



Death Drive



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Stephen Bayley

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232 pages

Revue de presse

Albert Camus once remarked that there s "nothing more absurd than to die in a car accident". That was before his car hit a tree at 80mph. Death Drive - a compendium of stories about famous people killed stupidly in cars - oozes absurdity. Stephen Bayley recounts delightfully grotesque tales about celebrities done in by trees, by lampposts, or by nonentities in ancient Chevys. A design masterpiece, this book combines exquisite prose with stylish presentation - the cars are described more lovingly than the people who perished in them. Like a Bugatti, Death Drive recalls a time when books and cars were beautiful.' --The Times, Books of the Year, 26 November 2016

'Death Drive is a must for petrol-heads. The range of cultural cross-reference and automotive detail is positively epicurean.' --Jay Merrick, The Independent

Akin to Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon, Death Drive is an autoerotic Babylon that never ends well. -- Ray Edgar, The Age

When Stephen Bayley declares that a brand new car is as close as we can ever expect to get to perfection on Earth, some of us will merely be reminded what utterly sinful creatures we are. --Brian Ladd, The TLS
Présentation de l'éditeur

Cars have a talismanic quality. No other manufactured object has the same disturbing allure. More emotions are involved in cars and car design than in any other product: vanity, cupidity, greed, social competitiveness and cultural modelling. But when all this perverse promise ends in catastrophe, these same talismanic qualities acquire an extra dimension. The car crash is a defining phenomenon of popular culture. Death Drive is both an appreciative essay about the historic place of the automobile in the modern imagination and a detailed exploration of the circumstances of twenty celebrity car crashes, from Isadora Duncan in an Amilcar, in 1927, to Helmut Newton in a Cadillac CRX, in 2004. En route the narrative traces one very big arc the role of the car in extending or creating the personality of a celebrity and concludes by confronting the imminent death of the car itself. Biographie de l'auteur

Stephen Bayley is an author, critic, columnist, consultant, broadcaster, curator and founding director of the influential Design Museum. Over the past thirty years his writing has changed the way the world thinks about design.

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