



Going Down

Jennifer Belle

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National Bestseller

“A funny, sad, nasty little gem of a novel.”—Jay McInerney

In bestselling author Jennifer Belle’s debut novel, *Going Down*, Belle introduces readers to Bennington Bloom, a coed working her way through college. As a call girl.

With a sharp eye for satire and a keen comic sense, Belle chronicles nineteen-year-old Bennington’s high-pressure adventures. Stuck with an ulcer, a father who loves his dog like a daughter, a shrink who is hard of hearing, and New York University tuition to worry about, she’s working overtime to keep it all together and doing what she can to survive. Spending the night in an abandoned hotel pool, punching pushy old women on the subway, Bennington is at an all-time low, and things are only going down from there.

A witty take on making it in the city, *Going Down* showcases Jennifer Belle’s unerring gift for capturing the absurdities of day-to-day life. Funny and intelligent with an endearingly skewed take on life, Belle is the real thing.

Going Down Details

Date : Published July 1st 1996 by Riverhead Trade (first published January 1st 1996)

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Author : Jennifer Belle

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Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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~ToniG~ says

This book was sadly funny. I found the character interesting enough to finish the book, but it was a little disturbing that she was so nonchalant about being a prostitute, and about her whole attitude towards life. Her parents and her friends seemed to have some sort of mental instability. This whole "world" that was created, was very disturbing, I found it hard to continue to read the book. If it was not for the dark humor of the main character I would have stopped reading all together. The way the book ended left me feeling like I was missing something. I just couldn't tap into this world or try to understand it. It was like being at a party where everyone is drunk and on drugs and you're sober. That is the only way I can describe it. I would not recommend.

Jacqueline says

One of my favorite things to do in my downtime is to peruse the shelves of my friends on Goodreads. That's how I made the decision to order this one off of Bookmooch. Most of the books that I mooch are titles that I'm not convinced that I want to spend the cash on. Thanks to the mixed reviews that I read online - Going Down fell into that category.

After the first few pages, it became apparent why there were so many varying reviews. This story is very polarizing - you either love it or hate it. Belle's style of writing has a lot to do with that. While the first-person narrative is not quite in the stream-of-consciousness style, it does give the reader the feeling of being in the head of someone with ADD...

To continue reading this review, visit my blog, [The Eclectic Book Hoarder](#).

Chris says

I picked "read" meaning I got 1/3 of the way through before I couldn't stand any more...that seems harsh...could care less about the story or characters is more like it.

All I could think of while reading is Catcher in the Rye if the nitwit was a whore rather than a teenager. I'm afraid if I finished this book then, like the *Catcher* fans, I'd want to assassinate someone or something, preferably the author's manuscripts.

I started writing a synopsis, but I can't work up the gumption to care enough to spew hatred. Pretty Woman had the Hooker with the Heart of Gold, *Going Down* has the Milquetoast Madam.

Susan Bazzett-Griffith says

Really disappointed in this book. It started out very interesting and funny, then just dragged on and on, w/out any actual character development or plot. Long series of disjointed, random events and an unlikable, unsympathetic narrator. I wanted to enjoy this book, but I really didn't like it at all. I only finished it because

I thought for sure something would eventually HAPPEN. Nothing does.

Betty says

I found this book to be uninteresting and it makes it into my short "never going to finish" category. I didn't care for the main character and her attitude regarding being a prostitute was pathetic. A student surviving by feeling this is her only way to take care of herself normally would have tugged at my heartstrings, but somehow, I just couldn't bring myself to care for this self-centered dishonest young woman. I'm happy Jennifer Belle has a fan base, I think every author should have one, but I'm certainly not joining them.

Emily says

Leah gave me this book when she was cleaning out her house. I am now convinced that Leah is a pervert.

Okay, just kidding. But! I wasn't a big fan. The author obviously thinks quite highly of herself, and tries to write abstractly and be deep yet witty and she tries waaaaay too hard. I never felt for the main character. And at this point, I've forgotten most of the plot (she was a hooker because she was mad at daddy, I remember that much). Total waste! Leah was smart to give it away, I was a sucker to take it!!

Lisa Litberg says

You know the old train wreck saying--its horrible yet you can't stop looking? Yeah. That's how this book was for me. I suppose it wasn't the worst book I've ever read, but it really wasn't very good. My biggest problem with it wasn't the graphic descriptions of life as a call-girl--in fact, that was probably all that kept me reading--but rather the narrator and main character of the book, who was flat, one-dimensional, static and offered nothing for the reader to invest in. She didn't seem to care about much, and neither did I.

Carrie Ann says

I must read for anyone who has ever wondered what it's actually like to be a call girl or "escort". It's a very realistic portrait of how a normal girl takes this path and what actually occurs on her dates (some of it not pretty). There's just something about this book that keeps your interest though.

I discovered this book in high school and later learned that Madonna was supposed to start in the movie. Can't remember if it was in fact ever made (I think it was), but I believe it was never released due to legal squabbles.

Marty says

Having read two other Jennifer Belle books, I wanted to read more. I really liked Going Down, I found it

dark and insightful about what one does to make money and just try to get along in life. It is how our decisions can make or break us.

It does not have a downer ending, but gives hope for redemption, and family relationships. I have now read three of her books, and will look to read anything she does in the future.

Jonathan says

I can't imagine a better first novel. One of my biggest influences, it's the story of a girl who starts hooking to pay for college. It is stream of consciousness, dark and funny. Really a special book.

Joanne says

From the beginning, I was drawn into the wit, humor and funniness of this book. Bennington Bloom becomes an escort/hooker to fund her college expenses. She has an unusual cast of friends and family in her life. While the storyline is not necessarily funny, the author makes it an amusing read with the antics and situations Bennington encounters. Along the way, she finds love, but deceives her boyfriend with her occupation and things really go down. A dark grittiness and reality of the lifestyle comes through the entertaining story. Short, quick chapters made it a quick read.

Lily says

I read this book while I was holidaying in Asia - and to be honest, if I had not been away I most likely would have put it down and found something better to read! However, because I was stuck on buses and trains I did finish it. I found it quite depressing - all the characters were empty and I really didn't warm to anyone in the book. I don't know what the author was trying to achieve - although the writing style was quite entertaining at times - for me this book just that nothing to offer. Not a book I would recommend to a friend.

Leslee says

Very much like a Tama Janowitz novel but not really as successful, I think. I'd much rather recommend A Certain Age or Slaves of New York. Funny, and very clever at times, however. Belle is like the rightful successor to an aging Janowitz, kind of like HBO's Girls is to Sex and the City.

Diana says

I really liked this book and was going to give it five stars until the last few chapters. The last few chapters seemed kind of pointless or too made-up or something. But I still liked the book. It was funny and seemed

emotionally truthful.

Desiree says

I liked it. Much better than those dreadful chick-lit novels where some aimless young Manhattanite loses a guy and whines and eats ice cream until she falls for a perfect new guy that her mom set her up with. At least there's a real conflict. Although it's a work of fiction, you get the sense that it's highly autobiographical, especially when the protagonist, asked to name a celebrity she resembles, says "Valerie Bertinelli"-- take a look at the author photo ;)

A bit short. Some characters could have been fleshed out a bit more. Some parts were... unpleasant (daddy issues much?) and CERTAINLY not for the prudish, but entertaining overall.
