

## **Die Champagner Diät (The Champaign Diet)**

Amanda Jackson weighs 200 pounds. She is dumbfounded when her husband Charles suddenly leaves her for their Swedish nanny Svenja.

Now the corpulent, abandoned wife is living in their rose-entwined mansion outside of Helena, Montana with her pubescent daughter, Charlene. She is incredibly ashamed, because everyone in the town of Butte knows her and her husband Charles, who is an influential factory owner. Every citizen of Butte works for him. She doesn't want to be around people, since she is just realizing how fat and lethargic she is. Charlene suggests trying an "internet chat room" at least and shows her all the necessary steps. Amanda Jackson logs in and goes straight to the "Sport Island" chat room, a group of "weight-watchers". However, Mark King from the cruise ship "MS Champaign" doesn't give her a chance to search for chat partners. Writing to her from Jamaica, the Food & Beverage Manager would like some good ol' traditional recipes from home again. Amanda Jackson decides to be the attractive, successful woman Angelina Montabelli, even if only for Mark. She reinvents herself as a fashion designer, zooms back and forth between New York and Milano, knows all of the top models personally and drives a Bugatti. Her hobby is cooking. Of course she is as thin as a rail! In reality Amanda Jackson struggles on her bicycle to make it to her weight loss group. There she suffers with fellow fatso and butterball losers like herself, counting calories, checking grams of fat and carbohydrates and detecting the correct heart rate to reduce fat.

Fat, sweaty Oliver from her group is always trying to be funny and gets on her nerves. When she arrives home every day the only thing she looks forward to is chatting with wonderful Mark King, who is, meanwhile, near the Galapagos Islands. He opens a new world for her, and she answers with stories from the fashion industry. She only needs to flip through a few chic style magazines. A sizzling love story evolves in the virtual world between "Angelina" and "Mark", and Amanda doesn't even notice how easily you can lose weight when you're in love.

Hefty Oliver from her roly-poly group comes over one day to help with her computer, and they become friends. Since he is momentarily homeless, Oliver moves in to Amanda's house as the caretaker. The two become "big friends", but they obviously keep their love lives to themselves. The day arrives when Mark King's ship docks in New York, and he is dying to meet "Angelina Montabelli" on top of the Statue of Liberty!! Amanda Jackson almost pees in her pants - after all, their entire love story is based on a lie! She seeks solace with her friend Oliver, but he personally puts her on the airplane to New York. As she clambers up the stairs of the Statue of Liberty at 12:00 on the dot, a big surprise is awaiting Amanda, who has become slim and sporty in the meantime ....

This novel by Hera Lind appeared in the spring of 2006 at Heyne.