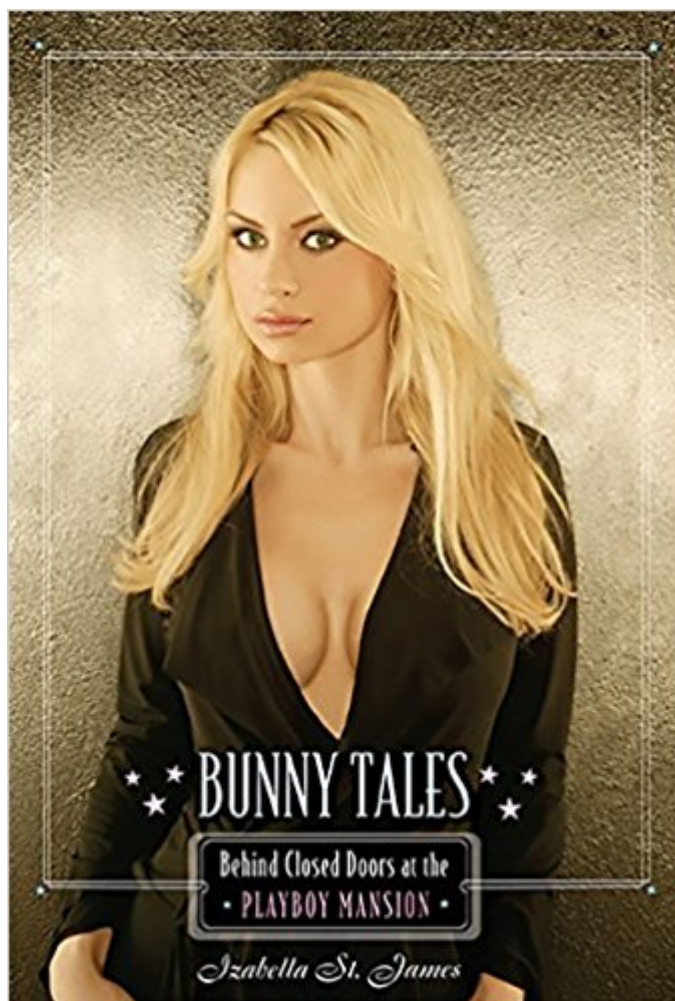


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Bunny Tales: Behind Closed Doors At The Playboy Mansion



Synopsis

When this beach bunny caught the eye of Hugh Hefner at an L.A. nightclub, Izabella St. James was looking for a fun break from studying for the bar. As the latest Girlfriend of the Playboy founder, her relationship lasted two years, but life behind the gates of the Playboy Mansion was anything but fun. Sure there were parties, presents, puppies, and plastic surgery; but there was also a curfew, a strict regimen of who sits where on movie night, limited contact with the outside world, and a sex life that was anything but wild and crazy. While the E! reality show, *The Girls Next Door*, has been a ratings hit, each of the three Playboy Bunnies in the series has since left the Mansion in newsworthy ways: one is engaged to a football player, and Hugh's main Girlfriend has finally understood that there would be no fairy-tale marriage and family with the man she literally transformed her life for. Izabella was there to witness how each of these relationships formed, where each Girlfriend fell in the pecking order, and when, exactly, the fabled life turned shabby and cheap. From catfights to sneaking in boyfriends, from high-profile guests in the Grotto to the bizarre rituals of the octogenarian at the center of the sexual revolution, *Bunny Tales* is compulsively readable and endlessly entertaining!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Izabella St. James is a writer and an actress and has never considered herself a "model." She and her pet menagerie live in Los Angeles. She holds a law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, and is still hoping to use it one day. She is currently working on her second book.

Although I have no problem that Izabella wanted to experience a glamorous lifestyle and try living in the mansion with Hefner, I find her expectations a bit unsettling. She basically expected Hugh to let her move in as one of his girlfriends, but wanted all the money and prestige without any strings attached. She stated many times that we weren't romantically attracted to Hugh but was frustrated that he had rules and a strict allowance that they were obligated to follow. She would get mad that he wouldn't give her more money, pay for her student loans, help her mom with her surgery, give her more money for clothing or allow her to hook up with other men and have to follow his tight curfew. Above his allowance, cosmetic surgeries, living rent free, almost unlimited grooming expenses along with getting invited to the most "it" parties and expense free vacations among other amenities she felt Hugh should have done more. To me she was using Hef to get a free ride into the rich and famous as he was trying to surround himself with much younger beauties and receiving free publicity to further his magazine. It all seems so silly and ridiculous. She says she was just after fun and a new lifestyle, well she got that. She really wanted to live in the lap of luxury and fun without any sweat off her back. I also think it sounds like Hugh has a pretty sad and empty life. Why wouldn't he want to be with a woman closer to his age or even 20 years younger. They are all living in "la la" land and are just using one another really receiving nothing happy or meaningful in return. I have to say this was well written and interesting, but it did not make me respect Isabella or pity her. She has beauty, brains and a fun spirit that hopefully she learned could have been put to much better use than the nonsense she chose. I also felt she tried to act like she was not catty or petty, but she couldn't stop herself from saying really unflattering things about others while only flattering things about herself. I guess that's what makes a tell-all interesting;-)

The author has little writing talent. The first few chapters about her childhood and home country read like a Wikipedia page. She just lists facts & figures to fill out the book. On the one hand, it's an interesting peek behind the curtain of the Playboy publicity machine. On the other, I found the author to be rather unlikable as a person. She constantly reminds the reader how she was "above" all the other girlfriends. She was more educated, sophisticated, independent, etc. I would expect any person writing their own version of events to make themselves out to be the good guy. And without any alternative viewpoints in print, we will never know how much of her story is truthful. While reading her story, I couldn't shake the opinion that this young lady has bitten the hand that fed her. Sure, being one of Hef's many girlfriends may not have been all it's cracked up to be, but that doesn't justify betraying him and airing everyone's dirty laundry.

This was a strange mix of a book to me. First off, too many geography/history lessons in the beginning about Poland, etc. It didn't advance her narrative nor was it apposite to her story. But that was okay, I just skimmed those parts. It was really hard to understand her decision not to take the Bar Exam because up until that point, she was presenting herself as a really smart person who wanted to be an international lawyer and help people. So when she all of a sudden decides not to show up for the 2nd or 3rd day of the Bar, I can't remember which, and go to the Mansion for the day--it was kind of out of left field. I can see going to the Mansion any other days, but not when it's the Bar and you've essentially paid \$3,000 to take it. So I had to fill in for myself who she really was--that besides being a good student and wanting to help others, she wanted even more a free and easy lifestyle of luxury. That's fine, too. Nothing wrong with it, but up to that point -- she presented herself as someone different. Then she's at the mansion and, in spite of her law degree, didn't do due diligence on what's involved with being one of Hef's girlfriends, which comes back to haunt her. She really lays out the life of a Hefner Girlfriend in great detail, even giving the layout of the house from when you walk in the door, as well as what's required in the bedroom on Wednesday and Friday nights. The more she talks about her life with Hef and the other girlfriends, the more she contradicts herself from one page to the next. You can feel her resentment and anger on some pages and read her pulling that back in. It's an interesting book, but in the end, you sort of have to figure out who she is for yourself versus what she tells you. And because of her overwhelming resentment towards others, you have to take some things she says with a grain of salt.

Some of the chapters in this book are laugh out loud funny, but never intentionally. The author constantly tries to paint a picture of herself as "an intellectual" and goes on and on about how much smarter she was than everyone around her, when the fact is, she was the same breed of gold digging, shallow, dim witted peroxide junkie as the other women who inhabited Hefner's "party posse." I don't see anything morally wrong with that. Be a party girl. Bang old men. Get the money. Whatever. But don't pretend you're Marcel Proust when the examples of people you look up to are Paris Hilton, Pamela Anderson and Kid Rock (yes, seriously.) If you want to know what Hefner does in the bedroom, that part occupies one chapter of the book and is pretty pathetic. The author insists she "kept her panties on" which in Bunny slang apparently means she participated minimally or not at all, which I highly doubt. The entire book is an effort to raise herself up out of the gold digging bimbo image she has created for herself by being one of Hefner's paid girlfriends (i.e. prostitutes) when it might have been better just to own it, rather than dust self serving sugar on her muff donut. I

gave it an extra star for baby oil and hand me down oral. (ew)

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