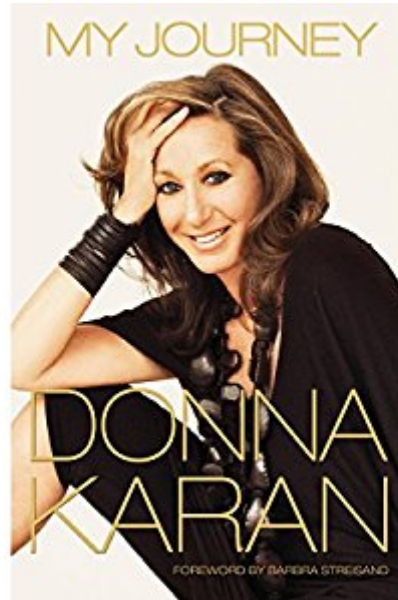




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My Journey



Synopsis

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, 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 her personal awakening. That awakening set Karan down a path of spiritual discovery and self-improvement. Karan tried everything to find, as she writes, "calm in the chaos." But she also reveals how a chaotic life, fueled by endless curiosity and childlike impulses, helped her design seminal collections for global powerhouse brands Donna Karan New York and DKNY. She also details how she has channeled her creativity into philanthropic work, particularly her early advocacy for AIDS awareness and research, and the creation of her Urban Zen Foundation, which led to her 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.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 13, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B015NOAW0U

Best Sellers Rank: #67 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Design #259 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Business Leaders #764 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians

Customer Reviews

I was intrigued with Donna Karan after reading an interview done in the Sunday Parade magazine, a PR to the release of her memoir. Naturally I had to order her book. She spoke to my inner woman, expressing creative energy and mood in her style and action, and incorporating intuitive sense to fashioning freedom in the form of seven easy pieces. I came away, however, with a sense of needing space after a few short chapters, the pace of her life exhaustive, almost superhuman in the face of significant changes and losses; a tibial plateau fracture after a heli-skiing accident deserving only half a paragraph in her book. I especially enjoyed what Karan shared of her exchanges with significant others, like the water color paintings her (now deceased) husband, Stephan, did for her of a plus sign in sunny yellow and a minus sign in black--"You can look at life either way, Donna," he said. "It's your choice, remember that." Donna Karan's work is not over, and I do love the journey she is on both spiritually and in her philanthropy. She is truly living the metaphor--giving more life and light out, and receiving more in spades.

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. Donna relates stories of her time in the fashion industry with Anne Klein, Anne Klein II, to her own company Donna Karan Company. Her second husband and the love of her life, Weiss, died in 2001, and when she was scheduled to present her first fashion show without him, it had to be canceled because of 9/11. The stories and her times with her clients and celebrities bring the best of times. This book is well written and warts and all are bared. Not much is held back, and this gives me a renewed appreciation for this fashion icon. She has her foundation, Urban Zen, which combines fashion and spirituality, and this will keep her busy. She is a grandparent and relishes this role. Her life is good and she is looking for her next move. Recommended. prisrob 10-20-15

interesting but went on too long on certain parts. could have been half the length with better, more to the point editing

I loved reading this book. I ended up buying it right after reading DVF's latest memoir. Donna's kind, humble and warm spirit is felt with every word in her story. She makes no apologies for being who she is - chaos and all - but you just know she has made every choice with love, including letting go of her namesake brand. As a soon to be 30-something living in NYC, it's wonderful to read the words of women who have and continue to live creative lives on their own terms. I end this book inspired, even more in love with the DKNY brand and ready to read about Donna's next chapter.

great read

I long ago read and reviewed this

I enjoyed this book. Easy reading and an opportunity to see how the fashion world works. Donna is extremely talented and famous but she seems like a regular hard working woman passionate about what she does. Donna faced the pain that a lot of us face. Our relationships, our history. She is definitely some one to sit and have coffee with. Very comfortable.

Amazingly inspirational. Super well written. Authentic, deeply touching and relatable to many levels.

Also quite pleasant to go back in time and reflects on the industry's evolution.

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