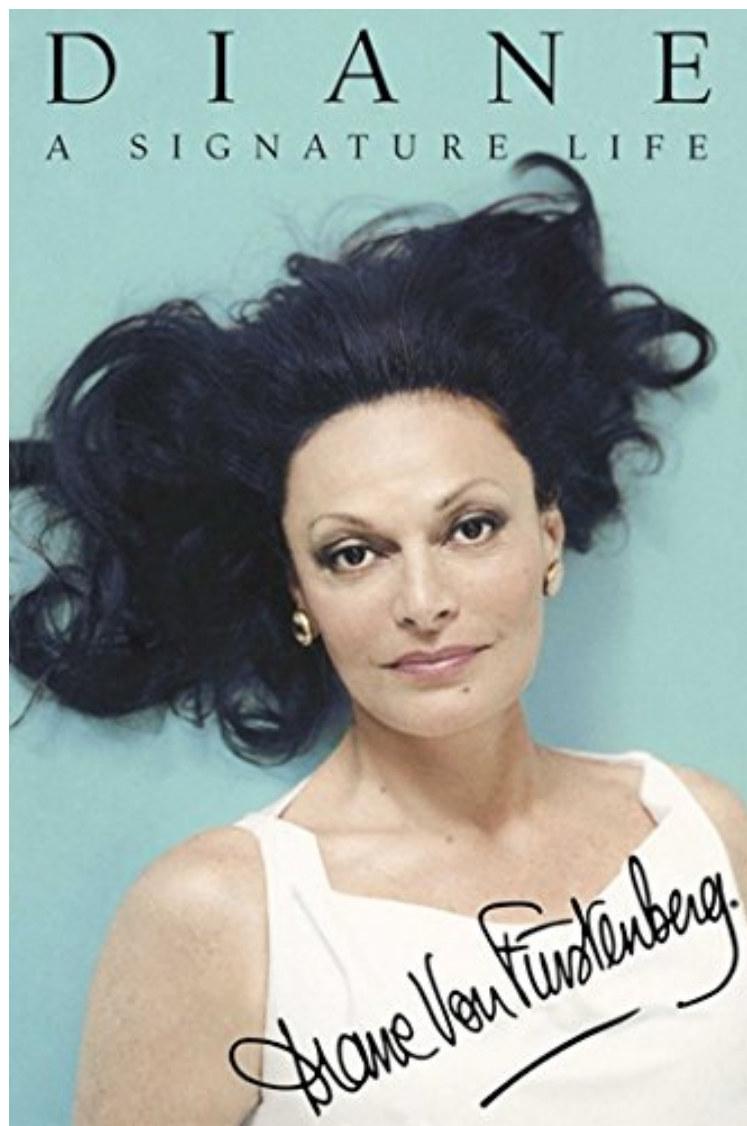


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Diane: A Signature Life

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Diane Von Furstenberg : Diane: A Signature Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diane: A Signature Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Name DropperBy Gma SaraEntertaining, not badly written, but a relatively superficial portrait of the subject and offers almost no information about the other characters or insights into any of the relationships. I imagine it served its purpose, which was apparently not to reflect, analyze, or explain. There's an incoherent feeling to the story; people and events enter and depart without preparation or summation, and the subject's emotional life is given very short shrift. One wonders how the sequence of life choices depicted here was

constructed and how it culminated in repeated success. What kinds of strategic thinking allowed such unconventional behavior, and what were the tactics that let her get away with it? For most of the rest of us, trying to keep so many balls in the air would lead to exhaustion, smashed noses, and blackened eyes.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Love Diane, and love her book By MMdesigner Diane von Furstenberg has an interesting story to tell, and I'm glad she shared it with us. She namedrops throughout but not because she's out to impress, but rather those "names" of artists, designers, socialites, et al, have been in her circle of friends.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Success . Style . Integrity . By SharebeautyDisclaimer - I love DVF from afar . She has had an incredibly romantic , nomadic stylish life that I too craved . Having worked my entire life in the milieu of fashion , albeit a different market in Los Angeles I had admired DVF as a fledgling designer while in my teens . So of course I appreciated this book and the honesty of this woman's choices . Having written this I wanted more ! DVF is an intelligent highly cultivated person . I want to read her book .

The frank and compelling story of an extraordinary woman and her adventures in fashion, business, and life. "Most fairy tales end with the girl marrying the prince. That's where mine began," says Diane Von Furstenberg. Von Furstenberg lived the American Dream before she was thirty, building a multimillion-dollar fashion empire while raising two children and living life in the fast lane. Her wrap dress, a cultural phenomenon in the seventies, hangs in the Smithsonian Institution; her entry into the beauty business in 1979 was as serendipitous and as successful. Von Furstenberg learned her trade in the trenches, crisscrossing the country to make personal appearances at department stores, selling her dresses and cosmetics. That business had its ups and downs, as the fashionista entrepreneur's unparalleled success became the source of its own undoing and she contended with bankruptcy, the loss of her business, and finally a complete self-reinvention that took her back to the top of the industry. This revealing and contemplative memoir works to make sense of the contradictions of the author's life: glamour vs. hard work, European vs. American, daughter of a Holocaust survivor vs. wife of an Austro-Italian prince, mother vs. entrepreneur, lover vs. tycoon. She emerges wiser, stronger, and ever more determined never to sacrifice her passion for life.

From Publishers Weekly In 1973, Diane Von Furstenberg introduced her now famous wrap dress, an outfit she estimates has "found its way into almost every closet in America," becoming a cultural icon, symbolic of women's growing sexual and financial freedom. Five years later, in 1978, the market appeared to be saturated with the dress and the era of the wrap came to a close. Today, Von Furstenberg has updated and reissued the dress for a new generation; launched fragrance, cosmetics and couture companies; and ventured into the home-shopping business. She asks that this memoir "inspire those who read it," and certainly the determination and verve with which she has overcome each setback in her life—be it a business reversal, a love affair turned sour or a cancer diagnosis—might prove inspirational to some. But despite the fascinating raw materials of her life (the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, she married a German prince, becoming a jet-setting socialite/entrepreneur/mother/paramour), this autobiography offers far more glitz than grist for thought. She drops names and brand names so interchangeably that we know not only who the celebrities are who buy her clothes but when the author received her first Pucci shirt. When Von Furstenberg reflects on her philosophy of life—"to me, life is love is life is love. I put those words on a T-shirt once"—readers may suspect that the real purpose here is to sell apparel. And sell it will. Photos not seen by PW. First serial to Vogue. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Von Furstenberg looks back at 50. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sBuild a better dress and they will come: this is the theme of this celebrity autobiography by designer/jet setter Von Furstenberg. The daughter of a concentration camp survivor, 22-year-old Von Furstenberg was living in 1960s New York with her husband, German Prince Eduard Egon Von Furstenberg, when she introduced the dress that would make her a fashion icon and a millionaire in her own right. The wrap dress, she says, was " . . . nothing really. just a few yards of fabric with two sleeves and a wide wrap sash." But it caught the imaginations of millions of women and even entered the Smithsonian Institution's pop culture collection. Von Furstenberg also worked hard, crisscrossed the country promoting her line of clothing, sometimes chasing a potential customer across the selling floor to insist the matron was not "too old and too fat" to wear the dress. Although separated from her husband after less than four years of marriage, Von Furstenberg was devoted to her two children, characterizing herself as "a single, working mother." Unlike most single mothers, she dined and danced at the White House, becoming friends with Henry Kissinger, California's former governor Jerry Brown, and movie mogul Barry Diller. When women's power suits and some unfortunate business decisions led to the decline of The Dress and of the value of her name, she sold it all (very profitably) and moved to Paris with an Italian novelist. There she ran a literary salon, welcoming writers from Alberto Moravia to Bret Easton Ellis. But business was where her talent lay; she returned to New York in 1989 and found her way onto QVC, a TV shopping channel, where in four years she sold \$40 million worth of her designs. She also survived a bout with cancer. Decorated by a glamorous roster of friends and acquaintances (from Andy Warhol to Queen Elizabeth II), this biography is direct and unpretentious, but essentially insubstantial—much like the wrap dress. (16 pages bw photos, not seen) (Author tour) -- Copyright copy;1998, Kirkus

