

Monologue from *Chelsea Perkins*:

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Emma: female, 30s

A bookstore. EMMA is standing at a podium, addressing an audience.

EMMA

I wrote this book during a dark time in my life ... a few months ago. I needed an escape ... a distraction ... an ... I don't know ... It's so easy to get overwhelmed by the daily struggles ... the struggle to exist ... to survive ... So much of the time we're in conflict ... unable to reconcile the past, daunted by the future, unable to cope with the present. It gets so tiring to just ... to put something positive into the world. We've gotten so overwhelmed, in fact, that we've given up. But we still need something worth fighting for. We're only human, after all. We're animals. And as such we have basic needs and requirements — to be held, to be touched. We seek love and affection ... and sex. Sex above all. We want sex. We crave sex. And that's what *Chelsea Perkins* is about. It's about sex. It's about hot sex and good sex and bad sex and too much sex and not enough sex and just everything to do with sex. And it's about women. Who live in a city. And it's about the dangers of veganism and how a beautiful fashion model turned exposé writer overcomes a life-threatening eating disorder and inadvertently solves a brutal homicide that may or may not have supernatural implications. Thank you for coming. If you like, I'll be signing books for the next half-hour.