



## Bought

By Anna David  
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### Introduction

An LA-reared Hollywood wanna-be toiling in the "gossip ghetto" of *We Magazine*, Emma Swanson is constantly attempting to find happily ever after with successful men from the entertainment business—and for her troubles, finding herself ignored, forgotten about and unappreciated.

When she meets Jessica, a cavalier and manipulative beauty who shamelessly trades sex for the gifts it can bring, Emma becomes obsessed on both a personal and professional level. Convinced that writing a story on the sway these women have over powerful men will earn her career respectability—and certain that Jessica and her ilk have more honest and successful relationships with the men in Hollywood than she does—Emma gets sucked into Jessica's orbit.

After becoming, essentially, Jessica's kept woman, Emma realizes that Hollywood and prettied-up prostitution aren't what's wrong with her life. It's who and what she's become that's the real problem—and whether or not she'll be able to find her way back.

### Questions for Discussion

1. From the beginning, Emma seems to be self-aware about certain things—like how she fits into the social structure and what she wants in her life—while remaining slightly delusional in other ways. What do you believe she's hiding from herself?
2. How do you think Emma has, as she says, broken free from the shackles of her family and how is she still tethered to them?
3. Emma claims to be interested in Jessica because she can see what a great character she'll make for the article but she's also clearly fascinated on a personal level. What is it about Jessica that Emma finds so compelling?
4. Do you think the relationship that Emma has with her sister is similar to the one she has with Jessica? How?
5. Did you ever trust Jessica? If so, at what point did you stop trusting her? Why?
6. Where would you say Emma made her first error in judgment regarding Jessica?
7. Did Emma's values change at any point in the book? If so, when?
8. In what ways do the themes of power and control figure in the book?
9. Do you think Danny is right for Emma? Why or why not?
10. What do you believe the book ultimately says about women selling themselves in order to get what they want?

### About the Author

Anna David has written for *Playboy*, *Details*, and the *New York Times*, among many other publications. She's the sex and relationship expert on G4's *Attack of the Show!*, and she appears regularly on CNN and Fox. She lives in New York City.