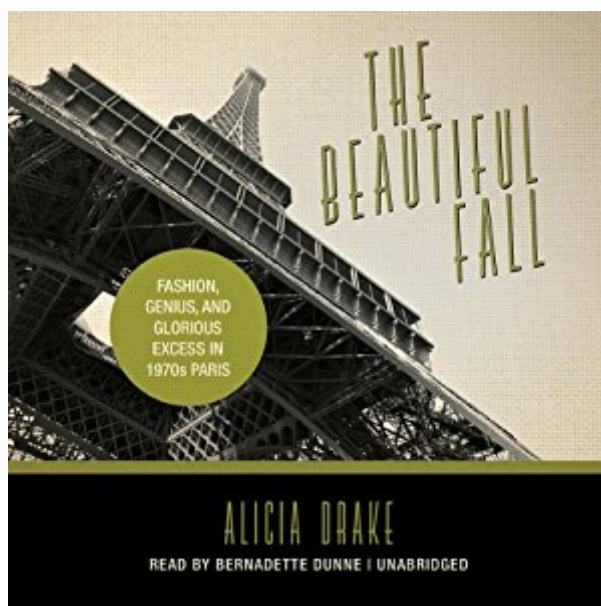


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# The Beautiful Fall: Fashion, Genius, And Glorious Excess In 1970s Paris



## Synopsis

In the 1970s, Paris fashion exploded like a champagne bottle left out in the sun. Amid sequins and longing, celebrities and aspirants flocked to the heart of chic, and Paris became a hothouse of revelry, intrigue, and searing ambition. At the center of it all were fashion's most beloved luminaries - Yves Saint Laurent, the reclusive enfant terrible, and Karl Lagerfeld, the flamboyant freelancer with a talent for reinvention - and they divided Paris into two fabulous halves. Their enduring rivalry is chronicled in this dazzling exposé of an era: of social ambitions, shared obsessions, and the mesmerizing quest for beauty. Alicia Drake writes regularly for publications including the International Herald Tribune, British Vogue, Travel and Leisure, and W magazine, for which she was a contributing editor. She has lived and worked in Paris for the last ten years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have always been fascinated with fashion and specifically, the 1970s period when YSL and Lagerfeld were creating the foundation of today's fashion industry. I grew up in Paris at that time and could relate to much of the book's locations and events. This book describes, in great detail, the growth and changes of the French couture industry in the 1970s and how it has changed and evolved over time. A lot of emphasis is on St. Laurent and Lagerfeld and how their personalities were reflected in their work. There is also a lot of detail about the 'seamy underbelly' of this industry, the egos, pettiness, power plays and struggles that seem to go hand in hand with prestige and celebrity. My only disappointment was the lack of color photos and the presence of more photos to

highlight the really beautiful clothes that are described in the content but not included in the rather small photo section. I really enjoyed this book and recommend it as a historical viewpoint of the Paris couture industry.

A must read for every fashion fan. The Beautiful Fall is easily one of the best fashion biographies out there that puts you in a time machine, as you go back in time to witness fashion's most colorful years (from the 50's to the 80's), highlighting the industry's luminaries and the details of their vibrant lives of creativity and scandal. I must've read this book about 5 times now! I just love the detail and research that went into writing this book.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book- so much so, I found it hard to put down. SO MUCH fascinating information on subjects ranging from Fashion Design trends at that time and the many insuing changes to the many historical, business, social, and political issues contributung to the scene as it evolved. The book is juicy with incredible details--- really FUN to read!

Unfortunately I really wanted to like this book. However, over half the Kindle book is missing. Every other page was not scanned. It's aggravating to be reading and then there is a gaping hole in the narrative - and this happens EVERY OTHER PAGE. I don't appreciate paying full price for half a book. Tried to find some way to contact Customer Service but could find no link. - shame on you!

I found this book interesting, but not as pleasing as Mademoiselle Chanel. However, if one is interested in the fashion world, this will be a good read. It describes the world of this milieu with interesting details such as the building of the collection. It also includes the competition between the fashion houses. There is quite an emphases in life outside the work such as the wild evenings, the drugs and homosexuality, but in general, realistic. I think the book could have been shorter.

As someone who enjoys art and fashion this book is an insider's look at how a fashion house is hatched. It takes fortitude, ego and creativity which is something that both YSL and Lagerfeld do not lack in. Enjoyed the book's history of the 50's on forward and how it affected both designers who became the word in fashion. Some live longer to tell the story as in Lagerfeld while others fall into the excesses of the day and nightlife.

A great account of Paris in the 1970s. Great gossip as well as a great history of fashion at such a

pivotal time.

This book is incredible. There are so many things I did not know about Karl Lagerfeld and Yves Saint Laurent, two extraordinary men. Lagerfeld was annoyed about his portrayal in the book as being the less talented of the two and sued in France for invasion of privacy. There is the mysterious and fascinating minor noble, Jacques de Basher who drove both men to distraction. It was also another reason Lagerfeld and Saint Laurent hated each other. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and finished it in one sitting. If you missed the seventies, love fashion and the history of fashion, and love a good well researched book, this is the book for you.

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