



## Miss Wyoming: A Novel

By Douglas Coupland

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### Miss Wyoming: A Novel By Douglas Coupland

From the bestselling author of **Generation X** and **Microserfs**, a smart, funny, fast-paced mystery with a heartfelt American romance at its core.

Susan is a former child-beauty-pageant contender. John is a hard-living movie producer. She walks away from a plane crash without so much as a scratch. He comes away from a near-death experience with a unique, vivid plan.

Susan refuses to spend one more day peddling herself for cheesy TV sitcom parts and takes advantage of a very weird situation to disappear. John turns his back on a hedonistic life making blockbuster action flicks. Shedding their self-made identities, each sets out on an uncharted course across the Gap-clogged, strip-mall landscape of California, searching for the thing--Love--that neither has ever really known, but that they now think they just might, actually, desperately want.

Assisting Susan and John are a blackmailing pageant mom, a pair of suburban eggheads, a rust-belt refugee, and a salad bar of other twentieth-century Americans who all share the dream of one day taking center stage. In **Miss Wyoming**, Douglas Coupland has combined the literary and the popular in a sparkling and witty caper that quietly resonates into the eternal.

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## Miss Wyoming: A Novel By Douglas Coupland Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

The eponymous heroine of *Miss Wyoming* is one Susan Colgate, a teen beauty queen and low-rent soap actress. Dragooned into show business by her demonically pushy, hillbilly mother, Susan has hit rock bottom by the time Douglas Coupland's seventh book begins. But when she finds herself the sole survivor of an airplane crash, this "low-grade onboard celebrity" takes the opportunity to start all over again:

She felt like a ghost. She tried to find her bodily remains there in the wreckage and was unable to do so.... Then she was lost in a crowd of local onlookers and trucks, *parping* sirens and ambulances. She picked her way out of the melee and found a newly paved suburban road that she followed away from the wreck into the folds of a housing development. She had survived, and now she needed sanctuary and silence.

She's not, of course, the only Hollywood burnout who'd like to vanish into thin air. Her opposite number, a producer of big-budget, no-brainer action flicks named John Johnson, stages a similar disappearing act. After a near-death experience, in the course of which he is treated to a vision of Susan's face, he roams the western badlands. And even after his return to L.A., Johnson is determined to unravel the mystery of this woman's fate.

Throughout, Coupland displays his usual gift for capturing the absurdities of modern existence. The distinctive minutiae of our age--junk mail and fast food, sitcoms and Singapore slings, and the "shop fronts bigger and brighter and more powerful than they needed to be"--come to vivid, funny life in this author's hands. And while Susan and John occupy center stage, Coupland is just as generous with his peripheral characters. A scriptwriter and his supernaturally intelligent girlfriend, a recluse who spends his evening generating Internet rumours--all manage to be blessed and cursed, numbed by their pointless existences but full of humanity when put to the test. Picture Joseph Heller and Kurt Vonnegut collaborating on a Tinseltown version of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and you come halfway to grasping Coupland's brand of thoughtful, supremely funny storytelling. --*Matthew Baylis*

### From Publishers Weekly

Since Generation X, Coupland has been read more for his trend-setting insights than his novelistic dexterity. In his sixth novel, however, he loses even that edge by jumping on the already tired beauty-pageant-bashing bandwagon. Susan Colgate's mother, Marilyn, is a viciously competitive stage mom who micromanages Susan into teen stardom as Miss Wyoming. But Susan revolts against maternal pressure by dramatically refusing the Miss USA Teen crown, and independently makes her way to Hollywood, where she enjoys her 15 minutes of fame on an '80s sitcom, *Meet the Blooms*. Her career sliding downhill after that, she goes to New York for an audition; on the way back to L.A., the plane crashes. Thrown clear of the wreckage, Susan survives unscathed, but she allows the world to think that she is dead. Later, she claims she had amnesia, but in reality, she shackled up with a former beauty pageant judge and had a baby. Now 28, Susan has kept the child secret, but her mother eventually intuits its existence. Susan feels she is washed up at 28, until she meets John Johnson, once a powerful hit-making Hollywood producer, who gave away all his possessions and literally walked away from Hollywood, living like a tramp for six months. Now John is baby-stepping back into the real world, supported by his business partner, Ivan. Meeting Susan, he recognizes her as the face he saw in a fever hallucination just before his walkabout. But on the eve of their second date, Susan disappears, so he, another Colgate fan and the fan's unbelievably smart girlfriend search for Susan and her secret child. Coupland's writing is frustratingly uneven, sometimes deftly jokey, other times hopelessly muddled ("her body was mechanically deboned with relief") and his characters, for all their spiritual crises, are about as introspective as cell phones. The plot twists satisfyingly in several places, but in general,

Coupland should leave the star-crossed celeb genre to Judith Krantz. 60,000 first printing; 8-city author tour. (Jan.)

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From Library Journal

Anyone who has read or even heard about Coupland's novels (*Generation X*, *Girlfriend in a Coma*) knows that they are firmly entrenched in late 20th-century Americana, paying close attention to the popular culture and how it shapes the people immersed in it. His latest begins with a happy ending: having disowned their respective celebrity careers, fallen starlet Susan Colgate and burnt-out movie producer John Johnson meet at a restaurant and make a love match. Then Coupland rewinds to see how the pair got to that point, detailing Susan's life as a reluctant teen beauty queen and John's reckless, hedonistic lifestyle while steering his characters through a morass of 1990s signposts: near-death experiences, child kidnapping, Internet rumor mongering, and dead celebrity shrines. It would be easy to take pot shots at these people on the fringe, but Coupland portrays them sympathetically, and the chaotic tale is told pretty simply (if not chronologically). A little edge or satire might have made it more interesting, but this is lightweight fun that will find some receptive readers. For larger collections. AMarc A. Kloszewski, Indiana Free Lib., PA  
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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Cynthia Sharma:**

This *Miss Wyoming: A Novel* are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The explanation of this *Miss Wyoming: A Novel* can be among the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple reading food but feed an individual with information that probably will shock your before knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this *Miss Wyoming: A Novel* forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

**Richard Holeman:**

*Miss Wyoming: A Novel* can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to set every word into joy arrangement in writing *Miss Wyoming: A Novel* however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information may drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

**Michael Quintanar:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that query was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person such as reading or as looking at become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is niagra *Miss Wyoming: A*

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**Melody Herrera:**

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is written or printed or outlined from each source that will filled update of news. With this modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just trying to find the Miss Wyoming: A Novel when you needed it?

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