



Tan Lines

J.J. Salem

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During one unforgettable season at a Hamptons summer share, three women's journeys unfold thrill by thrill and shock by shock, in this addictive story about the illusions of glamour, the dark side of success and the elusiveness of love.

Liza Pike—She's the It Girl for topical feminist spin—beautiful, successful, and ferociously fearless. But as the media props her up to be the millennium's new Gloria Steinem, she's falling into all the old traps she cautions other women to avoid...

Kellyanne Downey—She's been holding out for her big break as an actress while enduring a series of dead end jobs and playing mistress to a rich developer. But now she's wondering why the phenomenal looks that were supposed to take her all the way are leading her to the edge of nowhere...

Billie Shelton—She's the indie-rock bitch goddess with an appetite for self-destruction. Men are candy, drugs are fuel, girlfriends are disposable commodities, and in her world, looking out for number one is the only way to live...

Tan Lines portrays the passions, triumphs, and heartbreaks of modern women with a sly intelligence and wickedly sharp prose that will hook you to the last page.

Tan Lines Details

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Author : J.J. Salem

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From Reader Review Tan Lines for online ebook

Jennifer says

Wow. This book is incredibly raunchy! However, that's what makes it a great summer beach read in the tradition of Judith Krantz and Jackie Collins. Sex (gay AND straight), drugs, rock & roll, reality TV - you name it, this book has it. Definitely not a book for the faint-of-heart.

It's a quick read, and even though the 3 main characters are annoying in the beginning (you wonder how they can be so stupid), you do become invested in the story and in finding out how they are going to fix (or in one case, ruin) their lives.

What really annoyed me, however, was the constant references to brand names. Did I really need to know the brand name of every piece of clothing Liza put on for a date, including her bracelets and fragrance, not to mention her shoes and bag. I don't mind a brand name here and there, but in this book they were constant, and the book started to read more like a luxury goods catalog.

The ending was a bit rushed and disappointing. As I got towards the end of the book I actually wondered if I was missing a bunch of pages, because I couldn't believe the story was going to be over in just 10 pages. The Page Six style epilogue wrapped things up just a little too neatly.

Melissa says

This book is pure, wonderful smut....and I loved every minute of it. I wouldn't recommend it for the easily offended. It gets pretty graphic in some parts. But, if you just want a fun, eye brow raising book to read, this is it.

Di says

Tan Lines tells the story of three women who have been friends since college. They have little in common and yet they stay in touch, usually meeting up for the occasional girly weekend.

This summer, however, they've rented a houseshare in The Hamptons so they'll be spending a great deal of time together. This could make or break their friendships.

Rock star Billie Shelton, feminist Liza Pike and budding actress Kellyanne Downey are all embracing this opportunity to get away from it all.

Billie's career is on the skids, followed swiftly by her sanity. Liza feels her marriage is a pointless exercise and plans to ditch her hunky fireman husband, just as soon as she's written her next book. Kellyanne has nothing to call her own. She's in a lucrative relationship with a rich property developer and is basically at his beck and call. Far from giving her freedom, though, the relationship traps her. If she wants to do something, but her lover says no, then that's the end of it.

By the end of the summer, though, the girls' lives have drastically changed, but not necessarily for the better...

Tan Lines is a bittersweet book. There are many ups and downs, and glimpses into not-so-perfect lives of the rich and famous. Full of perversion and tragedy, Tan Lines isn't your typical happy-ever-after novel - but it is a perfect beach read.

Cheryl says

Liza Pike has the perfect life. She is married to sexy, firefighter Justin. Also Liza is a regular on the TV show The Roundtable where she does her best work. She takes on the biggest names in the industry business of entertainment. Liza is a feminist who is huge on women's rights. Her latest victim is movie director Harrison Beck of "Watch Her Bleed". Harrison's latest movie is a slasher movie. Some people applaud Liza's feminist ways but others aren't so pleased with her and want to shut her up for good but who could it be? There are numerous people who don't like Liza like Harrison who Liza has commented on national television about his manhood, than there is her husband Justin; they haven't had sex in years and when Liza states this fact in front of one of her co-workers, Justin is mad. When Liza starts receiving death threats she doesn't take them too seriously as she knows she has made enemies in the business and doesn't care. So are the threats just someone's way to put Liza in her place or are the threats for real?

Kellyanne Downey is young, beautiful, and blonde. She is also the mistress to rich developer, Walter Isherwood. Kellyanne wants to be a successful actress. She gets approached by Brad "Bonzi" Lucas, producer for a reality show called "Soul Mates". Kellyanne agrees to be a contestant on the show not realizes what a sleaze Brad is. Brad decides that he is going to make Kellyanne out to be the drunk slut of the show unless she sleeps with him. All Kellyanne wants is some respect and to be loved is that too hard to ask?

Billie Shelton is a famous rock star. Unfortunately Billie's star is falling fast, that is until she is given a second chance. Amy Dando, Billie's manager introduces Billie to Todd Bana of Olympic Records, who wants to work with Billie. Todd tells Billie that the White Tiger, a songwriting group has some songs that they think would be great for Billie. The only hitch is that Billie would have to change her image from rock star to pop star. Billie experiences the high life when Todd has her try cocaine for the first time. Now between drinking and drugs, it will be a miracle if Billie completes her next album.

So these three friends decide to try and get away from their hectic lives and spend the summer in The Hamptons.

Ok so Tan Lines has been labeled as a great beach read and I say Tan Lines is a great read anytime. It has laugh a minute humor, fun, intrigue, adventure and three sexy women. Each one of the characters Liza, Kellyanne, and Billie were outstanding in their own ways. The nice part I liked about this book was that they all tried to band together to help each other out. Tan Lines is a book you can tell your girlfriends about and have them talking about it for a long time. Plus the most amazing thing is that Tan Lines was written by a man! J.J. Salem has just become a new favorite of mine. There has only been one other guy author where I have found his writing style to be so dead on with women's' personalities that it was scary. I can't wait for J.J. Salem's next novel Bikini Wax to drop. In the mean time if you haven't picked up a copy yet of Tan Lines make sure torun not walk to the nearest bookstore and get yourself a copy today.

Tatum C. Rose says

I just cannot believe that I owned this book for as long as I did (a couple years probably) before reading it! One of my new favorites! Fits my life just right at the moment, loved every minute of it and I couldn't put it down. I'm sure I will read it at least once more this summer, best beach (or laying nudey in the backyard/riverbank in my case) read ever! Love love loved it! Got me back into chick-lit after I had taken a burnt out vacay in my mind from the genre. Very pleased with this book, can't wait to read more from JJ Salem:)

Lauren says

I was a little iffy with this one.. I liked the characters, and how they developed. I went from loving them, to wondering why some were doing what they did, to generally feeling sad for two of them in the end. I'm glad at least one had a somewhat happy ending, even if getting there was rough for her. It's a fun trashy read though.

What I definitely didn't like though was the amount of swearing (is it necessary to swear so much? felt like every other line contained at least one curse,) and the celebrity and brand name dropping. It felt almost unnatural with all the celebrity sightings. The ending I wish was a little more than just gossip column tidbits of what happened to the characters, both major and minor. It kept with the style of the book just wish it was more.

Overall not too bad if you're looking for a light fun read.

TK says

Guilty pleasure doesn't come any more decadent than *Tan Lines*. These women are rich, difficult, beleaguered, and addicted. Most of the characters are unlikable. Their luxurious, wealthy lifestyles are eye-popping to the uninitiated. But if you don't have any moral dilemmas over their drug use, infidelity, lying, and naked ambitions, then you certainly aren't going to care about the \$2,000 lunches they have out in the Hamptons.

I say all of this as a way to convince you: pure, unfettered escapism is yours even if you can't afford your third of the \$150,000 summer rental fee. Just get *Tan Lines* out of the library for free!

Rebecca says

Fun, trashy read. But the incessant name dropping (celebrities, brand names-cars, liquor, shoes, cosmetics, clothes, perfume, purses..) was grating. Also, the events alluded to in the introduction aren't revealed until the epilogue! The "friendship" between the three ladies isn't developed, and they don't spend that much page time together.

icedtea says

Three women, friends from school, reunite for a summer and converge in a shared house in the Hamptons. Explicit and frank, there is a lot of sex, drugs and rock and roll (well, Billie is a fading rock star...) There was a bit too much celebrity and designer name dropping, but overall I thought it lived up to its billing of a great beach read - the story is strong and it was a page turner.

Circa says

Every inside cover blurb and review makes this out to be the ultimate beach read and it is quick, mindless storytelling. On the other hand, you may feel more like slashing your wrists than breaking out the wine and swimsuit when you're done. I've read Valley of the Dolls, Chances, Lonely Lady, etc. I enjoy my glamour trash as much as the next person, but this story was particularly soulless. It had the necessary ingredients of sex, drugs, drama and even some rock n' roll, but held no heart or significant internal development for its lead characters. Frankly, I found its portrayal of both sexes overly bleak and insulting. Nearly every male character is out to use, abuse, exploit, manipulate or insult women for their own end and toss them aside when they become inconvenient. Every female character is vacuous, immature, flighty, and seemingly incapable of making reasonable choices. What's even more sad is that it seemed as if the author was genuinely trying to approach gender issues or make some sort of statement about the exploitation of women, but he ends up just giving a confusing tone that defends women superficially while simultaneously, unconsciously drawing ugly, cliche conclusions about them.

And don't get me started on the plot. The synopsis sells this as a reunion of three sexy friends at a summer home in the Hamptons with drama and debauchery focused beachside. But in fact, 80-90% of Tan Lines focuses on their uninspired daily lives leading up to and surrounding the Hampton vacation. I hope you like dull cab conversations, meetings at productions houses, cancelled studio recordings, and drawn out internal monologues with brief, intermittent dirty sex.

Tara Anderton says

This book had a slow start but ended well! Says something about seeing a book through to the finish !

Libraryscat says

After reading the first line of J. J. Salem's novel, Tan Lines, [return][return]There are eight thousand nerve endings in the clitoris, and this son of a bitch couldn't find any of them. p. 3 [return][return]I knew that the book might not be the pick-of-the-month for the church book club. Even so, if you can get past the sex, drugs, rock and roll, and often funnily foul language this is a fantastic book. [return][return]Reading Tan Lines reminds me of a few things. First, if you are from the Northwest Florida area, the Pensacola Beach regulars are lovingly called beach trash which implies in all its Southerness that these folks are often socially flawed but endearing and loved none the less! This description might be used to describe many of the

characters found in the novel. Second, upon reflection, Tan Lines reminded me of an updated Valley of the Dolls, published in the 1960s. In this Jacqueline Susann novel sex, drugs, name-dropping, and social climbing were the downfall of key characters. [return][return]Read the rest at LibrarysCat Book Blog

Mel says

Tan Lines was a quick read. A "beach read", I guess. Three drastically different friends(Liza, Billie, and Kellyanne) and their tumultuous lives. I think I had a problem with everyone (other friends, their family, significant others, coworkers, etc., etc. Basically everyone these three women came in contact with) being "hot". It was a little much. I know it's fiction, but still. That wasn't the only unrealistic thing but, it's consistent if nothing else. Liza is a smart, feminazi. She is also an author. Changed by the attacks on 9/11, she marries a firefighter who is everything she isn't. Kellyanne is sweet and Southern. She is the mistress to a much older man. She is also a struggling actress/waitress. Billie is the character that got on my nerves the most. A washed up singer, who abuses almost everything (and everyone) she can get her hands on. She was equal parts pathetic and obnoxious. Tan Lines is what it is. A superficial read that doesn't require too much brain power.

Shelby says

This book was really good! I got into it and could not put it down! The book was about three girls, Kellyanne, Liza, and Billie who were friends in college and they were well into their 30s in the book and they decided to stay in the Hamptons for the summer. There was a lot of drama, the book never had a dull moment! I love how Kellyanne's southern manners were written in the book. I just loved it! Will be reading The Strip as well! :)

Christine Gomez says

Pure and utter ridiculous scandal and drama! Really contributed nothing to the betterment of my brain, but it was pure enjoyment. Sometimes you just need that!
