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Size Zero: My Life As A Disappearing Model



Synopsis

A memoir of a brief career as a top model - and a brutally honest account of what goes on behind the scenes in a fascinating closed industry. Scouted in the street when she was 17, Victoire Dauxerre's story started like a teenager's dream: within months she was on the catwalks of New York's major fashion shows and part of the most select circle of in-demand supermodels in the world. But when fashion executives and photographers began to pressure her about her weight, forcing her to become ever thinner, Victoire's fantasy came at a cost. Food was now her enemy, and soon, living on only three apples a day and Diet Coke galore, Victoire became anorexic. An unflinching, painful exposé of the uglier face of fashion, her testimony is a shocking example of how our culture's mechanisms of anorexia and bulimia can push a young woman to the point of suicide. It is the story of a survivor whose fight against poisonous illness and body image shows us how to take courage and embrace life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a fascinating look into the women who bring life to the fashion industry. I have a family member who is a fashion designer and have heard various stories about it but nothing as succinct as this. What a brave woman to share her life. Fascinating.

That was a great read. Victoire is adorable...at her current weight. Most surprising thing was Ralph Lauren passed on her. She looks like his models. The other thing is WHY do they want them so

thin? Curvy is far more attractive. Shows how easy it can be to fall prey to anorexia too. Its a crappy professionas they do not look out for you in any way. Glad she gave it up and is doing something that is making her happy.

I really liked this book. I would have given it 5 stars but, I do feel it was a bit pricey for what it is. It is a good read and I'm glad I read it.

It's a shocking tale of the fashion world's obsession with unnaturally thin, unhealthy women who are held up to the rest of the world as "the ideal". It's a brutally honest story (which maybe makes it so shocking). I found the author endearing in her honesty. At the same time I felt a deep sadness for her and what she had to go through, in order to be able to tell this story. If you suffer from an eating disorder or find yourself on the brink of becoming obsessed with our weight, please read this book. It's worth the read and it may even save your health and life!

This book was very affecting. Though not particularly well written, and certainly not well translated (the British translator often imposes British idioms that seem misplaced in a book written by a french woman), the overall effect is to leave the reader with a very vivid--and profoundly sad--view of the world of fashion and modeling. The reader's view is rendered all the more vivid by Dauxerre's bold willingness to name names and to tell her stories with reference to specific people and in specific times and places. She is also brutally honest about the depression that consumed her the longer she starved herself and the longer she was objectified, dehumanized, and even when highly in-demand, cast aside, by photographers, designers, and agents. She's also keenly aware of the trickle-down messaging phenomenon in her industry: It is not just models who must size down and sacrifice themselves at the altar of fashion, it is ultimately all women--who see these images and these runway models--who feel compelled to do so. None of this, in the abstract, is particularly surprising or even new to any of us who follow fashion. But the specificity and rawness is bold and fresh, and she has managed to do what few women's magazine op-eds about eating disorders or laws about runway sizes have done: She has deeply humanized the wretched experience. I wish her well.

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