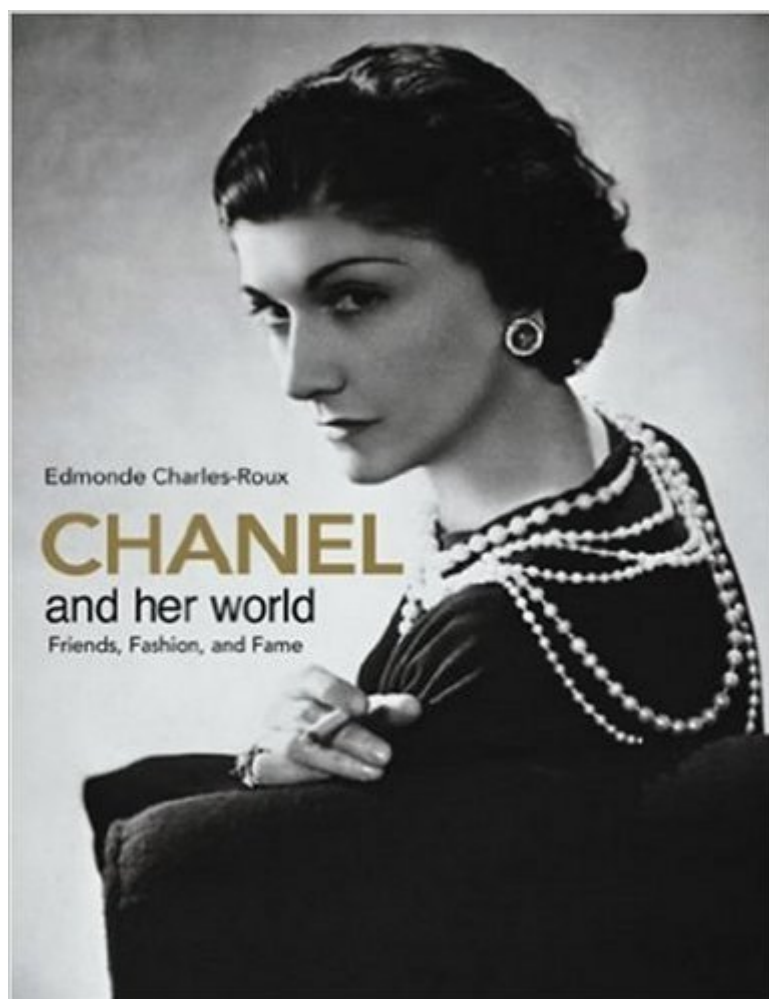


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# Chanel And Her World



## Synopsis

Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel (1883-1971) is a fashion icon unlike any other. She invented modern clothing for women: at the height of the Belle Époque, she stripped women of their corsets and feathers, bobbed their hair, put them in bathing suits, and sent them out to get tanned in the sun. She introduced slacks, costume jewelry, and the exquisitely comfortable suit. She made the first couture perfume; No. 5, which remains the most popular scent ever created. In this beautiful volume, the glorious life of the incomparable Coco Chanel shines again through hundreds of illustrations and the lively prose of Edmonde Charles-Roux, her official biographer and close friend. Chanel knew and collaborated with the likes of Picasso, Diaghilev, Stravinsky, Cocteau, Jean Renoir, and Visconti; even as she matched their modernist innovations by liberating women from the prison of 19th-century fashion and introducing a whole new concept of elegance. The staggering collection of photographs amassed by the author over decades of friendship with Chanel sheds new light on one of the great stories of the modern age. A model pictorial biography. ~ New York Times; This Chanel biography is as elegantly turned out as its subject. ~ The Washington Post; This lavish photo tome brings depth to Chanel's sleek façade while revealing the fascinating woman behind it. ~ WA; Edmonde Charles-Roux (is) one of (Chanel's) best biographers. ~ The New Yorker; There have been many books about Chanel, but this is the great classic. ~ Art of the Times; This beautiful volume contains hundreds of photographs and lively prose by its author, Edmonde Charles-Roux. ~ American Salon; Provides insight into the development of her sense of style and underscores the timelessness of her vision. ~ Veranda

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a substantial book in both size and pictorial content. As an ideal complement to the Metropolitan Museum's Chanel exhibit last spring (2005), this book actually exceeds - and outlasts - the exhibit itself. More than just an intelligent, fascinating woman, Chanel was a fascinating opportunist in the way that she manipulated and transformed the trends of her times (and many men of her times), turning them to her advantage. She was as much a businesswoman and social and cultural politician as a fashion designer, and to see her in this book's big, beautiful photographs, modeling her own creations, is an inspiration to any woman who disbelieves that humble beginnings and a less than conventionally perfect countenance can lead to high achievement. The best photograph of all - the photograph that tells all - graces the book's cover: one look at that face of intelligence, intensity, self-composure, and elegance, and one knows what the book is all about (philosophically as well as biographically) even before opening it. The classic Chanel endures as a legend and lesson in the achievement of authentic beauty, i.e., defined by compelling creation rather than passive, taken-for-granted standards of acceptance.

I was looking for a book showing photos of Chanel's clothing designs and styles. This book focuses more on her life and the celebrities and cultural/social trends of her era (spanning 1910's - 1950's), so if you are looking to see her clothing styles and designs, you will be disappointed as there isn't that much coverage of the actual clothing. However, it is a very absorbing, encyclopedic, pictorial collection of the people of Chanel's time and you can spend many a lazy Sunday afternoon thoroughly exploring *les temps perdus*. There are many many pictures of Coco Chanel - like Madonna, she looks different every few years, a real chameleon. It retails at \$65, so the \$37 price is a good deal. It is a heavy thick book with glossy pages.

The photographs in this book are amazing, and if you're interested in a pictorial history of Chanel, this book is lovely. However, the text leaves much to be desired. My biggest qualm with this book is that it is a severely truncated form of the original 1975 English translation of Charles-Roux's biography (entitled *Chanel: Her Life, Her World--and the Woman Behind the Legend She Herself Created*). The Publisher's Weekly Editorial Review that uses on this page claims that "The text remains the same," but they obviously did not read the 1975 edition. Several previous reviews have

claimed that this edition (2005) does not give enough of a history, which is completely true, however it is not true of the 1975 translation, which is a 373 page book with few pictures. I would have given the 2005 edition a higher rating if it acknowledged that it is a loose interpretation and abridgment of the original Charles-Roux biography. The publishers definitely sacrificed bibliographic content for photographs, which is fine considering it is a pictorial history, but they should have acknowledged the abridgment. Anyone looking for a more comprehensive history of Chanel's life should try to get their hands on the 1975 edition (out of print but still available online)--it can be dry at times, but it gives you a much better understanding of Chanel's life.

Visually pleasing and well-written, here is a book that would surely please Mademoiselle Chanel if she were still with us. Fans of Chanel and "Fashionistas" alike will undoubtedly be delighted with this big, beautiful book and its vast number of Chanel photos, which document Coco's personal world of fashion. Linda Painchaud-Steinman, Park Edge Books

I was disappointed in the text. I guess from the title I should have expected some world history. The story line is somewhat incoherent and doesn't seem to present her life very well. I had to use the index to find a couple lines of reference to her "Boy", a romance started in the story and then dropped, only to be finished much later and with no real detail. Either Chanel was very closed mouth about a lot of her life or the author didn't know her that well. Also, there are a lot of pictures of rather irrelevant items. I wouldn't purchase it again.

Mademoiselle Chanel was quite a woman. She totally invented herself, she was her best creation. This book does a fine job of showing off the clothes that made her famous and also offers many pictures of the singular Coco. The layout of the book is unique and took some getting use to, but it is informative and quite interesting. It is amazing all the men she was reportedly engaged with, she was not what one would call beautiful, but the woman had style and she knew how to work powerful men, a priceless talent in her day and unfortunately to this day. Really a very good book on an amazing woman.

I paid almost full price for this book and I don't regret it. I found this coffee table book just lovely. I am not a fashion expert. I'm just a reader interested in interesting people, so I was looking for a book on CHANEL that gave a brief background on her life and photos of Coco and some of her fashions. Well, this book seemed to fit the bill---for me. I was not disappointed. I have enjoyed this book very

much and it sits on my living room table , ----for the book to be browsed by others.

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