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Vivienne Westwood



Synopsis

Vivienne Westwood is one of the icons of our age. Fashion designer, activist, co-creator of punk, global brand and grandmother; a true living legend. Her career has successfully spanned five decades and her work has influenced millions of people across the world. For the first and only time, Vivienne Westwood has written a personal memoir, collaborating with award-winning biographer Ian Kelly, to describe the events, people and ideas that have shaped her extraordinary life. Told in all its glamour and glory, and with her unique voice, unexpected perspective and passionate honesty, this is her story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vivienne Westwood, the book, is part memoir and part biography of the British icon of fashion. It is not really "co-written" by Westwood "it is more as spoken to Kelly" because her words are in quotations. But they are extensive. Kelly adds detailed commentaries and summaries of her conversations with him. In addition there are lengthy quotations from associates, her brother Gordon, her two sons Ben (from her first husband Derek Westwood) and Joe (from her second relationship with Malcom McLaren). For some readers this may detract from the flow, but I found it okay except for a few times when I had to check who was making the comments. The book commences with the 2014 Paris week before starting from the beginning (1941) "from then onwards it is a chronological memoir. It sets the scene of the early 1960s at a time when her first husband briefly managed musicians before most were famous, such as The Who, John Lennon,

and Eric Clapton “ all emerged from art schools, as Vivienne did. It was a time of the crossover from art to music and from graphics to sales and marketing | into running businesses that fused pop iconography, fashion, music, and happenings. After a brief marriage to Derek, it was her relationship with Malcolm McLaren (her brother’s friend) to 1979 that was intrinsic to her fame. McLaren, the provocative British musician, artist, and band manager of Sex Pistols, brought anarchy, radicalism, and a restive atmosphere to Westwood. The volatile relationship also brought a safe island of creative complicity. Hence Westwood’s punk period began, as did their iconic shop at 430 Kings Road, the epicentre of a global fashion revolution. It was where they reinvented and rebranded fashion, starting with embellishments, slogans, and graphics on T-shirts.

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