



The Tokyo Cover Girls

Jackie Amsden

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There's a dark new trend in Tokyo's fashion industry and it has nothing to do with little black dresses.

For three models sharing an apartment in Japan's megacity, life couldn't be more different. Jess can't wait for the summer to be over so she can finally leave the business behind forever. Blake can't wait for the week to be over so she can get back to partying at the latest trending nightclubs. And Hailey can't wait for this casting to be over so she can cuddle up in a ball and cry.

The only thing they have in common: no one wants to think about those dead girls.

All plans are put on hold when Jess, Blake, and Hailey are selected to compete for an exclusive campaign that will transform one of them from commercial nobody to international 'model of the moment'. Of course, nothing is ever what it seems in the fashion world.

As the trio embarks upon a series of bizarre challenges, they are forced to confront their deepest secrets and ask questions they don't want to know the answers to...like who really killed those girls? And are they going to be next?

"While reading it I had this feeling that someone was looking over my shoulder & following me everywhere I was going." - The Cozy Little Book Nook

"Chanel no 5- scented fodder to a fashion-obsessed mind like mine." - Up Close and Literal

"A rollercoaster of confusion and terror...Every time I thought things couldn't get any stranger/creepier they did..." - Reading With Wrin

The Tokyo Cover Girls Details

Date : Published May 1st 2016 by Jackie Amsden

ISBN :

Author : Jackie Amsden

Format : ebook 449 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Contemporary, Suspense

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From Reader Review The Tokyo Cover Girls for online ebook

Barbara White says

What a great story. It kept me wanting to read more and more. The Tokyo Cover Girls lets us know what could be in store for anyone wanting a modeling career in Tokyo. It was exciting and frightening. Each main character had their own unique flair. I look forward to the next installment of The Tokyo Cover Girls.

Yesenia says

I received this book by the author for an honest review.

Three girls who dream of becoming models on Tokyo, Jess wants to win money for her college education, Hailey wants to become a fashion designer, not a model and Blake wants to become a top model so she can prove she can make it to the top on those who mistreated her. The three girls joined a company named Satsujin and it's not all what it seems and these three girls decipher the mystery very late and I was hoping there was teamwork but it didn't happen because it was too late and Hailey got caught by Hiro and while reading the book, I kind of predicted that he was the mastermind behind it. Sometimes I predict that Taro might be a detective but, I might be wrong but. we have to see in the sequel. I really loved the book and finished in 3 days. The 3 girls were thinking about the selfishness because they thought they were planning against each other and I didn't like that and I wanted a teamwork with them each other after finding about the missing girls, but the the three girls did the teamwork after saving Hailey. i was hoping by the end of the book Hailey told Blake and Jess that Yuki was a secret police to get the suspense on.

This book is about what happen the dark side of modeling and fashion world.

Naturalbri (Bri Wignall) says

This was such an interesting read! I don't know a lot about the Tokyo modelling scene, so all of this was new to me, but I was so drawn in by the blurb, that I just had to read. I was pleasantly surprised to find the thriller aspect of this book, especially as I love thrillers.

The pace of the book was perfect. I found that it was written very well, in order to add to the suspense of the story. I liked that it was a bit crazy. At many moments, there were quite a few things happening, all of which sort of seemed to crash together, giving the would-be models a lot of excitement.

I am very excited to see what happens in the future of this series, as I think it is only going to get crazier, more exciting and harder to put down!

**I received this book for free in exchange for my honest and unbiased opinion.

Sarah says

(I received a digital copy of this book for free. Thanks to author Jackie Amsden.)

“We have only one rule. You must not communicate anything about this competition to anyone – and that includes to each other. Violations will result in immediate expulsion.”

This was a YA contemporary story about three models living in Tokyo.

The characters in this were all okay, although at times Blake took the competition a bit too seriously. The other two girls weren't quite so focused, and I was surprised at how often they almost got disqualified for talking about the challenge.

The storyline in this was about the three girls Jess, Hailey and Blake all being asked to take part in a modelling competition which would leave the winner with a 1-million-dollar contract. The girls were all in competition with each other though, and there did seem to be quite a bit of rivalry between them. This was an enjoyable story though, and it reminded me a bit of America's Next Top Model with the challenges that the girls had to compete in.

The ending to this was okay, but did leave us with a bit of a cliff-hanger.

6.5 out of 10

Samantha Bell says

I'll admit it - I love Japan! What started out as an obsession with anime and harajuku girls, eventually became a well-rounded appreciation for the language, culture, history and FOOD of this incredibly unique country. I watch quite a few North American expats who chronicle their lives in Japan, so this book stood out to me.

Tokyo Cover Girls is told in alternating 3rd person perspectives between three girls. (Blake, Jess and Hailey) I don't want to give anything away, but the girls are approached by a mysterious business man about a job and are told not to reveal this secret to anyone. It almost has a "Saw" horror movie feel to it when they first meet - and then the surprises start popping up at every turn!

The modeling industry is a cut-throat gig. I loved how the girls seemed to be willing to throw each other under the bus to get ahead. (Some more than others!)

What stood out to me about this novel was how realistic and well-researched it was. The author, Jackie Amsden, is writing this from experience, having worked as a model in Asia before writing this book. I'm really looking forward to what comes next - we need more books set in Japan!

Also - check out Jackie's blog! It's so much fun. The tag line is " ***where deadly meets fabulous*** " and it is such a reflection of her writing style. Fun blog posts include "5 things in your closet that could kill you" and "5 fashion models with secret assassin skills". I'm soooo looking forward to her upcoming memoir!

A free copy of this book was provided for an honest review. Thank you Xpresso Book Tours!

Rebecca McNutt says

I received a free copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Released early last month, *The Tokyo Cover Girls* offers readers a glimpse into the dark world behind closed doors in the Japanese modeling industry. Obsessed with the exaggeratedly adorable, from Lolita fashion to porcelain doll appearances, on the outside it seems glamorous and cute. But to the three girls featured in this book, they know that it's also an industry riddled with abuse, ruthless competition and even crime.

This book is amazing. Powerful and disturbing, intriguing and at times frightening, *The Tokyo Cover Girls* tackles a taboo subject in today's modern culture while at the same time giving its readers a story of friendship and determination. It's a book unlike anything else, and I think it certainly deserves five stars. :)

Heather says

This book follows the lives of three aspiring young models, who are competing against one another for a highly coveted modelling job, or are they? This book was both fun and suspenseful, and captured my attention. I cannot wait to read the next installment in this series!

Marla says

Brief glimpse into the competitive world of Tokyo modeling and the teenage culture in Japan. Most of the book was devoted to the modeling competition and the animosity between the 3 roommates. I didn't like any of the 3 models and their aggressive or helpless behavior. I did like the romance, the good guys in the story and learning about Japanese pop culture.

Likes:

- * High fashion modeling in Tokyo, Japan
- * Some Japanese culture and subculture
- * In Japan sweet and cute are sexy and desirable

(view spoiler)

Dislikes:

- * Cut throat practices to win favor
 - * Beauty at all cost
 - * Not knowing friend from foe
- (view spoiler)

With-reservations:

suggestive comments, eating disorders, underage drinking and drugs, using people, breaking in, stalking, threats, gambling, kidnapping,

For-review:

Received a free review copy for a [YA Buddy Readers' Corner ♥] Buddy Read & Review

Blake ~ (view spoiler)

Hailey Britney Arlington ~ (view spoiler)

Jess ~ (view spoiler)

Buddy Read

After 8:

I like the information about Tokyo and the modeling industry. I'm not crazy about any of the models.

Jess - (view spoiler)

Blake - (view spoiler)

Hailey - (view spoiler)

After 15:

Strange that the girls know almost nothing about their roommates. With the jumping POV, I forget which storyline goes with which girl.

I don't mean to repeat the entire synopsis of the book, but I am trying to keep it all straight. So pardon all the spoilers.

2nd Challenge - (view spoiler)

Blake - (view spoiler)

Jess - (view spoiler)

Hailey - (view spoiler)

Keeping secrets - (view spoiler)

Finished:

Satsujin - (view spoiler)

Boys - (view spoiler)

Ending - (view spoiler)

Elizabeth Mathis says

New York has Jacobs, Paris has Chanel, Milan has Versace and Tokyo has . . . Hello Kitty toilet plungers? With its cute-obsessed catalogue and magazine market, anyone who is anyone knows that modeling in Japan means being at the bottom of the fashion industry. Blake, Jess, and Hailey are doing their best to survive yet another casting where pigtails and toddler-impressions are a must when they stumble upon the opportunity of a lifetime. The prestigious Satsujin company has selected them to compete for a campaign that will transform the winner from commercial nobody to haute culture superstar faster than you can say Vogue Italia.

Of course, nothing is ever what it seems in the fashion world. Just ask all those dead girls . . .

Rating: 3/5 Penguins

Quick Reasons: intriguing, entertaining plot; GAAAAAH so much girl hate, whyyyy?!; I was expecting...something different?; slightly disappointed, honestly; some weird typos and missing letters/words throughout; kind of a weird, unresolved ending

Huge thanks to Jackie Amsden and Giselle @ Xpresso Book Tours for sending me a copy of this title in exchange for an honest review! This in no way altered my read of or opinions on this book.

The tripod clicked as she slipped the SLR into place and hit the Power button. Lights blinked awake. Blake studied the viewfinder. A Japanese girl with long black hair pulled into two pigtails with vanilla ribbons and freckles like sifted cinnamon stood in front of the backdrop, staring at her feet.

So...this wasn't QUITE what I was expecting, going into this read, and I'm just slightly disappointed about it. I was expecting models and mayhem and murder and intrigue and.... instead, I feel like I got a few minor blips on an otherwise fairly calm radar. Don't get me wrong--the plot was intriguing, and entertaining, but... I wasn't nearly as hooked as I thought I'd be. I also wasn't nearly as enthralled as I'd hoped. There wasn't, in the end, a whole lot of modeling. There also wasn't a whole lot of murder. This was more like...flipping on an episode of *America's Next Top Model* and instead realizing you're watching *Say Yes to the Dress*. I don't know if that analogy makes sense to anyone but me, but the point is, I went into this read expecting excitement and mayhem and instead got a lot of whining and complaining and stress-eating.

The ending of this book also felt a bit...incomplete. I mean, I KNOW that this is only the first book in the series, so obviously there are going to be unresolved questions and unexplained foreshadows, BUT. The ending for this? Didn't really give me any semblance of an "ending." I don't know if that makes sense... I got to the ending, and was expecting at least another chapter--we aren't even sure, at the end, if the "bad guy" is gone or if this is only the beginning. And while I don't have a problem with cliffhanger endings...this one just felt a bit stiff and awkward to me, I guess.

Jess grabbed a couple of the Strawberry Pocky boxes she had come for and then, just to spite those Glico CEOs, one of the dark chocolate boxes as well. She'd show those jerks. She'd eat all of them. Jess frowned. Somehow she didn't feel like the winner in this equation.

BUT! The plot was super intriguing, and while there was a LOT of girl-hate going on throughout this book (man, these girls were catty. I mean, sure, they're models, but HOLY PENGUINS, women, cool yourselves!), I was also pretty entertained throughout. There are quite a few typos and missing letters/words, which made some of the sentences awkward or difficult to read...and most of the characters, unfortunately, turned out to be pretty 1-dimensional in my mind. I still had a TON of fun reading, though, and will probably pick up book two in the future because I'm curious to see what the girls get up to on their next journey.

Overall, this was a quirky and entertaining read that, while disappointing in the end, kept me turning the pages. I wasn't a fan of all the girl-hate, but the plot was intriguing, and I'm interested in seeing what happens

in book two. I'd recommend this to lovers of dramatic mysteries, high-maintenance characters, and just a hint of an unresolved ending. Jackie Amsden kept me guessing with this book--maybe you should give it a chance, too!

Engel Dreizehn says

That was probably one of the most demented, disturbing yet bold narratives I have ever read. If you are familiar with the seedier-darker side of Japanese Kawaii culture, Mizo Shobai and the wild fashion industry there...you can guess what's going to happen especially what the word "Satsujin" translates to.

Paula Phillips says

When I saw this book advertised, I knew I wanted to read it as I quite enjoy reading novels that are set in the fashion world and about modelling. What I didn't expect and I am sure a lot of readers will be surprised was that it would become quite an intense suspense novel that would delve not only into the world of Japanese gaming shows and we all know how crazy they can be but also into Japanese gangs and missing persons all in the name of entertainment purposes. For three girls Hailey, Blake and Jess - they thought that coming to Tokyo would help set their careers off on the right path and help set them up for the modelling world. However what they will discover is something more dark and sinister in store for them as the three girls are welcomed to an audition for a million dollar contract - the thing is only one can win the spot and in order to win, the girls must face a series of challenges and there can only be one winner. This storyline is the main one and we learn that it is dangerous as blasts from the girls' pasts, their secrets come into light and will be used to gain advantages. The other storyline that runs parallel to the competition is the story of how there have been quite a few models from America etc going missing in Japan. Is the competition connected to the missing girls and will Blake, Hailey and Jess be added to the Missing Persons list or will they find a way to work together or will they find themselves in it to win and sucked into the competition with no way out but deadly consequences..

I really enjoyed this book and am looking forward to seeing what else Jackie Amsden brings to the table and particularly interested in the next in this series as it ended with a slight cliffhanger. When I saw this book advertised, I knew I wanted to read it as I quite enjoy reading novels that are set in the fashion world and about modelling. What I didn't expect and I am sure a lot of readers will be surprised was that it would become quite an intense suspense novel that would delve not only into the world of Japanese gaming shows and we all know how crazy they can be but also into Japanese gangs and missing persons all in the name of entertainment purposes. For three girls Hailey, Blake and Jess - they thought that coming to Tokyo would help set their careers off on the right path and help set them up for the modelling world. However what they will discover is something more dark and sinister in store for them as the three girls are welcomed to an audition for a million dollar contract - the thing is only one can win the spot and in order to win, the girls must face a series of challenges and there can only be one winner. This storyline is the main one and we learn that it is dangerous as blasts from the girls' pasts, their secrets come into light and will be used to gain advantages. The other storyline that runs parallel to the competition is the story of how there have been quite a few models from America etc going missing in Japan. Is the competition connected to the missing girls and will Blake, Hailey and Jess be added to the Missing Persons list or will they find a way to work together or will they find themselves in it to win and sucked into the competition with no way out but deadly consequences..

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Abbie says

(I received a copy from the author, In exchange for an honest review.)

This wasn't a bad read, but it wasn't one that I can say I really enjoyed unfortunately. It took me a while to get into this at first, and even then, it struggled to keep my interest. Due to that, there were quite a few times where I felt a bit bored.

It was an okay read overall though.

Tonja Drecker says

Fashion and modeling gain a whole new bite in this suspenseful story of three teenage models as they go head to head against each other in ways they'd never even dreamed.

The colorful cover mixed with models in Tokyo and mystery is an attention grabber, and the story offers every bit of this. This isn't the modeling of super thin catwalk models, but rather takes more of a dive into the cutesy, cut throat, pigtail culture. The models head to Tokyo for a few months in hopes of landing several gigs before flying back to their home countries. That Tokyo has a subculture, and a dangerous one at that, adds the perfect twist of danger and mystery.

The story is told from three models' point of views with each chapter heading making it clear as to which person is up next. The author does a great job of making the entire story flow together despite this tri-shift. The three girls come from very different backgrounds, are battling different demons and have varying ultimate goals. The personalities are like night and day, giving a great perspective on the different views into the situations, although all three are living together, have the same agency and are competing for the exact same jobs.

Colorful details and descriptions bring the pages to life, and the exotic circumstances are presented as if they are as natural as everyday life. It's no problem to sink into the three girls' world and understand where they're coming from. Of course, one or two are more likable than the others and they all have demons which are true to life. In other words, it's usually easy to sympathize with them.

Although much of the story centers around modeling and fashion, the tension and mystery is kept high enough to maintain a steady pace the entire way through. There are clues and predicaments around every corner. Many of the clues are easy to piece together, making the ending not a complete surprise. There is a reason for this, according to the plot, but it still undermines the main characters' overall intelligence. Toward the end, several of their decisions weren't completely understandable and a few details got lost in the exciting finish.

In general, it's a thrilling read with a wonderful leap into an exotic and greatly unknown world. Especially younger teen girls will enjoy the glimpses into the modeling industry, and the mystery and tension adds the perfect touch to make this a book not easily put down.

I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

Erin says

4.5 stars

Well this was a roller coaster of events. Full review to come in September.

Sharon Mariampillai says

I received a copy from the author, in exchange for an honest review.

This was an okay read. I thought it was good, but it had the potential to be more than what it was. I thought it was the book version of the Top Model franchise. The story was a bit boring and it was hard to get into. I believe that was why it did not connect with me as much as I wanted to. I will continue the series. I hope that the second book is better than the first one. Overall, a not-so-bad read.
