



# CONFESSIONS OF AN ANG MOH GEISHA

Imagine *Lost in Translation* meets *Pretty Woman* but with less sex, more alcohol.

**8 DAYS:** When you were a hostess, the clients showered you with gifts and their undivided attention. Was it weird to return to normal life?

**CHELSEA HAYWOOD:** It took a long time to [settle down]. After Tokyo, I went back to Perth, Australia, to a different lifestyle. It left me with a multitude of challenges, but the process of writing the book helped put things back in perspective.

**In the book, you mentioned how unhealthy you became from all the drinking and late nights.**

**What did you do to get clean and fit again?** I followed the advice of microbiologist Dr Robert Young. It was incredibly effective, because it addresses your health on a cellular level, regulating the pH balance in your blood. I also started running again, which does wonders for my physique, vitality, and creativity.

PHOTO: MATT BOOY



Part travelogue and part autobiography, *90-Day Geisha* recounts Canadian model Chelsea Haywood's three-month stint as a hostess/social escort in Tokyo in 2004. If you're expecting a tell-all tale of sleaze and misbehaving, be prepared for disappointment (okay, there were some instances of narcotic abuse).

"A hostess [in Japan] has very little to do with sex," the first-time author maintains. "It's more about conversation and psychology." That plus a lot of booze and second-hand smoke pumped into her system. And when she wasn't "laughing at [their] jokes, pouring drinks and lighting cigarettes," she would be pampered, pestered and pursued by her clients, playing exhausting mind games, where she couldn't tell if they were just flirting with her or if they wanted more (sex lah!). The reception was never clear, and it was driving her bonkers and straining her marriage (yes, she's married — but her hubby trusted her completely). And no way would she do it again, says Haywood in a recent e-mail interview with 8 DAYS. "I think those three months were enough."

**Cot any feedback from the clients about the book?** One of them only just finished the book and wrote to me: "I enjoyed to read it [sic]. About my story is true. See you soon."

**Did you entertain any Singaporean clients?** No, but I'm sure businessmen are often taken to hostess clubs by their Japanese associates. It seems de rigueur for the international business relationship in Tokyo.

**Have you sold the film rights yet?**

So far three production companies have expressed interests in the book. I'd like to have Natalie Portman play me.

**After spending so much time at the lounges, do you have a favourite karaoke song?**

'Bohemian Rhapsody' is an all-time favourite. You never have to sing it alone; other people just won't let you. It has a feel-good factor, and it's epic. ■

*90-Day Geisha* (\$31) is available at bookshops.