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Coco Chanel: The Legend And The Life



Synopsis

Justine Picardie has spent the last decade puzzling over the truth about Coco Chanel, attempting to peel away the accretions of romance and lies. In this full-scale biography we finally discover the history of the incredible woman who created the way we look now. Coco Chanel was an extraordinary inventor - she conjured up the little black dress, bobbed hair, trousers for women, contemporary chic, best-selling perfumes, and the most successful fashion brand of all time - but she also invented herself, fashioning the myth of her own life with the same dexterity as her couture. While Chanel was supreme innovator and vendor of all things elegant and beautiful, what lies beneath her own glossy myth is far darker. Throwing new light on her passionate and turbulent relationships, this beautifully constructed portrait gives a fresh and penetrating look at how Coco Chanel made herself into her own most powerful creation. Justine Picardie brings the mysterious Gabrielle Chanel out of hiding, to celebrate her great achievements. She examines Chanel's enduring afterlife, as well as her remarkable life, uncovering the consequences of what she covered up, unpicking the seams between truth and legend, yet keeping intact the real fabric of her past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very interesting book. I learned a lot about a designer I have admired. Having known nothing previously about her personal life, I found it to be a detailed, well-researched, and well-written bio.

A true legend that only she could create herself. The fashion that she created in time gone by continues to resurge

Ms. Chanel was quite secretive and also an accomplished liar according to this book. So, no real information, and I only read about 3/4 of the book for this reason. The movie "Coco before Chanel" is more entertaining.

I enjoyed this book. I knew Chanel since I was quite young but only as a designer of clothes and perfumes. It was good to read about this woman who lived and loved with apparent abandon but was a frightened child within.

coco chanel was a revolutionary woman. she turn upside down womens fashion industry, made it part of the modern market and helped shape the "modern woman". She also was a very controversial person with her own moral standards. Justine Picardie's work it's an exahustive study about this marvelous woman, very well written, very amable and extremly interesting!!! I recomend this book not only as a way of learning more about coco but to have a new light about xxth centurie history.

Daughter is enjoying this book

Coco Chanel really did lead an interesting life. This book, however, doesn't make it seem interesting. I felt that reading this was a task and I never finished it. There must be more interesting narratives on her life. This went on tangents about other things.

Did not enjoy this book. I was also disappointed that it didn't discuss fashion or Chanel's inspirations etc

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