

[PDF] Empress Of Fashion: A Life Of Diana Vreeland

Amanda Mackenzie Stuart - pdf download free book



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Description:

: In several ways, Empress of Fashion is much like the woman it covers. Like Diana Vreeland (1903-1989)--the imperious, transformative editor of *Vogue* magazine, then the creator of the Costume Institute at New York's Metropolitan Museum--British journalist Amanda Mackenzie Stuart's biography lasts a long time. And while it isn't always traditionally well formed, it is far deeper, smarter, and more important than it first appears. Who was Diana Vreeland? An arbiter of beauty who, by just about everyone's admission, was not beautiful; a working woman before it was

fashionable; a fiercely independent soul with an overriding, lifelong, bourgeois concern about money. And while Mackenzie Stuart might tread a tiny bit too heavily into the Freudian--Vreeland constantly tried to prove herself to her neglectful and often nasty mother, even years after the older woman's death--her deep research into everything from Vreeland's childhood diaries to her social life (shimmying at Studio 54 in her 80s!) makes this bio, which has the approval of Vreeland's estate, nothing short of--as Mrs. Vreeland herself might say--"divine." --*Sara Nelson*

From Stuart's sympathetic biography has for its subject a fascinating figure whose life spanned almost the entire twentieth century, of which the author takes dizzying, delightful advantage—pre-Depression New York society life, between-the-world-wars Europe, and American dynamism of wartime and beyond—and thus provides a sturdy backdrop for the story of a legendary personage. Stuart reveals how Vreeland's youthful struggles with acceptance from her mother, peers, and herself formed the Diana who, with a tendency to exaggerate and a flair for the exotic, irrevocably altered fashion journalism. Steadfast and headstrong, the delightfully quotable—to varying degrees of comprehension—Vreeland made leaping creative strides at Harper's Bazaar only to often remake them at the more circulated but more conservative Vogue years later. The bright cast of photographers, models, and celebrities who filled Vreeland's world adorn this cohesive, well-researched volume. The author acknowledges Lisa Immordino Vreeland, director of the 2012 documentary *The Eye Has to Travel* for her shared research. Readers will find the film and biography an exquisite pairing. --*Annie Bostrom*

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