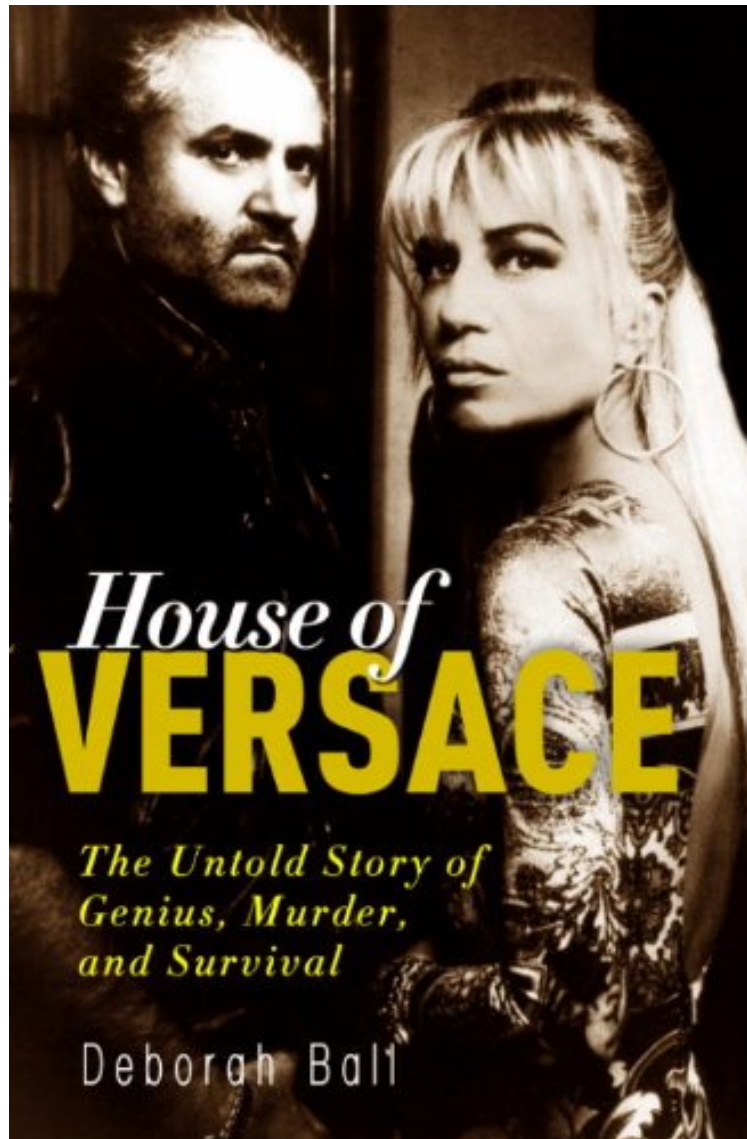


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House of Versace: The Untold Story of Genius, Murder, and Survival

Deborah Ball

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Deborah Ball : House of Versace: The Untold Story of Genius, Murder, and Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House of Versace: The Untold Story of Genius, Murder, and Survival:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. My Favourite Read This Year (2013)By CustomerAbsolutely fantastic read!!! I had already started reading this book when the lifetime movie came out. The movie was inaccurate and pissed me off, however the book is well worth a read! I remember Gianni - even had a few of his more

conservative pieces - I remember when I found out he'd been killed - I was eating breakfast watching a morning show and just went numb. I didn't understand before the complex world of fashion, relationships, interrelationships between designers and buyers, and personal biases before this book. I'm not sure how many people outside the fashion business have any clue what goes on. My view was, before I read this book, "sure Armani wants to have a better runway show and outsell Versace and vice versa, but they appeal to different age groups and tastes so it's not a huge competition thing..." Yeah. Dead wrong! Read this book even if you aren't a fashionista - it is warm, funny, cut-throat, psychotic, touching, gut-wrenchingly human and will bring tears to your eyes all in one book!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By Diane Loves Elvis I started not to buy this book because I was afraid it would be boring. Boy, was I wrong! All I knew about Gianni Versace was that he was a famous designer and was murdered by Andrew Cunanan. I learned so much more, from his humble beginnings to building his empire. Learned a lot about his sister Donatella too. She was riddled with problems, from drugs to excessive spending habits. A well written book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Book That Lacks Fuller Details. By Jack Thomas I feel that the book is very well-written, but, would have had far more gravitas, had the author interviewed Antonio. The reader would have been well-served, and the author would have been well-rewarded. Also, the editors of all of the major fashion magazines should have had more input. Versace's place in pop culture was not fully explored, in terms of his influence. His celebrity clients should have had more input, as their stories may have been more enlightening and positive, and would have made clear that, since his death, NO ONE has stepped up to take his place, though many have tried (Tom Ford, Karl Lagerfeld, Issac Mizrahi). What's alluded to in the book is true: Gianni Versace got to the real point of why people wear clothes in the first place, which is to celebrate their bodies, sensuality and sexuality. This is anthropological, as reflected in culture. It is transcendent of taste, gender, socioeconomic status, race and/or sexual orientation. One of his most famous quotes says it all: "I don't dress bodies. I dress egos."

Versace. The very name conjures up images of outrageous glamour and bold sexuality, opulence and daring. All of course true, but only half the story. Versace is also the legacy of a great creative genius from a poor, backward part of southern Italy who transformed the fashion world through his intuitive understanding of both women and how a changing culture influenced the way they wanted to dress. The first book in English about the legendary designer, *House of Versace* shows how Gianni Versace, with his flamboyant sister Donatella at his side, combined his virtuosic talent and extraordinary ambition to almost single-handedly create the celebrity culture we take for granted today. Gianni Versace was at the height of his creative powers when he was murdered in Miami Beach. The story was front page news around the world and the manhunt for his killer a media obsession. His beloved sister Donatella demanded no less than a funeral befitting an assassinated head-of-state to be held in Milan's magnificent cathedral. In what was the ultimate fashion show, the world's rich and beautiful - Princess Dianna, Elton John, Carla Bruni, Naomi Campbell, Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, Anna Wintour and others - gathered to mourn a man already considered one of fashion's great pioneers. Deborah Ball, a long-time Milan correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, conducted hundreds of interviews with Versace family members, Gianni Versace's lovers and business rivals, models such as Naomi Campbell whom he helped shoot to international stardom and fashion industry icons, including Anna Wintour, the legendary editor of *Vogue*. Ball vividly recounts the behind-the-scenes struggles - both creative and business - of Donatella as she stepped out of her brother's long shadow and took control of the House of Versace. The book offers the first inside look at the enormous challenges Donatella faced in living up to Gianni's genius, her struggle with a drug habit, her battles with her brother Santo and the mystery of why Gianni left control of his house to Donatella's young daughter, Allegra. *House of Versace* is a compelling, highly readable tale of rise from obscurity, a painful fall and ultimate redemption as the Versace empire returned to health - for now. Bringing together fashion, celebrity, business drama, jet-set lifestyles, and a notorious crime, *House of Versace* is an old-fashioned page-turner about a subject of enduring fascination. From the Hardcover edition.