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**HYPERION**

A  
MODEL  
SUMMER

By Paulina Porizkova

“A gripping read.”  
—*Vogue*

“Porizkova has enriched this story with details only an insider could provide. . . .  
a refreshingly clear-eyed point of view.  
[*A Model Summer* is a] vivid, cautionary coming-of-age tale.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A delicious debut novel about beauty and betrayal  
inspired by the life of this former supermodel.”  
—*Cosmopolitan*

A model from the age of fifteen, Paulina Porizkova’s appearances on the covers of *Vogue* and the *Sports Illustrated: Swimsuit Issue* made her an international sensation. In her riveting debut novel, **A MODEL SUMMER (Hyperion; April 10, 2007; Hardcover; \$23.95)**, Porizkova reveals the soaring highs and wrenching insecurities that result from the constant physical scrutiny a young model experiences. The book is a searing, introspective look behind the scenes of a glamorous world many people dream about, but few ever know.

Porizkova’s appealing narrator is Jirina, another skinny fifteen-year old with an unpronounceable name. Growing up in Sweden, Jirina (Yee-ree-na) is too dark and too foreign to be popular with her classmates. Avoiding their jeers, she spends most of her time with her baby sister, trying unsuccessfully to please her unhappy parents. Her life is ordinary verging on grim until her only friend, a fellow immigrant who aspires to be a

photographer, enters photos of Jirina in a contest. The owner of a Parisian modeling agency notices something in these photos that no one—especially Jirina herself—has ever noticed in her before: beauty. He brings her to Paris for the summer to see whether she will captivate the fashion world and make it as a professional model.

Jirina's life changes dramatically in Paris. Shaken at first by casting directors who examine her like an animal ("her jaw is a bit angular, isn't it?"), she soon settles into tentative friendships with an established Swedish model, a gossipy makeup artist, and a journalist with a mysterious past. When magazines book her for photo shoots in Morocco and Milan, life begins to hold possibilities. She even develops a paralyzing crush on a charismatic photographer who's just beyond her reach. But once on location, her modeling doesn't seem to go very well. And despite her sophisticated new friends and their wild parties, Jirina remains a child, alone in a foreign city, yearning for her parents' approval.

**A MODEL SUMMER** exposes the dark edges that surround a young model's sparkling world: movie producers offering stardom—or hard cash—for sexual favors; dangerously jealous rivals; a fluid sense of self; cocaine. Porizkova writes powerfully of the factor that cancels out these risks: the intoxicating experience of being transformed by a camera. Through Jirina, the reader feels what it's like to be injected with a visceral confidence that blocks out time and emotion. The experience is "like slipping into someone you envy and then finding it's as good as you thought and you never want to leave." Having tasted this freedom, Jirina realizes the lengths to which she'll go to keep it. Her childhood is over, but her next step is uncertain. Written with a thoughtfulness and accuracy that reflect Porizkova's first-hand knowledge, **A MODEL SUMMER** is the debut of a talented novelist with devastating insight into the price of beauty.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Paulina Porizkova** is a former political refugee, an accidental model, an occasional actress, and a life-long lover of books. Most recently, she has appeared on ABC-TV's hit show, "Dancing with the Stars." Porizkova is married to the musician Ric Ocasek, with whom she has two sons. They live in New York City.

**A MODEL SUMMER**

By Paulina Porizkova

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**For Paulina Porizkova's public appearances, please visit [HyperionBooks.com](http://HyperionBooks.com).**