



The List

Karin Tanabe

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Meet Adrienne Brown, a twenty-eight-year-old Wellesley College grad who recently left her glamorous job at *Town & Country* for a spot at the *Capitolist*. Known simply as the *List* to Beltway insiders, it's the only media outlet in D.C. that's actually on the rise. Taking the job means accepting a painful pay cut, giving up perks like free Louboutins, and moving back in with her parents, but Adrienne is certain that her new position will be the making of her career. And it is—but not at all in the way that she expects. The *Capitolist* runs at an insane pace: Adrienne's up before five in the morning, writing ten stories a day (sometimes on her BlackBerry, often during her commute), and answering every email within three minutes. Just when it seems like the frenetic workload is going to break her, she stumbles upon a juicy political affair, involving a very public senator—and her most competitive colleague. Discovering that there's much more to the relationship than meets the eye, Adrienne realizes she's got the scoop of a lifetime. But should she go public with the story?

Inspired by Washington insider Karin Tanabe's experiences at *Politico*, *The List* is a riveting debut novel bursting with behind-the-scenes details about what happens when media and politics collide.

The List Details

Date : Published February 5th 2013 by Washington Square Press

ISBN : 9781451695595

Author : Karin Tanabe

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The List for online ebook

Tiffany says

3.75. Entertaining story, moved quickly and really funny.

Laura says

I don't recommend this book at all. The author takes about 200 pages to go anywhere with the story then the big reveal is disappointing. I found myself constantly skipping pages and not missing any of the storyline. The romance with Sandro is poorly developed and to be honest, rather annoying. I get tired of stories where the girl becomes obsessed after meeting someone once. I find it hard to stomach when a character starts planning her wedding after meeting a guy for 5 minutes. I will say that the style of writing is enjoyable and I loved Payton's character. I just wish the author had written a better story.

Dee says

Review Copy Provided by the Publisher

Having lived and worked in DC for nearly three years now as a member of the Federal Gov't, I was immediately drawn to the description provided. I mean, most of us have probably caught glimpses of those government/celebrity scandals on different TV stations and wondered how they came to list – which is what Ms. Tanabe did in her debut novel, *The List*.

I have to admit, however, that as the book progressed, I became more and more conflicted about the outcome and what route Adrienne would take. While so much of the book was a play on the hypocrisy of people in situations like that (and I have been in them to), I kept hoping that she would take the high road. But in the end, I have to say that I was a bit disappointed in the outcome. I had grown to like Adrienne as a character, as well as the various secondary cast, but her actions, ultimately pissed me off. Yet, this highlighting of the hypocrisy of peoples actions in order to make their mark and get ahead was intriguing. Much of my career in the military has been similar – and there is a reason that one of the unofficial mottos in my career field is stab, stab, look, stab stab...because there is a belief that in order to get ahead, you need to be able/willing to sacrifice others. What kind of society have we turned into where that is acceptable is scary unto itself...

While I have to say that I disliked the ending, overall, I remained intrigued through-out most of the book and will be interested in seeing what this author comes up with in the future. I would give it 3.5 stars overall, but rounding up to 4. - review to follow

Donna Brown says

Adrienne Brown has had enough of glitz, glamour and Town and Country magazine. She wants to work for a more serious publication. Thrilled to get a job at the Capitalist ("The List"), she initially overlooks the

frighteningly long hours, low pay, extreme workload and lack of respect she has to endure – with a smile – until she can make her mark.

Laced with snarky humour and a (just about!) healthy dose of bitchiness, the novel sees Adrienne uncover the scoop that will make her but only if she's willing to ruin others' lives. Is she willing to go the distance?

Raising great questions about the balance of ambition versus respect for others, the value we place on success over decency and how difficult it is to hide secrets (both past and present), *The List* is as thought-provoking as it is enjoyable. Featuring an incredibly likeable heroine, you initially cheer for her and the success she could achieve but it is impossible not to feel a gnawing doubt as the novel progresses. If the right thing for you is the wrong thing for so many others, is it worth it?

I don't normally read reviews from others about a book until I've written my own. Not that I'm easily led but it can be hard to sort your own opinions when you're sorting through those of others. However, when adding *The List* to my Goodreads shelf, I noticed another had commented to say they expected something darker. I felt much the same, expecting something much more tense. That isn't to say I was disappointed in the least. *The List* is edgy, funny and highly entertaining and makes for an excellent read.

If you enjoy edgy women's fiction or some political intrigue and scandal, be sure to check this one out!

Erin says

When Adrienne Brown leaves her prestigious job in New York for a job at the Capitolist, in Washington D.C., she has to adjust to the quick pace at the office. Everything changes when she stumbles upon a colleague having a scandalous affair with a senator. She takes the time to thoroughly investigate the every aspect of this affair, but should she go public with it?

The List was a fun read and hard to put down, and each page left you wanting more!

I received a copy of this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Kate says

This had to be one of the most materialistic, immature narrators I've ever read. Ugh, I disliked this book so much!

Caralyn says

Really surprised so many people recommend this one. I ditched this after chapter 2. The author made so many attempts at humor that were predictable & completely fell flat. Too many great books out there to give up more hours to this one.

Lisa B. says

4.5/5.0

My Thoughts

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The first two-thirds was the set up - entertaining and frequently laugh out loud funny. The final third had a totally different tone. While still sometimes funny, this part was much more serious and suspenseful. Adrienne must decide what to do with the story she has uncovered and how to deal with the impact of her decision.

I thought the author did an excellent job of keeping the story moving. I loved the humor. I thought the ethical aspect Adrienne's dilemma rang true for the media crazy world we live in. Bravo on this debut, Ms. Tanabe. I am looking forward to reading future books from you.

My thanks to Atria Books and Netgalley for allowing me to read this in exchange for an unbiased review.

Publish date: February 5. 2013.

Monica says

I had high hopes for this book when i started. I thought it would be like the devil wears prada(although that book wasnt that good) but this was just awful. From the lack of character development to the boring scandal that was just predictable, i expected more from a book taking place in my hometown where scandal and gossip sits on every corner

Read In Colour says

Written in the same vein as Lauren Weisberger's The Devil Wears Prada or Erin Duffy's Bond Girl, The List tries hard to be as entertaining as either book, but falls short. Though I was interested in it enough to read it all the way through, it wasn't the attention grabbing, page turner I'd hoped it would be. Still, I can imagine that it will appeal to a lot of readers.

Adrienne Brown has dreamed of working as a serious journalist for years. When the opportunity to leave the fluff pieces of Town & Country arises, she trades in her Louboutins and her glamorous life in New York for long days and hour long commutes between DC and her parent's home in small town Virginia. Though she works at The Capitolist, the it publication of the moment, she's stuck in the style section pumping out a dozen stories a day about the latest fashions on Capitol Hill.

By chance, Adrienne stumbles upon a story that could catapult her career to the next level, but it involves a co-worker she loves to hate. Should be simple to just tell the story, squash the co-worker and get a promotion, right? Not quite so simple. And this is where the story takes a dive.

I was entertained by Adrienne's time on red carpets and private parties, gossiping with her fellow style mavens and her blossoming romance with a Republican strategist. What I was not entertained by was the

long, drawn out decision about whether or not to go forth with her plan to blow the whistle. I would say that her hand wringing and whining took up at least 60% of the book. Much more interesting were her fact finding missions and her interactions with her sister.

I can tell what Karin Tanabe was trying to do with this story line. Unfortunately, she missed the mark. She may want to skip fiction and return to her days of dealing with the facts at Politico.

Cara Meredith says

Well, I don't know about the rest of the reviews, but I could not get enough of the wit and mystery present in the pages of *The List*. Plus, it was set in Washington (fascinating), and all about journalism (just as fascinating). Perfect summer read!

Nicole says

When I read the synopsis of *The List* by Karin Tanabe, I immediately knew I wanted to read it. Political scandal uncovered by a relative newbie? Yes please. I had visions of press conferences, drama, and political commentators and talking heads going insane. *The List* had very, very little of that, and surprisingly I enjoyed it anyway.

It's like *1984* without the overalls and mind control torture.

The characters are over the top. Normally, you find that with one or two characters in a book to draw attention to them. Not so in *The List*. Every character is over the top, and while normally I think that would detract from a story, it actually helps *The List* a lot. The characters are supposed to be over the top insane. How else are we to believe that the insanity that is described is actually happening. It's almost one of those 'this is just so strange, you can't be possibly making it up' scenarios. Think *the Devil Wears Prada* meets politics in Washington, D.C.!

Fast-forward three years and my life revolves around politicians, all of whom seem to think that laws are as flexible as gymnasts.

When it is all said and done, *The List*, ultimately is a book about growing up. It's a book about deciding about the kind of person you want to be, both personally and professionally, and then setting about becoming that person.

Rachel Kramer Bussel says

Adrienne Brown thinks working at *The Capitalist* is her dream job, enough to leave a cushy gig at *Town & Country*. Even when she finds out she has to start at 5 a.m. and file stories every hour, she perseveres, in awe of the cool girls like Olivia Campo and, mainly, the men who seem to have the most power and prestige. She's dealing with living back home in Middleburg, Virginia, where her mom's claim to fame as a former famous gossip columnist is often contrasted with her lowly job. When she stumbles upon a scandal, she pursues it with zeal and more than a hint of schadenfreude. Tanabe peppers the book with hip references to artists like Ai Weiwei and Penn Quarter's Oyamel restaurant, and offers a look at what happens when a young woman becomes her job. The characters are often over the top (my personal favorite: Adrienne's

spoiled yet underneath it all loving sister Peyton) and the plot is zany and often madcap, especially when it touches on some darker topics, but is a page-turner that will make you very, very glad your job is not as hectic as Adrienne's. Adrienne is the heroine, but is not always likeable, and I wasn't sure what I ultimately wanted her to choose: using her journalistic chops for good, evil, or somewhere in between.

RoseMary Achey says

The List opens with reporter Adrienne Brown's first few days at Washington, DC news publication The Capitolist. Adrienne is a twenty something, highly educated, wealthy woman who recently gave up a comfortable position with Town and Country magazine to work for the only media publication that is actually on the rise-The Capitolist, List for short.

Author Tanabe does a good job of educating the reader on the incredible pace of digital media. In a world where reporters were expected write or tweet an average of 8-9 stories a day, the young reporter's speed is feverish and the quality suspect.

Adrienne does stumble across a potentially career altering story which is the backbone of this novel. This book could be very appropriately called a "Beach Read" or placed in the category of "Chick-Lit." I do not enjoy books that over use clichés and toss around brand names like a marketing text, but hey, that is just me.

Lisa says

Ironically, the novel's protagonist constantly clamors for the guiding hand of a real editor. I was clamoring for the head of the editor of this book by the end of chapter two. Easily a third of the repetitive hand-wringing could have been removed, tightening up the pacing. The ending was weak, characters were caricatures, and the plot tortuously made its way to the inevitable conclusion.
