating habits of middle aged men and women as they continue to navigate the ever-modernizing world of relationships. MILFs, cougars, love, sex, divorce - Candace's brilliantly funny and honest first-person account lays bare the truth behind middle-aged romance. Among other revelations we read her Modern Day Cougar Compendium, including guidance on such important matters as the Unexpected Cub Pounce (sometimes the cub does the pouncing); what to do when your age-appropriate date asks you to pay for his kitchen renovation, and the Pluses and Minuses of Being Older and Wiser.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: Is There Still Sex in the City? Candace Bushnell, 2020-05-07 'Funny and honest dispatches from the world of modern dating' Vogue 'Bushnell's voice is as knowing and sharp as ever' Washington Post 'Bittersweet, amusing and well observed' Viv Groskop, Guardian 'Fuelled by chilled rosé, Sex and the City scribe Candace Bushnell is masterfully decoding a new era of single life' USA Today Candace Bushnell gets personal in her new memoir - an investigation into what happens when a woman of a certain age (okay, let's call it 'middle') finds herself not-so-young, free and single in the city. MILFs, cougars, love, sex, divorce - Candace's brilliantly funny and honest first-person account lays bare the truth behind middle-aged romance. This is a pull-no-punches social commentary and an indispensable companion to one of the most revolutionary dating books of the twentieth century.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: Summer and the City (The Carrie Diaries, Book 2) Candace Bushnell, 2013-04-25 Meet teenage Carrie Bradshaw as she hits the bright lights, big city of New York for the very first time! Find out how Carrie transforms from country girl to super-cool fashionista in the second explosive CARRIE DIARIES novel from the globally bestselling author of SEX AND THE CITY.

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"Jennifer Keishin Armstrong brings readers inside the writers' room and into the scribes' lives...The writing is fizzy and funny, but she still manages an in-depth look at a show that's been analyzed for decades, giving readers a retrospective as enjoyable as a \$20 pink cocktail" (The Washington Post). *Sex and the City* and *Us* is both a critical and nostalgic behind-the-scenes look at a television series that changed the way women see themselves.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Summer and the City* TV Tie-in Edition Candace Bushnell, 2013-04-23 This sequel to *The Carrie Diaries* brings surprising revelations as Carrie learns to navigate her way around the Big Apple, going from being a country sparrow to the person she always wanted to be. With her signature wit and sparkling humor, Candace Bushnell reveals the irresistible story of how Carrie met Samantha and Miranda, and what turned a small-town girl into one of New York City's most unforgettable icons, Carrie Bradshaw. Summer is a magical time in New York City, and Carrie is in love with all of it—the crazy characters in her neighborhood, the vintage-clothing boutiques, the wild parties, and the glamorous man who has swept her off her feet. Best of all, she's finally in a real writing class, taking her first steps toward fulfilling her dream. But as it becomes increasingly difficult to reconcile her past with her future, Carrie realizes that making it in New York is much more complicated than she ever imagined. Anyone with a dream, or anyone who has wanted to create a fabulous new life, will want to follow Carrie's adventures in glam, gritty New York City. AnnaSophia Robb starred as sixteen-year-old Carrie in the TV adaptation of the *Carrie Diaries* series.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Summer and the City* Candace Bushnell, 2011-04-26 This sequel to *The Carrie Diaries* brings surprising revelations as Carrie learns to navigate her way around the Big Apple, going from being a country sparrow to the person she always wanted to be. With her signature wit and sparkling humor, Candace Bushnell reveals the irresistible story of how Carrie met Samantha and Miranda, and what turned a small-town girl into one of New York City's most unforgettable icons, Carrie Bradshaw. Summer is a magical time in New York City, and Carrie is in love with all of it—the crazy characters in her neighborhood, the vintage-clothing boutiques, the wild parties, and the glamorous man who has swept her off her feet. Best of all, she's finally in a real writing class, taking her first steps toward fulfilling her dream. But as it becomes increasingly difficult to reconcile her past with her future, Carrie realizes that making it in New York is much more complicated than she ever imagined.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Fictions of Globalization* James Annesley, 2009-02-01 The globalization debate has become a dominant question in many disciplines but has only tended to be covered within literary studies in the context of postcolonial literature. This book focuses on reading contemporary novels in relation to globalization.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Is there still Sex in the City?* Candace Bushnell, 2020-07-21 Vor mehr als zwanzig Jahren beschrieb Candace Bushnell in ›Sex and the City‹ die seltsamen Paarungsrituale der New Yorker. Damit veränderte sie die Popkultur und das Dating. Nun liefert sie mit ihrem neuen autobiografischen Buch einen ungeschönten Blick auf die Höhepunkte und Abgründe des Datings jenseits der 50. Candace' psychologisch genaue Beobachtungen sind mal komisch, dann wieder berührend, etwa wenn sie den »Irrsinn der Lebensmitte« beschreibt, die Isolation nach der Scheidung oder den Schmerz der Erkenntnis, dass selbst die Schönsten unter uns irgendwann unsichtbar werden. Die Krisen werden mit einem kühlen Glas Rosé in der Hand und guten Freundinnen in der Bar oder am Telefon durchgestanden. So zeichnet Candace Bushnell ein humorvolles und ehrliches Bild von der heutigen Beziehungslandschaft und den Spezies, die sie bevölkern.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *Sex and the City* Nicole Evelina, 2022-11-15 An insightful look at the cultural impact of the television phenomenon *Sex and the City*. Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, one word was on everyone's lips: sex. *Sex and the City* had taken the United States, and the world, by storm. Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha influenced how a generation of women think, practice, and talk about sex, allowing them to embrace their sexual desires publicly and unlocking the idea of women as sexual beings on par with men. In *Sex and the*

City: A Cultural History, Nicole Evelina provides a fascinating, in-depth look at the show's characters, their relationships, and the issues the show confronted. From sexuality and feminism to friendship and motherhood, Evelina reveals how the series impacted viewers in the 1990s, as well as what still resonates today and what has glaringly not kept up with the times. The world has changed dramatically since the show originally aired, and Evelina examines how recent social movements have served to highlight the show's lack of diversity and throw some of its storylines into a less than favorable light. While Sex and the City had problematic issues, it also changed the world's perception of single women, emphasized the power of female friendship, built brands, and influenced fashion. This book looks at it all, from the pilot episode to the spin-off movies, prequel, and reboot that together have built an enduring legacy for a new generation of women.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: Bad Girls Go Everywhere Jennifer Scanlon, 2010-08-31 The biography of the revolutionary magazine editor who created the "Cosmo Girl" before Sex and the City's Carrie Bradshaw was even born As the author of the iconic Sex and the Single Girl (1962) and the editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan magazine for over three decades, Helen Gurley Brown (1922-2012) changed how women thought about sex, money, and their bodies in a way that resonates in our culture today. In Jennifer Scanlon's widely acclaimed biography, the award-winning scholar reveals Brown's incredible life story from her escape from her humble beginnings in the Ozarks to her eyebrow-raising exploits as a young woman in New York City, and her late-blooming career as the world's first lipstick feminist. A mesmerizing tribute to a legend, Bad Girls Go Everywhere will appeal to everyone from Sex and the City and Mad Men fans to students of women's history and media studies.

sex and the city by candace bushnell: *(Sub)Urban Sexscapes* Paul J. Maginn, Christine Steinmetz, 2014-10-10 (Sub)Urban Sexscapes brings together a collection of theoretically-informed and empirically rich case studies from internationally renowned and emerging scholars highlighting the contemporary and historical geographies and regulation of the commercial sex industry. Contributions in this edited volume examine the spatial and regulatory contours of the sex industry from a range of disciplinary perspectives—urban planning, urban geography, urban sociology, and, cultural and media studies—and geographical contexts—Australia, the UK, US and North Africa. In overall terms, (Sub)urban Sexscapes highlights the mainstreaming of commercial sex premises—sex shops, brothels, strip clubs and queer spaces—and products—sex toys, erotic literature and pornography—now being commonplace in night time economy spaces, the high street, suburban shopping centres and the home. In addition, the aesthetics of commercial and alternative sexual practices—BDSM and pornography—permeate the (sub)urban landscape via billboards, newspapers and magazines, television, music videos and the Internet. The role of sex, sexuality and commercialized sex, in contributing to the general character of our cities cannot be ignored. In short, there is a need for policy-makers to be realistic about the historical, contemporary and future presence of the sex industry. Ultimately, the regulation of the sex industry should be informed by evidence as opposed to moral panics. *** Winner of the Planning Institute of Australia (WA) 2015 Award for Excellence in Cutting Edge Research and Teaching ***

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Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha launched a barrage of trends, forever branded the actresses that took on the roles, redefined women's relationship to sex and elevated the perception of singlehood. Featuring exclusive new interviews with the cast and writers, including star Sarah Jessica Parker, creator Darren Star, executive producer Michael Patrick King, and author Candace Bushnell, "Jennifer Keishin Armstrong brings readers inside the writers' room and into the scribes' lives...The writing is fizzy and funny, but she still manages an in-depth look at a show that's been analyzed for decades, giving readers a retrospective as enjoyable as a \$20 pink cocktail" (The Washington Post). Sex and the City and Us is both a critical and nostalgic behind-the-scenes look at a television series that changed the way women see themselves.

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