

4c- Jessica Pressler Introduced the World to Anna Delvey — But She Still Can't Decide How She Feels About Her

Pressler, who wrote the viral story on Delvey and her crimes, tells us what it was like being a part of "Inventing Anna" and what she actually thinks about Anna Delvey after spending so much time with her.

Anna Chlumsky plays Vivian Kent, a journalist looking for the next big story to buoy her out of a professional slump, in Shondaland and Netflix's latest limited series, *Inventing Anna*, also based on a Pressler article, "[How Anna Delvey Tricked New York's Party People](#)."

Once the article was published in 2018, the calls started rolling in almost immediately to try and option the story. U

"The weirdest thing is how incredibly real things come up against things that are totally not real," says Pressler via Zoom from her New York City apartment. "It's jarring to hear something you said coming out of somebody else's mouth in a different context. It's strange. But I was prepared for it since I'd gone through it once already. And I'm really glad to have had the experience because it's the experience that my subjects have."

Pressler — originally from Massachusetts and with a BA in English from Temple University in Philadelphia — has been a staff writer at *New York* magazine for more than a decade and has produced some of the publication's most compelling and prolific work. In addition to writing for numerous other publications, she's also currently working on the book version of the Anna Delvey story, because there is seemingly endless fodder when it comes to deep diving into a con artist.

"Is she evil, or is society evil?" Pressler posits quite often. "Which is it? I don't know. She was kind of allowed to become this because this is the way the world is. And it's pretty fascinating."

Though Pressler is admittedly averse to getting interviewed — and much prefers to be asking the questions — I was able to talk with her about what it was like to be a part of *Inventing Anna* and what she actually thinks about Anna Delvey after spending so much time with her.

Valentina Valentini, February 2022, [shondaland.com/](https://www.shondaland.com/)

VALENTINA VALENTINI: Who approached you, and when? What was that first part of the process like to get your article made into a TV show?

VV: Was there any hesitancy to turn your article — Anna's story — into a TV show?

VV: You're one of the producers on the show. How does that work? Was that a must-have for you?

VV: How much of what we're seeing on-screen is similar to how you investigated this story?

VV: Is it hard to take off your journalist hat, where you stick to the facts, and allow for creative room in that narrative TV setting?

VV: How did this story come your way?

VV: Do you have a personal opinion about Anna Delvey, aka Anna Sorokin? (...) would you be able to tell me what you think of her?

VV: Is there anything that you admire in her? And if you do, does that then become problematic?

VV: In the show, Anna Delvey pulls this "poor women, we're never taken seriously" stance a few times to try and get what she wants or explain away her behavior. Is this just a card she plays? Because even if it's true — and it is, because men fail upward all the time — she's still just using it as smoke and mirrors, right?