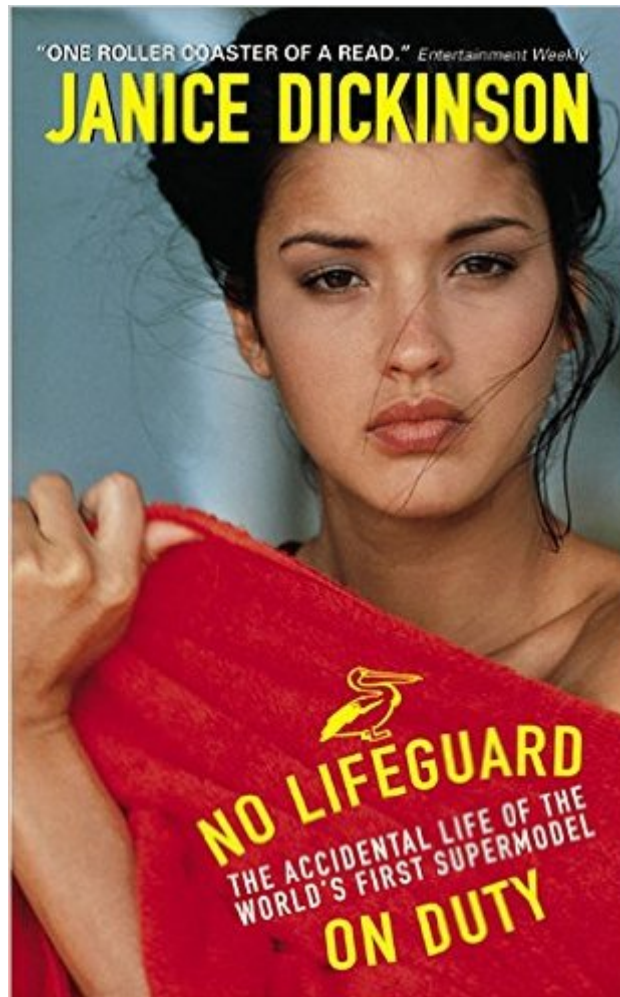


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No Lifeguard On Duty: The Accidental Life Of The World's First Supermodel



Synopsis

A rollicking memoir by one of the greatest (and most outrageous) supermodels of the 1970s. Janice Dickinson was not only the first of the supermodels, she endured a nightmarishly traumatic childhood at the hands of a sadistic, sexually and emotionally abusive father, and emerged in the early 1970s as the first lush "lipped 'exotic' brunette to break into a modelling world dominated by sunny California blondes. Janice owned the modelling world in the 1970s. Animated by a fierce desire to be recognised, a fearless spirit, and an insatiable hunger for alcohol, cocaine, sex, and fun, Dickinson appeared on every magazine cover, worked with every major designer and photographer (from Calvin Klein and Gianni Versace to Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon), was married three times, and had passionate affairs or one "night stands with everyone from Warren Beatty to Jack Nicholson to Mick Jagger. Though her career waned in the 1990s, her dramatic life story did not: in recent years she has fought a hotly contested paternity suit with Sylvester Stallone, survived a near "fatal car wreck during a tequila/marijuana blackout in St Bart's, and waged a raging battle with alcohol and drug addiction.

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Customer Reviews

Janice Dickinson was one of the first models who not only broke the mold of the blonde, pale and WASP-y supermodel but turned it on upside down, in the tradition of Gia Carangi, Cindy Crawford and Beverly Johnson. Born with looks that turned heads and drove men to their knees, Dickinson was not as blessed when it came to her personal life and self-image. She seemed destined to

self-destruct but somehow managed to recreate herself until time, drugs and her past caught up with her. Does this sound like just another dreary tale of a beautiful woman who let fame go to her head. drugs muddle her brain and life pass her by? Think again. Pick this one up and I doubt you'll put it down again till you've read every sentence. FOr one thing, Dickinson has the courage to spill almost all about the ups and downs of her life (although I'd LOVE to read what she doesn't reveal) and that, in itself, is compelling. She's honest about many of her flaws and revealing about the lives of celebrities who cross her path, including Sylvester Stallone, Christie Brinkley, Jack Nicholson, Warren Beatty and others. This makes for a juicy read. I'll leave it to you to decide what is true and what isn't. What I CAN say is that this book definitely isn't boring or dry. CAUTION: There are some nude photos in the photo spread so, depending on your values, you may not want to leave this one lying around the house.

My only knowledge of Janice Dickinson was that she supposedly had Sly Stallone's child and there was some type scandal. I bought this book because I love beautiful women and biographies about the fast life in the 70s. This book satisfies on both counts. Not only is Janice beautiful but also virtually every other supermodel till the 90s is mentioned or pictured in the book. Janice describes her destructive family life and through the typical desire and luck worms her way into the modeling business. Still only on the fringes of the business, she describes her European trips and how she is finally able to generate the heat necessary to grow into a supermodel. Of course, this leads to the failed marriages, self-destructive life style including sex and drugs, and an attitude to eventually hurt her career. But this wild life makes an interesting read even though it is lightly written. A second part of the book deals with life after modeling, her final two marriages, birth of her kids, her Stallone affair and the death of her father. It's almost sad at this point to see a person who had it all and how she had so many problems living happily. But that's the interesting part of the book seeing how she copes. Some of us are built to go to work every day. And some, like Janice are built to live on the edge and reach for the stars. She may not be perfect but it was an interesting lifestyle although I suspect the Christian Coalition wouldn't agree. Read the book for fun.

I really enjoyed this book. Books that talk crap are my favorite guilty pleasure. Dickinson is brave for being able to tell her story of abuse and neglect. She is candid and honest about her mistakes. In the end, she comes to realize that she can choose her own destiny. I believe people who think Janice blames everything on her sexually, physically, and emotionally abusive father are being apathetic. You don't grow up in a home where Daddy beats you up if you don't blow him and come

out a sane person. She didn't have the same support system that abuse-survivor Oprah had. Survivors react differently depending on there circumstances.(supportive parent or adult, higher economic status)She goes through the book relating her behavior to her past for the first time in her life, and its the only way one can heal. You have to learn where behavior patterns come from in order to change them. She wrote this book to help people so they can learn from her mistakes. You have to remember, for most of her life she didn't have therapy and child abuse was not talked about in her day. This is a pre Oprah,pre Lifetime Channel, pre war on drugs, beginning-of the feminist movement world we are talking about. O.k now for the critique... Her psychological review of herself is overly simplistic and obvious,and the first supermodel thing is annoying. Also annoying, her admitted lying to the producers of HBO's GIA, her suggestion that she inspired CK underwear, and her obvious self-acknowledge self importance. I v'e read the Gia bio, so I was also annoyed when Janice said she believed, she had made it too easy on Gia, who never cared much about modeling. Was Gia suppose to be grateful that Janice made it possible for her to be a model? Is Janice really responsible for Gia's success? She rambles and is repetitive.But janice as the first Asian/Polish/Celtic supermodel. Oh yeah and get over her language use.

With a second book coming out called "Everything About Me Is Fake, etc...", I think I may just need a refresher on the true stat of Ms. Dickenson in the modeling industry. Not the first supermodel and certainly not the most interesting. I believe it was the mighty Lauren Hutton and Karen Graham who hold the title of the first and greatest. Even Twiggy and Jean "the Shrimp" Shrimpton, Veruska- so many others who left their mark on the history of the business. As a fashion editor for twenty five years now, I can guarantee that Ms. Dickenson was far from "super"- more like "super not dependable". This book was fun if you are into fiction but if you really want the truth, I suggest reading "Model" by Michael Gross.

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