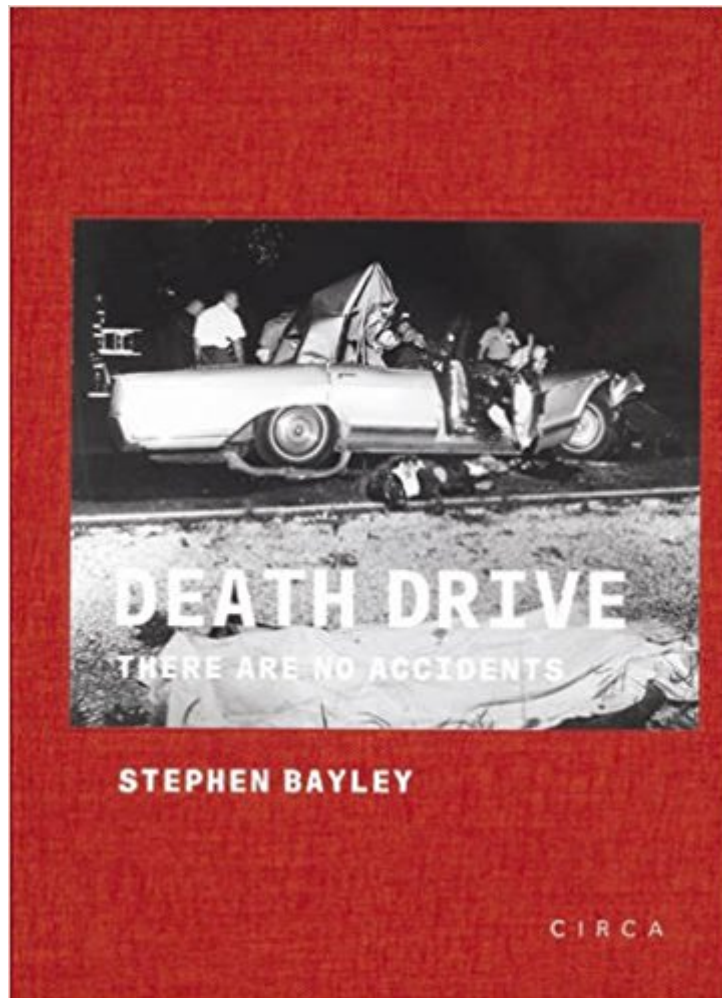




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Death Drive: There Are No Accidents



Synopsis

Albert Camus once remarked that there is 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 A *Times* of London Books of the Year, 2016 Big names like James Dean, Jackson Pollack, and Princess Grace are among the victims Cars have a talismanic quality. No other manufactured object has the same disturbing allure. More emotions are involved in cars than any other product: vanity, cupidity, greed, social competitiveness, cultural modeling. 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*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

Stephen Bayley is a great writer - possibly the greatest design writer there is. But this book reveals him as a great story teller too. In twenty potted celebrity biographies, he engages with sex, drugs,

alcohol, fast cars, recklessness, bathos and death. And he does it in such a compelling way that at the end you wish there were twenty more. It's not ghoulish, as it might have been in other hands. Instead, it is witty, insightful and dazzlingly erudite. It crosses continents and makes astonishing connections. It celebrates the glory years of the automobile as a desirable object and mourns its decline. It correlates sex and death. It is almost certainly Bayley's best book.

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