



THE CARRIE DIARIES

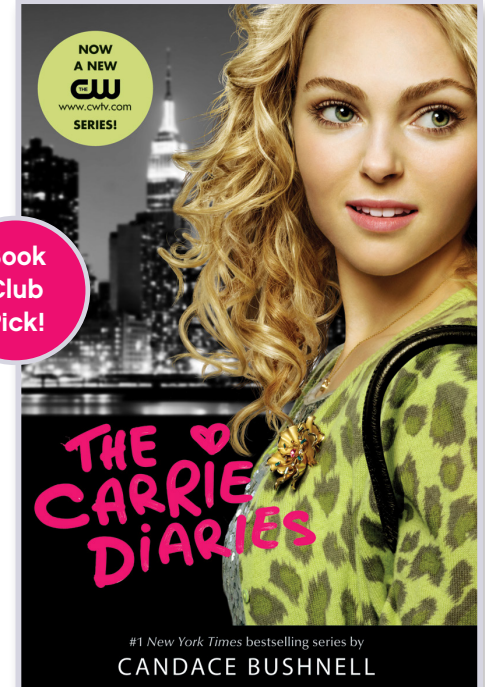
BY CANDACE BUSHNELL

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Carrie Diaries is the coming-of-age story of one of the most iconic characters of our generation. Before *Sex and the City*, Carrie Bradshaw was a small-town girl who knew she wanted more. She's ready for real life to start, but first she must navigate her senior year of high school. Up until now, Carrie and her friends have been inseparable. Then Sebastian Kydd comes into the picture, and a friend's betrayal makes her question everything. With an unforgettable cast of characters, *The Carrie Diaries* is the story of how a regular girl learns to think for herself and evolves into a sharp, insightful writer.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why doesn't Peter take Carrie seriously when she says she wants to be a writer?
2. Why does Carrie worry that she's a "romantic" when she starts to have feelings for Sebastian (page 35)?
3. Why is Lali jealous of Carrie and her relationship with Sebastian?
4. Carrie refers to Lali as her best friend throughout most of the novel. Do you think Lali is a true friend to Carrie? Why or why not?
5. Compare Sebastian and George. How do they differ in their outlooks on life and the ways they treat Carrie? What does Carrie learn about herself from each of them?
6. George is handsome, smart, and very interested in Carrie, but she doesn't have romantic feelings for him. Why?
7. How has Carrie's mother influenced her life and desire to be a writer?
8. What role do Mary Gordon Howard and her books play in Carrie's life? How does Carrie's view of Mary Gordon Howard change after she meets her the first time and then again later with George?
9. Why is Carrie so upset when she finds out that Dorrit destroyed their mother's handbag (pages 146–147)? How does Carrie make the best of the situation, and what does it foreshadow about her future?
10. Why does Carrie finally decide to write for the school newspaper?
11. How does Carrie's relationship with Sebastian interfere with her dreams and plans for the future? Does she succeed at balancing these two aspects of her life?
12. What does Peter mean when he tells Carrie, "I always thought you were kind of . . . silly" (page 195)? Why do Carrie's peers think this way about her?
13. Carrie tells herself, "No matter what happens, I'll probably always want a guy" (page 277). What do you think of this statement? Is it possible to have a successful career and also find love?
14. Lali shows no remorse for her actions after her betrayal of Carrie. Why do you think she acted this way?



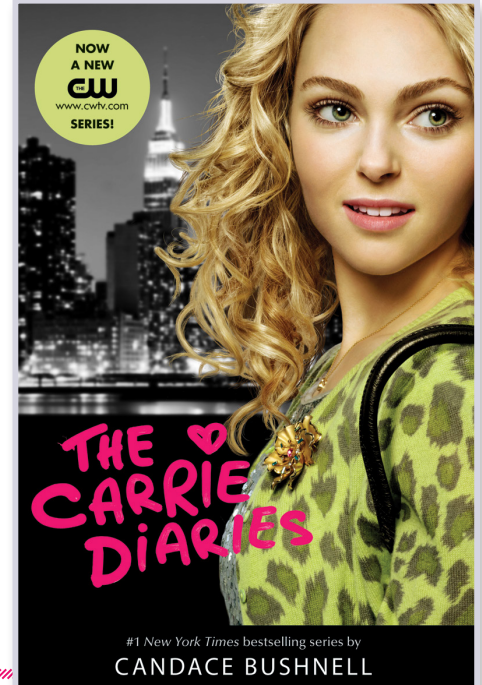
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15. How do Carrie's life experiences make her realize her potential as a writer? What finally motivates her to write her first real story for *The Nutmeg*?
16. How do Carrie and Donna LaDonna grow to develop a mutual respect for each other? What does Carrie mean when she says, "We're not really friends. We're too different for that" (page 374)?
17. Carrie says, "If you forgive someone, they can't hurt you anymore" (page 384). How does Carrie finally gain closure at the end of the novel from those who hurt her?



From Book to Screen: The Evolution of Carrie Bradshaw

1. Why is Carrie Bradshaw such a pop-culture icon? Why do so many young women idolize her today?
2. Do you think young Carrie Bradshaw on *The Carrie Diaries* TV show would grow up to be Carrie as portrayed on *Sex and the City*? Did you picture young Carrie any differently?
3. How does the portrayal of Carrie in *The Carrie Diaries* book differ from that of Carrie on *The Carrie Diaries* show?
4. Think about Carrie's group of friends on *The Carrie Diaries*—Maggie, The Mouse, and Walt. How do her relationships with these characters shape her adult friendships as portrayed on *Sex and the City*?
5. How does Carrie express herself through fashion in both *The Carrie Diaries* and *Sex and the City*?
6. How do Carrie's family—her father and sister, Dorrit—help her grow into the Carrie you know on *Sex and the City*?
7. Which Carrie Bradshaw—the one from *The Carrie Diaries* book, the one portrayed by AnnaSophia Robb, or the one portrayed by Sarah Jessica Parker—do you relate to most? Why?