



# High Maintenance

By Jennifer Belle

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## High Maintenance By Jennifer Belle

### *National Bestseller*

**The story of an obsessive love affair between a woman and an apartment.**

The publication of her sexy, offbeat, riotous first novel, *Going Down*, won Jennifer Belle comparisons from everyone from Dorothy Parker and Lorrie Moore to J. D. Salinger and Liz Phair. In *High Maintenance*, Belle is back with another brilliantly twisted New York story that is as funny, sad, painful, ridiculous, wild, daring, and lovable as its predecessor.

Set in the manic world of New York real estate, *High Maintenance* is the story of Liv Kellerman, a young woman who's just left her husband and, more important, their fabulous penthouse apartment with its Empire State Building view. On her own for the first time in her life, she relocates to a crumbling Greenwich Village hovel and contemplates her next move. Before long she finds her true calling: selling real estate. With her native eye for prime properties and an ability to lie with a straight face, Liv finds success and soon is swimming with the sharks—the hardcore, cutthroat brokers who'll do anything to close a deal. Along the way she picks up a maniacally ardent architect who likes to bite her, a few hilarious bosses, strange and exasperating clients, and a gun, and brings them with her on her search for the one thing she's really after: a home.

Belle's gift for creating strange and winning characters and her acute observations of both the absurd and the poignant in everyday life are the hallmarks of her fiction. *High Maintenance* is generous and unsparing, tough and exciting and terrifically smart—a hot new property on the market.

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## High Maintenance By Jennifer Belle Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Brimming with Gotham references, weird but lovable characters and typical urban scenes, Belle's second novel (after *Going Down*, which won her the title of Entertainment Weekly's Best New Novelist of 1996) is a witty and engaging tale of love and real estate in Manhattan. Liv Kellerman is 26 and recently divorced. In classic New York fashion, she's more upset about leaving her snazzy uptown digs than being single. Too proud to ask her wealthy father for money and lacking an advanced degree, she hits the pavement in search of a job and an apartment two things every 20-something in the city has had to struggle to secure. After she finds herself a shabby one-bedroom in Greenwich Village, "five flights above a 'restaurant' called King Shawarma," she works on employment. Liv ventures into the cutthroat world of real estate, gets her license and is soon spending her days showing TriBeCa lofts to the city's most discriminating clients. She's surprisingly good at it, and her new profession turns out to be therapeutic, too her forays into Manhattan's most wanted apartments teach her a thing or two about her own inner workings. Like all New York stories, this one features an eccentric romance: here, a noncommittal boyfriend with a proclivity for biting (at one point, Liv must visit an animal hospital to have her ear reattached to her head). Belle's tongue-in-cheek style and laugh-out-loud antics keep the pages turning. Despite the lack of a riveting story line, this latest addition to the booming yuppie fiction genre is fresh and invigorating. 8-city author tour. (May 7)

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From Library Journal

This work continues in the same tradition of Belle's highly praised first novel, *Going Down* (LJ 5/1/96), with equal parts hilarity and pain. Liv Kellerman has just left her husband after discovering his philandering. Never having been on her own before, she embarks on a new career in real estate. This novel is all New York from its high-priced apartments to its quirky characters. Liv begins dating an obsessive architect who likes to bite her. She finds a gun in a bathroom and keeps it, using it to scare aforementioned boyfriend when he turns out to be a liar and a cheat. Adjusting to a Greenwich Village dump after living in a penthouse, Liv shows fabulous apartments to clients who can't decide whether or not to buy them. Belle's portrayal of Liv's ups and downs, successes and failures are in turn funny and poignant. Interspersed are laugh-aloud lines: "When I got home I got undressed and a single pea fell out of my bra. I had gone to work with a pea in my bra and not even known it. Some princess, I thought." The film rights to Belle's first novel were optioned by Madonna; this one should have equal success. Highly recommended.

- *Kathy Ingels Helmond, Indianapolis-Marion Cty. P.L.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Real estate is everything in Manhattan. When, at 26, Liv Kellerman separates from her cheating husband, she has no skills, education, or more importantly, she no longer has the fabulous penthouse apartment with a view of the Empire State Building. In desperation, she takes a rundown place in Greenwich Village that spews brown water and has a shower usable only with a pair of pliers, located in the kitchen. After a disastrous job as a reader for a blind judge, Liv decides to get her real-estate license. Discovering she has a real knack for selling property, Liv finds herself in the cutthroat world of high-priced real estate, not only looking for the big sell but also for an apartment she can call home. Liv is young, inexperienced, insecure, and brash, and is surrounded by wacky, eccentric characters who accentuate her qualities, including a two-timing boyfriend with a fetish for biting and a gender-ambiguous employer. Liv isn't the poster girl for strong, independent women, but her story is quite entertaining. *Carolyn Kubisz*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jackie Peters:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled High Maintenance. Try to face the book High Maintenance as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

#### **Audrey Mack:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This High Maintenance is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Christopher Evan:**

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#### **Virginia White:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got college students? We believe that that query was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you also know that little person similar to reading or as reading become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you take to be your object. One of them are these claims High Maintenance.

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