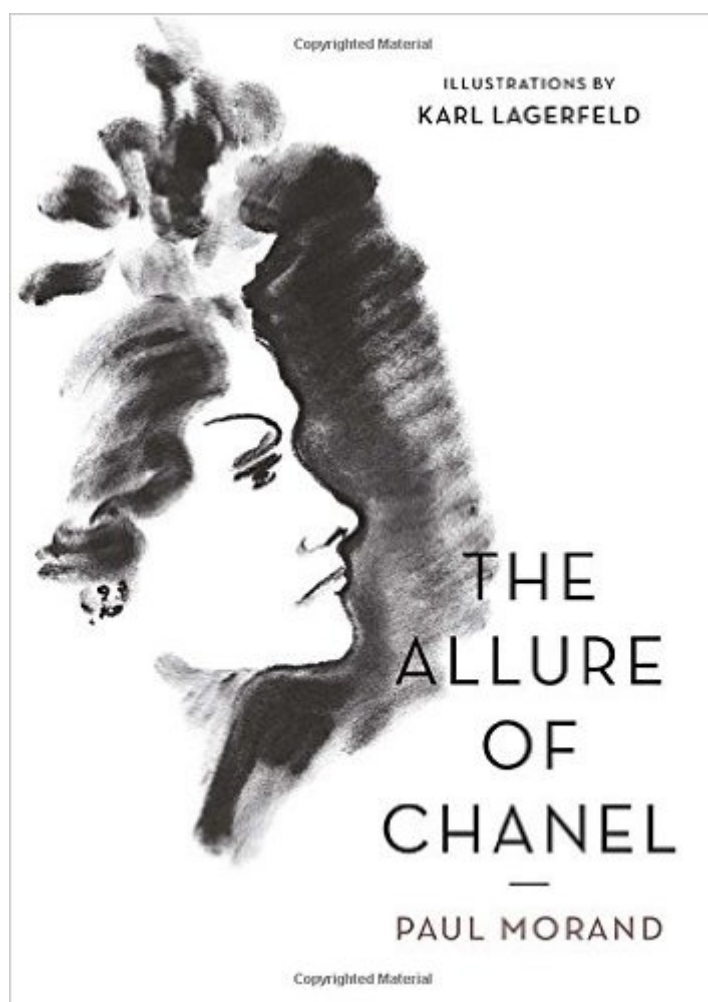


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The Allure Of Chanel (Illustrated)



Synopsis

Paul Morand's last book, one of the most appealing of his oeuvre, brings together around the figure of Chanel, portraits of Misia Sert, Erik Satie, Serge Lifar, Georges Auric, Raymond Radiguet, Jean Cocteau, Picasso and Churchill, among others. Based on a series of intimate conversations between Morand and Coco Chanel, written in the great storyteller's marvellous prose, this book artfully sketches the character of the elusive, mysterious and charming creature who inspired Malraux to say: "Chanel, De Gaulle and Picasso are the greatest figures of our times." Hailed on its publication in 1976 as "a great celebration of a book, a finely cut, sparkling gem", *The Allure of Chanel* attracted the attention of Karl Lagerfeld, who embellished it with seventy-three drawings, sketched for this special illustrated edition. ** Deluxe flapped paperback edition **

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

When I received the original book I was surprised by two things. First the size - it is a small book that would fit in the palm of your hand. Second, the ONLY photo is that of the author. (No pictures of Coco Chanel, her fashion, perfume, jewelry, watches, etc.) Having said that, I found myself cocooned in a faraway time and place listening to Madame recall her life to a man who was smart enough to capture every word and save them for us to savor. A new edition of the book, illustrated by Karl Lagerfeld (longtime head of the House of Chanel) will be released on April 10, 2010.

Fascinating look at Chanel's spin on her own life. While she is brutally candid about some aspects, others are completely fabricated to throw a more positive and morally acceptable light on them. You

won't get the whole truth, but between the lines is a great deal of wisdom and self-acknowledgement of both her own talent and shortcomings. A must for any die-hard Chanel fan who has read other notable biographies on this endless intriguing fashion icon.

for your bargain bin because otherwise I wouldn't have dreamed of getting what is a very fetching book. It's based upon conversations Morand had with his friend Chanel in Switzerland in 1946, when neither of the two would have been welcome in France. Though *Allure* is apparently narrated by Chanel, and though her own words no doubt lie behind it, Morand's fashioning of those words is the reason for much if not most of its appeal. Chanel speaks about her life, but this isn't a biography; she talks about fashion generally and her work specifically, but this isn't a book about fashion; she discusses artists and aristocrats of her acquaintance, but in no way is this a cultural history. Look elsewhere for any of those. What strikes me about this book is how vividly a personality is portrayed--Chanel is down-to-earth, outrageous, overbearing, oddly passive, wonderfully bitchy and frequently mendacious--through some very good writing. Someone as taken with this book as I was might want to look into the novel *Hecate and Her Dogs*, in which Morand tells a tale of decadence equally well. And anyone thinking about buying this should know that there are two editions: The larger one is illustrated by Karl Lagerfeld and has some striking photographs that the smaller lacks. 3 1/2 stars.

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