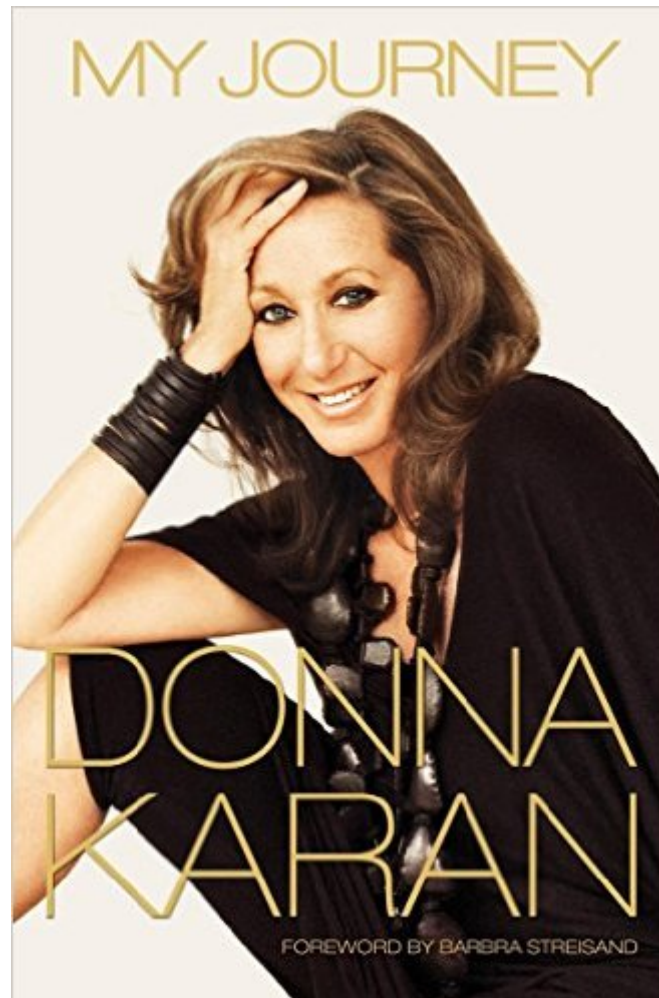


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My Journey



Synopsis

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY HARPER'S BAZAAR In this candid memoir, featuring a foreword by Barbra Streisand, renowned designer Donna Karan shares intimate details about her lonely childhood, her four-plus decades in the fashion industry, her two marriages, motherhood, and her ongoing quest for self-acceptance and spiritual peace. Donna Karan was born into the fashion business—her father was a tailor, and her mother was a showroom model and Seventh Avenue saleswoman—yet Karan dreamed of becoming a dancer like Martha Graham or a singer like Barbra Streisand. Fashion was her destiny, though. My Journey traces Karan's early days as an intern at Anne Klein, the creation of her Seven Easy Pieces (which forever changed the way working women dressed), and the meteoric rise of her company. Along with juicy industry stories, Karan candidly discusses her difficult mother and traumatic childhood, her turbulent romantic life, all the loved ones she has lost over the years, and the personal awakening that occurred just as she reached the height of professional and financial success. That awakening set Karan down a path of spiritual discovery and self-improvement. From est to Kabbalah, from silent retreats to leech therapy, Karan tried everything to find, as she writes, "a calm in the chaos." But she also reveals how a chaotic life, fueled by endless curiosity and childlike impulses, helped her design seminal collections season after season for global powerhouse brands Donna Karan New York and DKNY. She also details how she has channeled her creativity (and her urge to solve problems and nurture others) into philanthropic work, particularly her early outspoken advocacy for AIDS awareness and research, and the creation of her Urban Zen Foundation, focusing on integrated healthcare and education as well as preservation of culture, which led to her current efforts in Haiti. Karan's life has been crowded with glamorous characters and adventures around the world. But she sometimes still feels like that awkward teen from Long Island who never fit in—which makes her all the more endearing. Brimming with Karan's infectious energy, My Journey is about much more than the fashion world: It is the story of a young woman whose vision and hard work made her a role model for women everywhere—a woman who dreamed big, fought to have it all, broke the rules, and loved passionately along the way. Praise for My Journey "By turns moving, insightful, and hilarious, yet always, always heartfelt . . . When you're a true force of fashion, nothing holds you back." "Vogue" "When Donna Karan stepped down . . . it was the end of an era, so consider this autobiography her parting gift. . . . Expect a holistic view of the woman behind one of the most influential American labels." "StyleCaster" "Donna's creativity and passion as a committed philanthropist are matched only by her gift for friendship. Whether she's making the world more beautiful or giving a Haitian artisan the tools to create a

sustainable business, Donna has always led with great heart and wonderful humor.â•â”President Bill ClintonâœWhat we take for granted often comes from the most revolutionary of sources. In New York in the 1980s, no one was more radical than Donna Karan. She created a way of dressing that was womanly, practical, and empowering.â•â”Anna Wintour âœAn extraordinary personal, professional, and spiritual life . . . defined by Donnaâ™s incredible resilience, her inward search for calm in the midst of success, and her insistence on always following her heart.â•â”Arianna Huffington

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What I have learned when reading celebrity biographies is that they really are pretty much like the rest of us. Donna Karan was born to parents in the fashion business. Her father, Gabby, died when she was three, and her mother, who was called Queenie focused on her job. Queenie came home exhausted from her job, and would be distant and not the supportive mother Donna and her sister needed. Her mom remarried to a man also in the fashion business, and he became the father Donna craved. Donna worked all through high school and went to Parson’s School of Design where she met Louis Dell’Olio, the designer who became a life long friend. Donna learned fashion on the job and quit Parsons. She met Anne Klein and after a difficult beginning they became a team. Donna married at a young age, to Mark Karan, and had their daughter, Gabby. But Donna could never forget her one true love, Stephan Weiss. The day Anne Klein died from cancer, Donna delivered her baby, Gabby. The Anne Klein team asked her to take over the business, and so with a new baby, a

marriage, she was at the start of her career. Eventually she left Anne Klein and started her own fashion line which became wildly successful. Remember the Seven Basic Pieces, the seven pieces of clothing every woman needs in her closet, that was Donna's baby. Donna realized early on that she wanted to dress her clients as she would dress. She had many famous clients and one of the most famous, Barbra Streisand, who remains a close friend to this day. Donna spent forty years designing and dressing from the groovy times in the 70-80's until 2014, when she retired. Donna initiated the fitted suits and jumpsuits that showed off women's figures, but were fashionable and comfortable. From the basic black dress to the yoga pants.

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