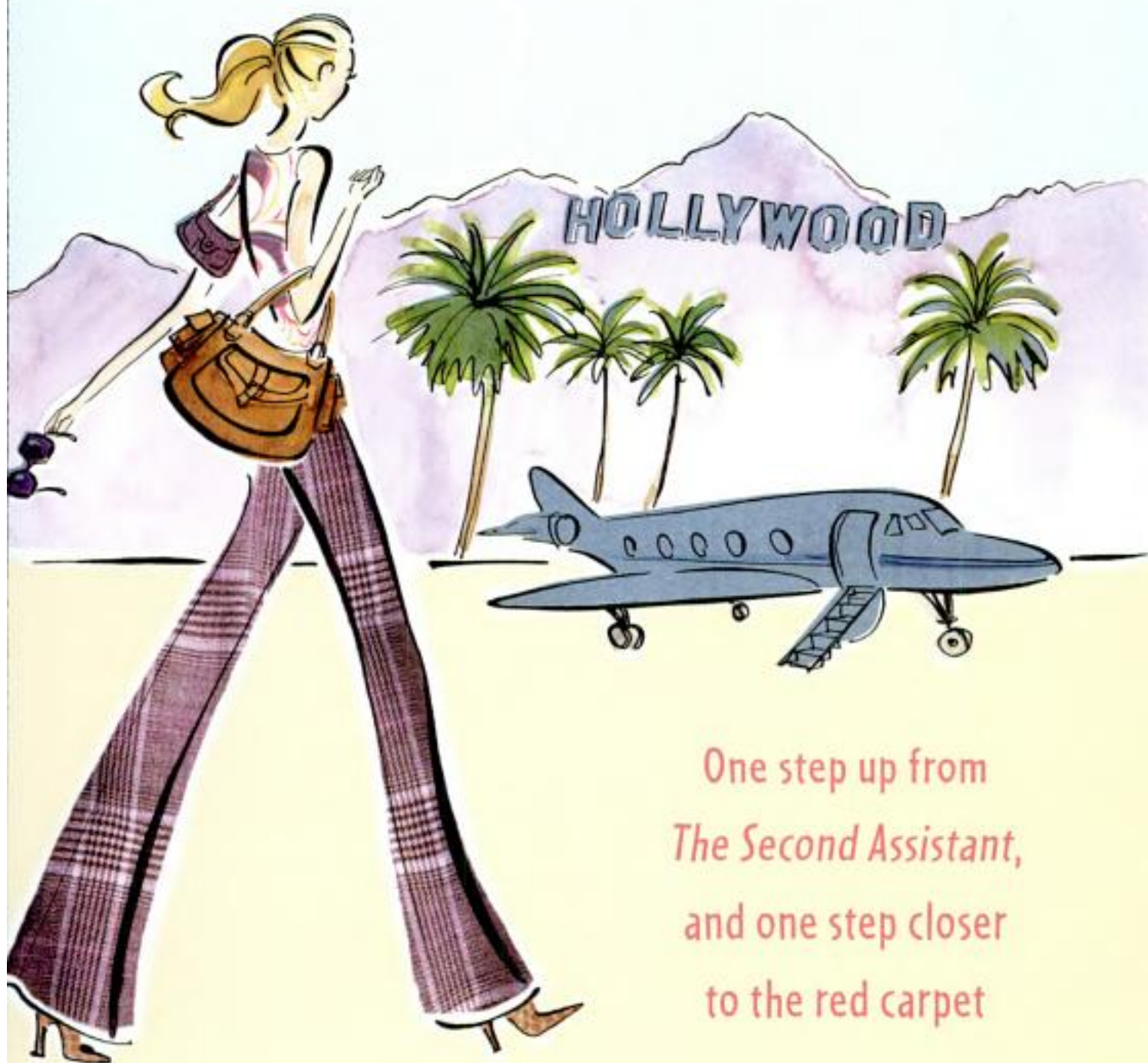


The First Assistant



One step up from
The Second Assistant,
and one step closer
to the red carpet

The First Assistant, Clare Naylor, Mimi Hare, Penguin, 2007, 0452288363, 9780452288362, 280 pages. The further fortunes of everyone's favorite assistant as she struggles to keep her footing on Hollywood's slippery slope In The Second Assistant, readers fell in love with smart, witty East Coast girl Elizabeth Miller. Now that Lizzie has been promoted, can she still keep her pumps firmly on the ground in the city of stars? With a viperish subordinate after her job, the world's hottest teen starlet to keep out of trouble and a boyfriend on location with a beautiful actress, she certainly has her hands full. The satire is sharper than ever as Naylor and Hare take another wry and hilarious look at the wheeling, dealing, schmoozing, and snubbing that make Hollywood the cutthroat capital of the world. The First Assistant is a lesson in how to survive in a town where tonight's Oscar frock is tomorrow's laughing stock. .

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The Misadventures of Maria O'Mara , Deborah Skelly, Jun 1, 2004, , 257 pages. On the edge of turning forty, talent agent Maria O'Mara finds herself coping with a series of crises as she races against time to save her job, find a man, start a family, and

Blue Movie , Terry Southern, Jun 7, 1996, Fiction, 254 pages. Hilarious and wildly erotic satire on Hollywood. Southern was the screen writer for Easy rider and Dr Strangelove..

A Girl's Gotta Eat , Michelle Valentine, Oct 30, 2007, Fiction, 336 pages. A slick, cunning siren who will do anything to make it in the male-dominated world of Hollywood, Remmi claws her way to the top to take her place among the Hollywood elite, but

Something Blue , Emily Giffin, Mar 21, 2006, Fiction, 356 pages. Her belief in the power of beauty shattered when her fiance dumps her for a plain woman, a pregnant Darcy flees to London and struggles to rebuild her glamorous life, before

Contact , Carl Sagan, 1997, Fiction, 434 pages. In 1999, a multinational team of astronauts ventures deep into outer space, where they come face to face with an advanced alien civilization, in a tie-in to the new blockbuster

The Devil in the Junior League , Linda Francis Lee, Jul 10, 2007, Fiction, 352 pages. A member of the exclusive Junior League of Willow Creek, Texas, Fredericka Mercedes Hildebrand Ware's perfect life begins to unravel when her husband betrays her, steals her

Based on the Movie , Billy Taylor, 2008, Fiction, 310 pages. Movie madness meets mid-life crisis in Taylor's hilarious debut novel as a recovering dolly grip battles egos, absurdity, and a career-obsessed wife all to keep a really lousy

Perfect Weight America , Jordan Rubin, Dec 26, 2007, , 358 pages. .

Hollywood Wives , Jackie Collins, Aug 1, 1987, Fiction, 560 pages. Provides a glittering glimpse of the alluring luxury- and temptation-filled lives of the wives of Hollywood's "royalty"--the wheelers and dealers and stars whose lives are

That Man is Here Again The Adventures of a Hollywood Agent, Arthur Kober, 1946, Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.), 235 pages. .

Little Lady, Big Apple , Hester Browne, Oct 2, 2007, Fiction, 400 pages. A sequel to The Little Lady Agency finds Melissa accompanying her boyfriend to New York, where she is intimidated by his sophisticated friends and interfering ex-wife before

Make Love the Bruce Campbell Way , Bruce Campbell, Aug 22, 2006, Fiction, 368 pages. An autobiographical novel by the popular B-movie actor follows his imagined efforts to debut on the "A" list by starring in a big-budget film, an endeavor he attempts to

Monkey Star , Brenda Scott Royce, Aug 7, 2007, , 341 pages. Heading to Hollywood to work as an animal trainer on a big-budget film, Holly Heckerling finds herself torn between the glamour of the film world, the attentions of an A-list

In *The Second Assistant*, readers fell in love with smart, witty East Coast girl Elizabeth Miller. Now that Lizzie has been promoted, can she still keep her pumps firmly on the ground in the city of stars? With a viperish subordinate after her job, the world's hottest teen starlet to keep out of trouble and a boyfriend on location with a beautiful actress, she certainly has her hands full.

The satire is sharper than ever as Naylor and Hare take another wry and hilarious look at the wheeling, dealing, schmoozing, and snubbing that make Hollywood the cutthroat capital of the world. *The First Assistant* is a lesson in how to survive in a town where tonight's Oscar frock is tomorrow's laughing stock.

A "feel good" story that gives readers reason to believe that if they keep on trying, there's nothing that they can't achieve. As in most fairytales, our heroine finally gets her "happily ever after" but not before encountering a wide range of characters who join Lizzie on (and sometimes cause interference with) her journey: There's "Prince Charming" (Luke), a "Fairy-Godmother" (Lara), the "Wizard" (Jason/Scott), the "Evil Step-Mother/Sister" (Amber), the "Take-Along Buddy" (Emerald), as well as a wonderful cast of supporting characters that make Lizzie's journey all the more fun and interesting.

Of course some of the situations Lizzie finds herself in are a little extreme and sometimes ridiculous, but that's part of the magic and fun of this character. No matter how many times Lizzie seems to fall and lose her sense of dignity, she always manages to get back up and keep on reaching for the stars (in this case, literally!).

Clare Naylor and Mimi Hare's "*The First Assistant: A Continuing Tale from Behind the Hollywood Curtain*," a sequel to "*The Second Assistant*" continued with Lizzie, working now as the first assistant to Scott, her best friend's husband at The Agency. Despite having a promotion, life at The Agency was still difficult for Lizzie as the person who took her old position, Amber, was out to get Lizzie from day one. On top of that, Lizzie's boyfriend, Luke was out producing a movie at Prague and the actress in the movie was Luke's ex-girlfriend. When Lizzie found out that Luke may be cheating on her, Lizzie decided to accept the position of an assistant to the latest, and hottest teen sensation, Emerald.

This was a rather average chick-lit for me. There was never a strong storyline and by the time I got to the middle of the book, I was not very engaged. The story seemed to lack excitement. I also wished that the authors spent a little more time with Lizzie's love interest. Even though this was not the worst book in this genre, but it was certainly not very memorable.

"*The First Assistant*" was a great sequel to "*The Second Assistant*". It picked up where the first novel left off, and it was engaging, entertaining, and had the same bumbling humor. The plot was not predictable, which is always a nice touch, and yet it was still pleasantly exactly what I had expected.

Fairly similar to its predecessor: *The Second Assistant*. Fast paced, funny, light reading. For those (like me) who enjoy gossipy novels about the Hollywood scene. Well-defined characters and some hilarious situations. The end may be a bit vague; I would have preferred a clearer definition but that is personal. All in all, a pleasant book and a fairly fast read.

The plot and characters picked up where the first book left off. The plot wasn't 100% predictable. I found myself guessing how the story might end, so I read the entire book in around 3 hours. I was pleased the book wasn't the usual girl meets boy, girl will do anything to keep boy from leaving. Overall, a great beach/holiday read.

In *The Second Assistant*, readers across the country found a heroine they loved to love in Lizzie

Miller, the smart and witty East Coast girl clinging for dear life to the bottom rung of the Hollywood ladder. But no more coffee runs and sorting...more The further adventures of talent agency assistant Lizzie Miller as she finally gets some traction on the slippery Hollywood slope

In *The Second Assistant*, readers across the country found a heroine they loved to love in Lizzie Miller, the smart and witty East Coast girl clinging for dear life to the bottom rung of the Hollywood ladder. But no more coffee runs and sorting thumbtacks by color for Lizzie; she's been promoted. As first assistant to Scott Wagner, now president of The Agency and one of Hollywood's premiere movers and shakers, she's making decisions and learning the ins and outs of the business. But unlike the other airhead assistants, she's not being wooed by the glamour and mystique of Lala Land. At least, that's what she tells herself. But with a fabulous boyfriend and visions of Harry Winston diamonds and a black AmEx dancing in her head, it is getting harder for Lizzie to keep her pumps firmly on the ground.

In *The First Assistant*, Clare Naylor and Mimi Hare have again joined forces to take a wry and hilarious look at the wheeling, dealing, schmoozing, and snubbing that make Hollywood the cutthroat capital of the world. Readers are hungry for more and *The First Assistant* is just the romp into the red-carpet world that they crave.

Oh to be the lead character in this book: Vacuous, with a degree of personal luck verging on the ridiculous, adored by implausibly attractive and wealthy men, in a fantastic job - all of this despite being dull, slow-witted, and possessing no redeeming physical or emotional attributes. Life would be a breeze, huh?

I read the first book like a million years ago and totally forgot what had happened. And this book didn't really remind me as I forgot how it ended. Same old girl-y trash. Girl is still working at some agency despite having a hot producer boyfriend. For some reason (it's always "some reason") she thinks he is sleeping with his ex-girlfriend, but of course, doesn't let him explain himself before she convinces herself they are broken up. Ugh, something new PLEASE! Stuff happens that is lame and she...more I read the first book like a million years ago and totally forgot what had happened. And this book didn't really remind me as I forgot how it ended. Same old girl-y trash. Girl is still working at some agency despite having a hot producer boyfriend. For some reason (it's always "some reason") she thinks he is sleeping with his ex-girlfriend, but of course, doesn't let him explain himself before she convinces herself they are broken up. Ugh, something new PLEASE! Stuff happens that is lame and she ends up sleeping with like her best friend whose movie she helped make in the last book (that part I remember) but like they don't really like each other too much so it goes nowhere. The Girl and the Producer end up together in the end, when they finally TALK and like the best friends movie comes out of nowhere to win the academy award for best picture, so she gets a statue because she is titled as a producer even though she wasn't paid. Yeah, because shit like that happens all the time. Lame. For some reason, I have a copy of the *Second Assistant* on my bookshelf, but after reading this book, makes me NOT want to go back and reread that. Blah.

I enjoyed this book just as much as the first one, *The Second Assistant: A Tale from the Bottom of the Hollywood Ladder*. They are both "fluff" books, so they are great when you need a light book. Apparently a lot of people compare these books to *The Devil Wears Prada*, but I personally enjoyed these books much more than I did *The Devil Wears Prada*. If you enjoy fluffy, light chick lit and stories of Hollywood, then give these books a shot. Just keep in mind that the titles are backward - the *Seco*...more I enjoyed this book just as much as the first one, *The Second Assistant: A Tale from the Bottom of the Hollywood Ladder*. They are both "fluff" books, so they are great when you need a light book. Apparently a lot of people compare these books to *The Devil Wears Prada*, but I personally enjoyed these books much more than I did *The Devil Wears Prada*. If you enjoy fluffy, light chick lit and stories of Hollywood, then give these books a shot. Just keep in mind that the titles are backward - the *Second Assistant* is the first book, and the *First Assistant* is the second book.(less)

The First Assistant is the sequel to *The Second Assistant*. Although TSA was a cute summer read, it was not strong enough to support a continuation and thus this book suffered. When it comes to

mindless fun reads, there is a certain level of predictability that is to be expected, and quite frankly, welcomed. It's one of the joys of reading them. You don't have to be fully committed and you never have to reread paragraphs because you happened to be only half paying attention to it in the first place...more The First Assistant is the sequel to The Second Assistant. Although TSA was a cute summer read, it was not strong enough to support a continuation and thus this book suffered. When it comes to mindless fun reads, there is a certain level of predictability that is to be expected, and quite frankly, welcomed. It's one of the joys of reading them. You don't have to be fully committed and you never have to reread paragraphs because you happened to be only half paying attention to it in the first place. This book, however, takes it to a whole new level. Don't get me wrong .. this book isn't bad but it does tend to be a bit tedious. I was just simply bored with it. If you are looking for an easy read a la The Starter Wife then stick with The Second Assistant .. but stop there. There's simply no point reading this one.(less)

I found this book difficult to finish because it was so predictable. As soon as the possibility of Lizzie acting as Emerald's assistant in Thailand was raised, you knew it was going to happen eventually. Just like you knew that even though Luke and Lizzie broke up, they would be back together by the end of the book. The bit with the Danish thugs was just strange, and the arranged marriage of Emerald and Jizzy just...more First Assistant Lizzie Miller is back in this dull sequel to The Second Assistant.

I would say this is a nice light read for a vacation. If you have an interest in Hollywood it is really great as well. It goes into the inner workings of producers and directors and all the other behind the scenes people. I mean not anyone real, the characters are all fictional, but the women who wrote this did have experience in the business, so I pretty much took their word for it. The actual story I thought was rather weak, but it had a wealth of other things to appreciate, other than the Hol...more I would say this is a nice light read for a vacation. If you have an interest in Hollywood it is really great as well. It goes into the inner workings of producers and directors and all the other behind the scenes people. I mean not anyone real, the characters are all fictional, but the women who wrote this did have experience in the business, so I pretty much took their word for it. The actual story I thought was rather weak, but it had a wealth of other things to appreciate, other than the Hollywood aspect this book has a fabulous sense of humor and had me laughing loud enough to annoy the neighbors.(less)

Lizzie is back. She is not Scott's second assistant any more. She is the first assistant now with more responsibility. She has hired herself a new Second Assistant, Amber. Lara her friend, and Scott's Former First Assistant, is married to Scott and they have a son. Plus, Lizzie is having trouble with her relationship with Luke. Lizzie realizes she has more to figure out in Hollywood. First, she can't trust Amber, then Scott trades Lizzie for a car so that she can go be a personal assistant to Emer...more Lizzie is back. She is not Scott's second assistant any more. She is the first assistant now with more responsibility. She has hired herself a new Second Assistant, Amber. Lara her friend, and Scott's Former First Assistant, is married to Scott and they have a son. Plus, Lizzie is having trouble with her relationship with Luke. Lizzie realizes she has more to figure out in Hollywood. First, she can't trust Amber, then Scott trades Lizzie for a car so that she can go be a personal assistant to Emerald, a rising teen star that is known for testing those around her.

This was an extension of The Second Assistant taking place just a few months after the last one stopped. I like being able to open it and picking up my friends where I had essentially left them in the characters. It kind of like going on vacation or out of town for a few months and catching up with friends. I did somehow Lizzie had grown some between the two books and kept growing through this plot.

There were moments where I was frustrated by the decisions that Lizzie was making. But, they did help with her growing. There were moments in the plot where I was frustrated by blocks that were put there for Lizzie or choices she made that you knew were going to be problems. Then they were wrapped up and just fell into place, not making Lizzie work like she had in the past that frustrated me.

This book wasn't as good of a read as *The Second Assistant*, and that for me was disappointing because I really enjoyed the first book. For me it felt as though things just happened too easily for this naive character of Lizzie. Once again here is a character who sticks her head in the sand (instead of filing she burned papers so she cou...more Combine one part Hollywood Car Wash, one part *Devil Wears Prada*, and 2 parts Hollywood blackmail mixed with the Oscars and you have yourself the *First Assistant*.

The Plot: Note that this review contains spoilers if you haven't read *The Second Assistant*. The story is about Lizzie Miller, who has taken over her friend Lara's job after Lara shackled up with their crazy boss Scott. That doesn't mean things are peachy keen for Lizzie - she's still a bit of a financial mess, her new second assistant...more **How I Came To Read This Book:** My sister picked up *The Second Assistant* (the prequel to this one) and I needed a book to complete my Chapters order for free shipping.

The Good or Bad: I was surprised that I liked Lizzie, or at least reading another book about her, as much as I did. I didn't think too much of *The Second Assistant*, but I quite enjoyed this book more than I had anticipated. Lizzie is an interesting character because, although the book is by no means a moral compass, it definitely explores the lines between right and wrong and more importantly, acceptability. The book tries to be funny and wacky and often takes a turn for the bizarre instead, but in general it's entertaining enough to keep you reading.

I let way too much time pass between reading "*The Second Assistant*" and "*The First Assistant*." I enjoyed reading about Lizzie Miller and her further travels in "*Holly-weird*" and it was just as funny and dazzling as the first book. Lizzie went through some crazy things in this book and I like how she emerged relatively unscathed and stronger for it. I don't think there's another book about her continuing journey in Hollywood, but it would be nice if there was!

I enjoyed the sequel to this Hollywood drama more than the first book, but I wonder if it's more because I listened to the book rather than the first one, I read. The narration was really well done...kind of similar to *The Devil Wears Prada* with the main character having that blase-don't-really-care-for-all-this entertainment drama tone of voice. It was nice that the story truly continued where the first book left off and came back full circle to end the stories of the intertwining lives of Li...more I enjoyed the sequel to this Hollywood drama more than the first book, but I wonder if it's more because I listened to the book rather than the first one, I read. The narration was really well done...kind of similar to *The Devil Wears Prada* with the main character having that blase-don't-really-care-for-all-this entertainment drama tone of voice. It was nice that the story truly continued where the first book left off and came back full circle to end the stories of the intertwining lives of Lizzie, Jason, "*Sex Addicts in Love*", Lara and Scott and some new characters that made for more fun too. I'd definitely recommend checking out the audio version of this book and look forward to checking out some of Clare Naylor's other books (I learned on the back of the disc that Mimi Hare was more on this book as a consultant to the drama behind the scenes of a Hollywood life and probably why these are the only two books they corroborated on).(less)

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