



Carrie Bradshaw, before she moved to the 'City'

'Diaries' introduces her in high school

By Carol Memmott
USA TODAY

Ever wonder what *Sex and the City's* Carrie Bradshaw was like as a teenager? How she evolved into the smart, sophisticated writer and fashionista so many adore?

Carrie's creator, Candace Bushnell, tells all in *The Carrie Diaries* (Balzer + Bray, \$18.99, on sale Tuesday), a young-adult novel about Carrie's life as a high school senior in a small town in Connecticut.

Carrie's evolving fashion sense — she's wearing vintage go-go boots in the first chapter — her romantic relationships, her musings on teen culture and her dreams of becoming a writer are all revealed in this first-person narrative Bushnell hopes will attract young and not-so-young readers.



By Donna Dornoville, ABC

Bushnell: *Carrie Diaries* is "partly my story," but it's far from a memoir.

The Carrie Diaries is a coming-of-age story and Bushnell's first book for teens. It's her sixth novel, preceded by a bevy of best sellers including the iconic *Sex and the City* (1996) and *Lip-*

stick Jungle (2005), both of which were TV series. Her last novel, *One Fifth Avenue*, was published in 2008.

"I think it's always fascinating to go back and see the things that formed a character," says Bushnell. "And I've always wanted to write a book about a young girl who comes to the big city. That's partly my story."

Bushnell, 51, moved to New York at 19 with hopes of becoming a writer. "It was a fascinating time, and it was always something I wanted to write about," says Bushnell, who says she had no interest in writing a memoir about her youth.

"Carrie Bradshaw just seems to be the perfect character to go back in time with," she says, "but there's actually nothing that happened to me that happens in the book. It's com-



pletely fictional."

Alessandra Balzer, Bushnell's editor, expects the book to have a wide appeal. "It's very much a teen book," she says, "but I think women of any age will love it. I've given it to fans of the show and to people who have never watched the show and gotten equally enthusiastic responses."

Diaries is the first of two books about young Carrie. The second, set to be released in summer 2011, is about Carrie's first summer in New York.

"She meets Samantha (played by Kim Cattrall in films and on TV), and they end up spending a lot of time together, which is really fun because, of course, Samantha is about eight years older than Carrie," Bushnell says. "I can't wait to get started."