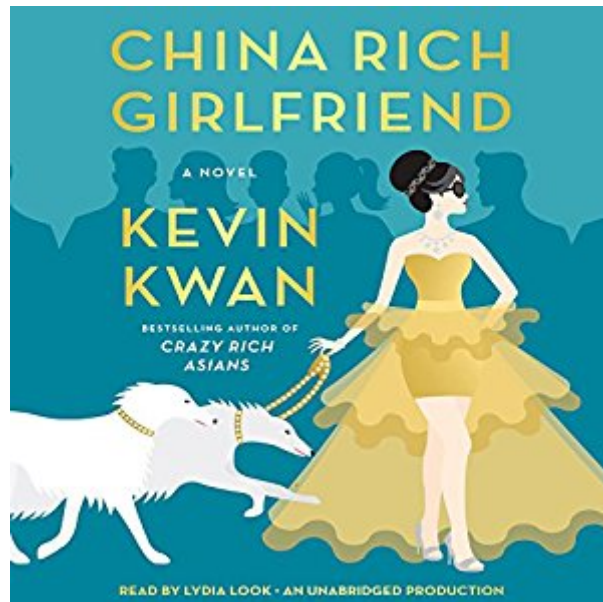


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# China Rich Girlfriend: A Novel



## Synopsis

Kevin Kwan, best-selling author of *Crazy Rich Asians*, is back with a wickedly funny new novel of social climbing, secret emails, art-world scandal, lovesick billionaires, and the outrageous story of what happens when Rachel Chu, engaged to marry Asia's most eligible bachelor, discovers her birth father. On the eve of her wedding to Nicholas Young, heir to one of the greatest fortunes in Asia, Rachel should be over the moon. She has a flawless Asscher-cut diamond from JAR, a wedding dress she loves more than anything found in the salons of Paris, and a fiancé willing to sacrifice his entire inheritance in order to marry her. But Rachel still mourns the fact that her birth father, a man she never knew, won't be able to walk her down the aisle. Until: A shocking revelation draws Rachel into a world of Shanghai splendor beyond anything she has ever imagined. Here we meet Carlton, a Ferrari-crashing bad boy known for Prince Harry-like antics; Colette, a celebrity girlfriend chased by fevered paparazzi; and the man Rachel has spent her entire life waiting to meet: her father. Meanwhile Singapore's It Girl, Astrid Leong, is shocked to discover that there is a downside to having a newly minted tech billionaire husband. A romp through Asia's most exclusive clubs, auction houses, and estates, *China Rich Girlfriend* brings us into the elite circles of Mainland China, introducing a captivating cast of characters and offering an inside glimpse at what it's like to be gloriously, crazily, China rich.

## Book Information

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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 nothing 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 roman Ã 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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