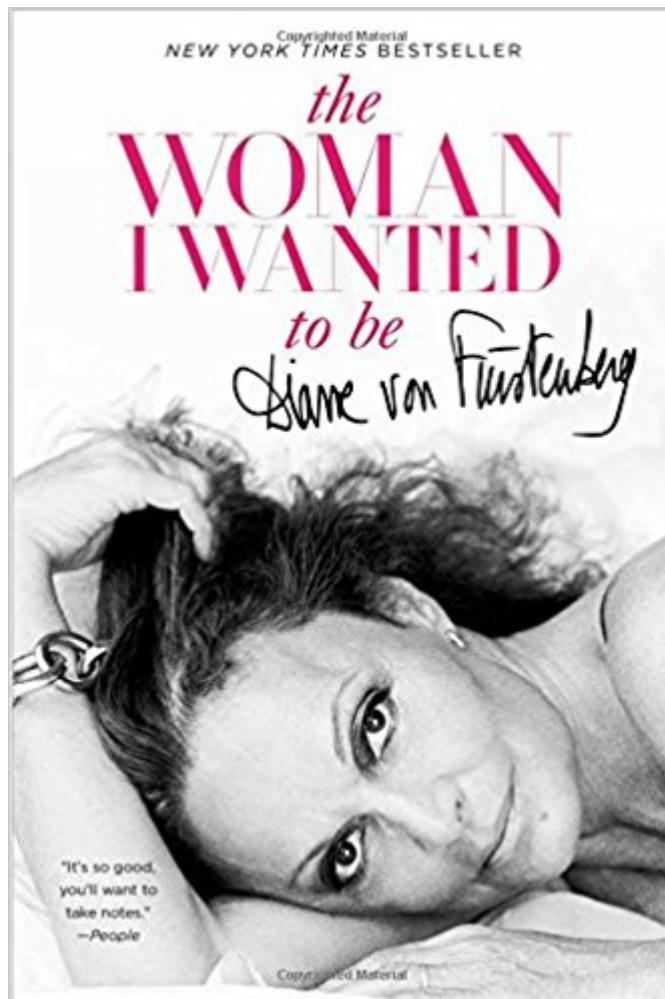


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# The Woman I Wanted To Be



## Synopsis

One of the most influential, admired, and colorful women of our time: fashion designer and philanthropist Diane von Furstenberg tells the most personal stories from her life, about family, love, beauty and business: “It’s so good, you’ll want to take notes.” (People). Diane von Furstenberg started with a suitcase full of jersey dresses and an idea of who she wanted to be—in her words, “the kind of woman who is independent and who doesn’t rely on a man to pay her bills.” She has since become that woman, establishing herself as a major force in the fashion industry, all the while raising a family, maintaining that “my children are my greatest creation.” In *The Woman I Wanted to Be*, “an intriguing page-turner filled with revelations” (More), von Furstenberg reflects on her extraordinary life—from her childhood in Brussels to her days as a young, jet-set princess, to creating the dress that came to symbolize independence and power for generations of women. With remarkable honesty and wisdom, von Furstenberg mines the rich territory of what it means to be a woman. She opens up about her family and career, overcoming cancer, building a global brand, and devoting herself to empowering other women. This “inspiring, compelling, deliciously detailed celebrity autobiography” (Chicago Tribune).

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1451651554

ISBN-13: 978-1451651553

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 261 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,657 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Arts & Photography > Fashion > Designers #33 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Fashion & Textile #62 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists, Architects & Photographers

## Customer Reviews

Ã¢ “[a] warm, confiding memoir.Ã¢ (VOGUE)Ã¢ “ItÃ¢ â„¢s so good, youÃ¢ â„¢ll want to take notes.Ã¢ (PEOPLE)Ã¢ “DianeÃ¢ â„¢s book evokes everything she has lived through. It is honest, direct and fascinating Ã¢ â• just like the author herself!Ã¢ (Anna Wintour)Ã¢ “In this era when girls are made to think itÃ¢ â„¢s better to be a princess than a person, Diane von FurstenbergÃ¢ â„¢s > is just the reverse. I thank her for honesty, spirit, encouragement to be oneÃ¢ â„¢s own self in public and professional life, and a memoir that covers more human experience than most novels. Pick it up Ã¢ â• you wonÃ¢ â„¢t put it down.Ã¢ (Gloria Steinem)Ã¢ “Diane von FurstenbergÃ¢ â„¢s story offers a behind-the-scenes look into the ups and downs of building a global business, creating an enduring brand, and finding true love. By sharing the path that enabled her to become the woman she wanted to be, Diane shows all of us how to live a life of focus and passion.Ã¢ (Sheryl Sandberg)Ã¢ “Diane is the original modern princess who created the iconic wrap dress and has influenced fashion everywhere with her talent, lifestyle, elegance and beauty. Every girl will love reading her book.Ã¢ (Kate Moss)Ã¢ “It has been a gift to read this book, and a true privilege to learn and discover that much more about DVF. What a thrill to be given an opportunity to peek even further into her life.Ã¢ (Sarah Jessica Parker)Ã¢ “The legendary designer Diane von Furstenberg has a lot in common with her iconic wrap dress: practical yet sexy, demure yet revealing, sturdy yet fragile. This memoir is an intriguing page turner filled with her revelations about life, business, family and love. Fearless about naming names and probing her own failings, she analyses a Ã¢ “little flingÃ¢ â„¢ with Richard Gere as sincerely as she does her midlife retreats from the fashion areaÃ¢ â• and her dynamic comeback. Her core philosophy? Ã¢ “Turn negatives into positives and be proud to be woman.Ã¢ â„¢ She emerges, at 67, as a witty and reflective grownup, albeit one with plenty of surprises up her beautifully draped sleeve.Ã¢ (MORE)Ã¢ “... an honest an introspective look into the labyrinthine history behind one of the most iconic female entrepreneurs in fashion. Written in elegant yet straightforward prose ... The designer candidly speaks of missteps and periods of her life which guided her away from what she truly wanted out of her life, and how she dealt with each situation, with grace and aplomb.Ã¢ (Bustle.com) Ã¢ “Diane von FurstenbergÃ¢ â„¢s life combines the hallmarks of a fairy tale with the more sober reality of a career womanÃ¢ â• and single motherÃ¢ â• who longs to have it all. ... The book is as charming and erratic as von Furstenberg herself ... the early pages paint a vivid picture ... her account of those first years is colorful and poignant.Ã¢ (Financial Times)Ã¢ “[N]ow I find Diane the super person that folks are most curious about. Diane never let herself fail at anything; or if she faltered, she climbed back up. It

is a pleasure to read a *positive* book that is not just manufactured nonsense . . . We get a real look at a woman in her 60s who's still in her prime. She has a lesson for all of us. (Worcester Telegram) von Furstenberg's candid memoir contains hard-earned wisdom that she eagerly shares with women of all ages and backgrounds. A fascinating read for anyone interested in the behind-the-scenes world of contemporary fashion. (Booklist) "In this captivating memoir, fashion powerhouse von Furstenberg thoughtfully reflects on her colorful life—and doesn't skimp on the juicy details. Von Furstenberg begins movingly by writing of her need to please her mother . . . then moves on to her life as a jet-set princess and fledgling designing in New York City, her invention of the iconic jersey wrap dress in the early 1970s, and stories of her children . . . She outlines her many positive contributions to the fashion industry, but admirably doesn't sugarcoat business missteps . . . This is a fascinating glimpse into the life of one of the fashion world's more enduring stars that will fascinate fashionistas and fans of strong, creative women. (Publishers Weekly) "With humility and honesty, von Furstenberg's reflections on a life lived in the grandiose couture spotlight will delight both trendy, fashion-forward readers and budding designers eager to follow in her footsteps. (Kirkus Reviews) "Designer Diane von Furstenberg's life reads like a fairy tale. She details it all with sincerity and humility in this memoir. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) "No stranger to the spotlight DVF's most recent venture, a book entitled *The Woman I Wanted to Be* chronicles how privilege opened certain doors in her early success, how much is still needed to be done to achieve equality, an insight into the behind-the-scenes ups and downs of running a global business and a story that is in equal parts wisdom, sobering reality and fairy tale. (Los Angeles Fashion) "Designer Diane von Furstenberg's life reads like a fairy tale. She details it all with sincerity and humility in this memoir. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) "an inspiring, compelling, deliciously detailed celebrity autobiography, the book is as much of a smashing success as the determined, savvy, well-intentioned woman who wrote it. (Chicago Tribune)

Diane von Furstenberg entered the fashion world in 1970 and four years later introduced her famous wrap dress. Her luxury fashion brand, DVF, is now available in more than fifty-five countries all over the world. Director of the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation, she is an active philanthropist and supporter of emerging female leaders and social entrepreneurs. In 2015, she was named one of the Time 100 Most Influential People. She is the author of *The Woman I Wanted to Be* and *Diane: A Signature Life*.

I enjoyed reading DVF's *The Woman I Wanted to Be*. I was really excited about this memoir, which seems to have been timed perfectly with the recent launch of DVF's reality TV series. Aside from the first chapter, which tells the story of Diane's mother surviving the Nazi concentration camps, the rest of the book feels like an impersonal account of Diane's personal and professional milestones, with random stories sprinkled in between. Her tone in this book feels distant and her powerful personality, charm, and sense of independence didn't really shine through. She glossed over the hardships she endured in her personal and professional life, almost sounding like an E! News reporter recapping an update instead of speaking about her thoughts and emotions as she experienced these hardships. I like that she included an interesting glimpse into her childhood, her "boring" youth, and all the different stages of her life until now, complete with all the whirlwind romances and big loves (aided by the journals she kept). It was a quick, fun read written honestly about Diane's life as a princess, socialite, designer, daughter, mother and more.

A great autobiography...from a woman who has lived and continue to lives a very exciting , full life. My favorite sections were about her mother...and about her husbands/family. She is a true heroine!

Diane von Furstenberg (DVF) is a woman to admire. She credits her mother for her elegance and for training her to be independent. She credits her father for his unconditional love. Then there is that wrap dress she created, which a woman of any shape or size can wear confidently and stylishly. DVF tells the story of how she became the woman she wanted to be. She led a fabulous life, good schools and travel, mingling with the rich and famous and people of accomplishment in the arts. She talks about love and it's importance in an unabashed way. "I have tried not to lie my whole life", she writes, and I believe her. She was introduced into the Jet Set life, married a prince and danced and designed her way to the DVF empire which now has stores world wide. There were setbacks, both financial and health, but she is still standing and smiling. The book was a blast from the past for me, moving through six decades and inspiring all along the way. I ordered a wrap dress which I can't wait to receive and I look forward to what she does next!

Ever since I was, oh, maybe twelve, I've been in love with the wrap dress, made famous by my idol, Diane von Furstenberg. So when I bought her autobiography, I couldn't wait to hear her story. In fact, I chose her book as the first to grace my new Kindle. But in the end I had to admit that, as much as I adore her work with fabric, I didn't love the book nearly as much. It is indeed entertaining

in a breezy sort of way, but I was hoping to see more of her soul--more angst. I'm still glad I read the book, however, and will continue to be a fan. As for her wrap dresses, I still gasp when I come across one on the racks.

This book is written as if DVF were sitting next to you, revealing her life experiences of positive energy, determination, and persistence. Diane von Furstenberg is a dynamic woman and designer. The wrap dress continues to ignite the power in all women who desire to be elegant, delight in the comfort, and are inspired by art. I both adore and admire DVF, who has been an inspiration to women around the globe. She carries herself with sophistication, yet will genuinely reach to acknowledge commoners. I had the privilege of meeting this wonderful woman (Tour Guide) who provided time to be grateful for her surroundings and the people who assisted. Diane von Furstenberg was incredibly considerate and lives according to her words, "Love is Life." I would highly recommend reading *The Woman I Wanted to Be* to every woman who desires to become her best. As for the men, this book is an opportunity to understand the female gender.

Good book. I like how she brings the reader traveling with her and her fun experiences. I also like how she is so open about her life and her romances. Her experiences made of her who she is. Thank you for sharing them with the world!

In her authentic true self voice, DVF shares her incredible journey, highs and perhaps unsuspecting lows. She is living proof that age has no limits. She is the woman I want to be and tells her inspiring story in a way that made me feel we were talking over coffee or champagne. Reading on Kindle, I yearned for photos, and Google searched names, faces and places along the way. Then to my delight there were many more images at the end of the book. It was an interactive experience. I'm a little sad it's over. Even if a woman isn't that interested in DVF's incredible story, every woman should read the chapter on Beauty. It should be taught in Women's Studies education programs around the world. Diane Von Furstenberg is the voice of the 21st century on aging, shining the light on living life to its fullest. Shine on DVF, shine on!

This is the second book I've read on DVF's life and she never fails to inspire. A tale of love, passion, persistence and pain, DVF has truly lived and encourages all women to do the same. I appreciate that she holds nothing back and is unapologetic about the life she has chosen to live. She makes no qualms for her entrance into the world of glamour and excess, but shows that it takes real work to

maintain it, and more importantly carve your own path within it. I love hearing her speak and hearing her voice as I read her words. Highly recommended for women at any age, and particularly for those figuring out the type of women she wants to be.

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