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Rumors (Luxe, Book 2)



Synopsis

Gossip Girl meets the Gilded Age in this delicious and compelling novel, the second in the New York Times bestselling series from author Anna Godbersen. As old friends become rivals, Manhattan's most dazzling socialites find their futures threatened by whispers from the past. In this delicious sequel to the New York Times bestselling *The Luxe*, nothing is more dangerous than a scandal...or more precious than a secret. True love. False friends. Scandalous gossip. This is Manhattan, 1899. After bidding good-bye to New York's brightest star, Elizabeth Holland, rumors continue to fly about her untimely demise. All eyes are on those closest to the dearly departed: her mischievous sister, Diana, now the family's only hope for redemption; New York's most notorious cad, Henry Schoonmaker, the flame Elizabeth never extinguished; the seductive Penelope Hayes, poised to claim all that her best friend left behind—including Henry; even Elizabeth's scheming former maid, Lina Broud, who discovers that while money matters and breeding counts, gossip is the new currency. "Mystery, romance, jealousy, betrayal, humor, and gorgeous, historically accurate details. I couldn't put *The Luxe* down!" Cecily von Ziegesar, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Gossip Girl* series

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *The Luxe*: "Mystery, romance, jealousy, betrayal, humor, and gorgeous, historically accurate details. I couldn't put *The Luxe* down!" (Cecily von Ziegesar, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Gossip Girl* series)

True love. False friends. Scandalous gossip. Welcome back to Manhattan, 1899. As rumors fly about the untimely demise of New York's brightest star, Elizabeth Holland, all eyes are on those closest to the dearly departed: her sister, Diana, the family's only hope for redemption; Henry Schoonmaker, the flame Elizabeth never extinguished; Penelope Hayes, poised to claim all that her best friend left behind; even Elizabeth's former maid, Lina Broud, who discovers that while money matters and breeding counts, gossip is the new currency. In this delicious sequel to the New York Times bestselling *The Luxe*, nothing is more dangerous than a scandal . . . or more precious than a secret.

This is a pretty great match to the first book, *Luxe*! I really truly liked this book more especially since it starts to go deeper into the lives and characters of the main group. Fun and full of twists and turns! The down side is the inappropriate happenings that make this not so realistic-somethings just wouldn't be done in that day and age.

I thought this book was going to be predictable but there were some excellent twist and turns. If you like historical fiction, then I would recommend this to you. The characters are lovable or you will hate them but you can definitely picture the characters.

I've read the entire *Luxe* Series, but after the first book you will probably enjoy it very much. I didn't care for the elaborate description of clothing....found that very dull...but the story just kept getting better. I read the series over a four-day period and advise you not judge it based on only reading the first book....go on to the next in this series. Many good twists and turns! Strong story and good character construction.

Such a good book! I recommend if you like reading books set in certain time periods

(minor spoilers if you haven't read the first book, *The Luxe*) In the second book of the *Luxe* series we are focused a bit more on the younger Holland sister Diana. As society reels from Elizabeth's death and speculates on possible alternatives, Diana must grow up quickly to save the family. They are quickly running out of money and things to sell for money. Her best hope is to marry her sister's former fiancé, Henry Schoonmaker, who is mourning for Elizabeth. But it isn't as simple as all that. Penelope Hayes, who played a part in Elizabeth's death/disappearance, has her eyes on Henry as

well, and she is not afraid to use every underhanded trick she can think of to win him over. Diana is a girl after my own heart. She mocks society and all its silliness as she attempts to play along - if only for appearances sake. She loves Henry deeply and passionately, and prays for when it will be considered appropriate for them to leave mourning and become engaged. Meanwhile, Elizabeth and Will have settled in California and are looking for oil when a letter from Diana causes enough concern for them to risk returning to New York to try and help, for Elizabeth's mother is quite ill and the financial situation is becoming even more dire. Penelope is a very mean person (I'd like to use a different phrase, but my daughter reads this). While I respect her will to fight and do whatever it takes to get what she wants...I hate to see how she treats the people around her in order to get it. This book moved a bit more slowly for me than the first in the series. There were many small details that became large ones and I'm hoping they are all made relevant in the third book. I'm far too attached to Diana to give up on her now and will be ordering the next in the series, *Envy* as soon I can. 3.5/5

Many reviewers have called this book "vapid" and "without substance"...but that is how young ladies of this era truly behaved! (according to historical accounts of course!). Their lives were filled with vapid conversation and vicious gossip about who wore what to whose party. They weren't supposed to exert themselves in the least and their educations were little more than practicing polite conversation and knowing what fork to use with which course. Their lives must have exceedingly boring. I can't even imagine the tediousness of such an existence. Yet these young ladies had to have fire in them, they had to have romances and intrigues and heartbreaks and tragedy...just like girls do today. I think the stories do an excellent job bringing the reader into a world we couldn't possibly fathom and making it something we can identify with. I found myself loving Diana and rooting for her and for Henry. My heart rose and fell for Elizabeth and I found Penelope was not that far off from some of the entitled brats I went to school with. These are well written books and I enjoy being able to lose myself in a time I never knew but can easily relate to!

I loved *Rumors* and highly recommend it. I normally don't like books set in the past but I love the *Luxe* and *Rumors*.

This is the 2nd book in the *Luxe* series, starting as the prior book did, with the event that culminates the book, in this case, a big society wedding. The book then picks up from where the first book left off. Diana is being asked to make a good match to save her family from poverty. Diana is still in love

with Henry and Penelope is determined to win him back. Rumors begin to swirl that Elizabeth is not dead, but instead has been kidnapped. This one has several plot twists and unlikely turns that seem implausible but do drive the plot forward. Lina Broud is back, using Penelope's money to be a "lady" in hopes of winning Will's love. She instead falls into the situation of becoming an escort of sorts when her money is stolen. However, she is key in providing Penelope with the information she needs to manipulate Henry. It was an interesting sequel, and I will continue on to the third to see what happens to the Hollands.

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