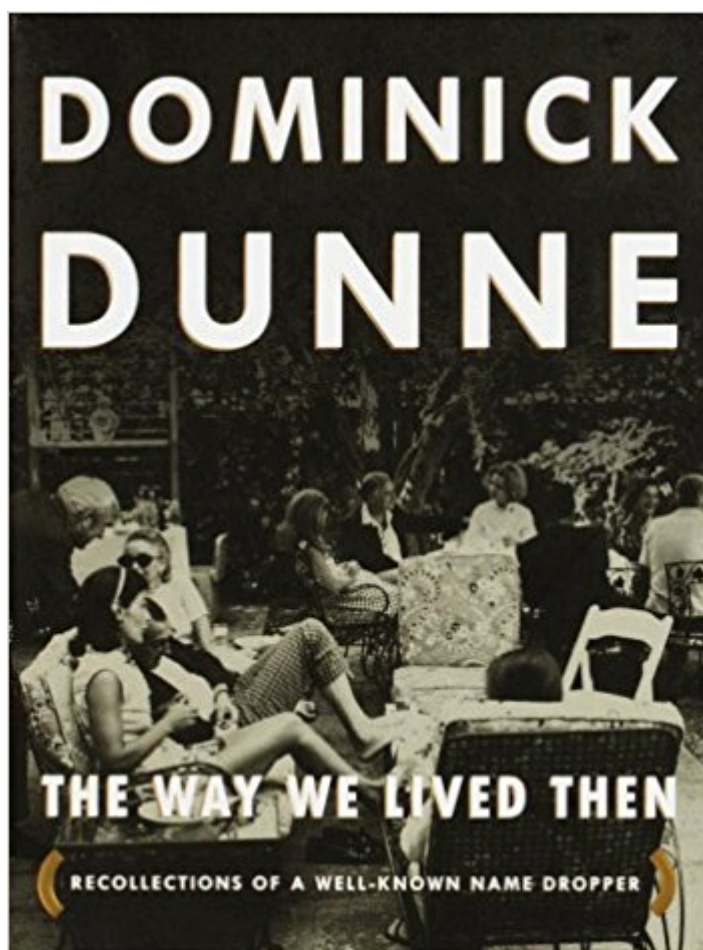


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The Way We Lived Then : Recollections Of A Well-Known Name Dropper



Synopsis

Mesmerizing, revelatory text combines with more than two hundred photographs -- most of them taken by the author -- in a startling illustrated memoir that will both astonish and move you. When Dominick Dunne lived and worked in Hollywood, he had it all: a beautiful family, a glamorous career, and the friendship of the talented and powerful. He also had a camera and loved to take pictures. These photographs, which Dunne carefully preserved in more than a dozen leatherbound scrapbooks -- along with invitations, telegrams, personal notes, and other memorabilia -- record the parties, the glittering receptions, the society weddings, and scenes from the everyday lives of the Dunnes and those they knew, including Jane Fonda, Frank Sinatra, Paul Newman, Roddy McDowall, Elizabeth Taylor, Natalie Wood, Brooke Hayward, Jennifer Jones, and David Selznick. You'll meet them all in this fascinating book -- captured in snapshots as these celebrities relax at poolside barbecues, gossip at cozy get-togethers and dance at the Dunnes' dazzling black-and-white ball. And you will meet Dominick Dunne's beautiful wife, Lenny, and his children, Griffin, Alex, and Dominique, as they celebrate Christmases, birthdays, and graduations. But, most of all, you will meet Dominick Dunne and learn about the peaks and valleys of his years in Hollywood, the disastrous turn his life took, and the long road back that led to his triumphant career as a writer. With its engaging photographs and candid text, *The Way We Lived Then* is a riveting and unvarnished account of a life among the stars and a life almost lost.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a previous incarnation, writer Dominick Dunne was the toast of Hollywood--entertaining movie stars and socialites and invited by moguls to clambakes and black-tie dances. Long before he started churning out his romans ÀfÂ clef set in the private recesses of Hollywood and penthouses of New York City and his dispatches from notorious murder trials, he spent his days on movie sets, producing films like *Ash Wednesday* and working as an executive at various studios. In the off-hours, he and his wife Lenny ate dinner with Vincente Minnelli, Jack Benny, Rock Hudson, and Elizabeth Montgomery. They went to beach parties hosted by Jane Fonda and Roddy McDowall--and threw not a few bashes of their own, attended by, well, everyone and often photographed for *Vogue* magazine. Dunne seemed to carry his camera with him everywhere and "was always sticking [it] into someone's face." Kirk Douglas biting into an oversized hotdog, a scantily clad Paul Newman perusing a picnic table, Princess Margaret smoking, Mia Farrow dancing, and Natalie Wood hamming. Each weekend he carefully arranged his snapshots along with the week's invitations, telegrams, and news-clippings into a set of scrapbooks. *The Way We Lived Then* closely resembles those scrapbooks, filled as it is with images culled from them. Dunne sews the scraps together with a loose memoir that moves from the mundane (how the house was decorated for a certain party, how the subjects of a given photo were feeling about one another at the time) to the grand (meditations on his marriage and his children). All of these famous friends, glittery parties, and cozy evenings did add up to a picture-perfect life for a time. But by the mid '60s, Dunne was drinking hard, insulting acquaintances in public, and being a perfectly terrible husband to the lovely Lenny. He was soon arrested carrying drugs into the country from Mexico, divorced, nearly poverty-stricken, and living in a cabin in Oregon. But he lived to tell about it, and though his story is something of a cautionary tale about the dangers of success and excess, punctuated as it is by his dreamy photos, one can't help but wonder if he'd happily go back to the way he lived then.

--Jordana Moskowitz

Before becoming a bestselling novelist (*The Two Mrs. Grenvilles*) and *Vanity Fair* correspondent noted for skeptical dispatches from the O.J. Simpson and Menendez brothers murder trials, Dunne was a TV and movie producer in the 1960s. Less a memoir than a scrapbook, this slim volume consists largely of Dunne's often appealing celebrity snapshots. There's a young Warren Beatty at the piano, Elizabeth Taylor in white mink and a gimlet-eyed Princess Margaret, poised with a cigarette holder. The book's subtitle is well-taken. Plenty of names are dropped, though there's a paucity of fresh or compelling anecdotes. Dunne notes the "deep devotion" of Nancy and Ronald Reagan; in person, Elizabeth Taylor "is even more breathtaking than on the screen

The book is smashing. Buy it. If you're very young and not deep into movies, you might be disappointed. However, if you're a movie maven of any age, you'll recognize almost everyone. In many ways, the photos bring to life all of the names that turn up in other books about the movies - producers, producers wives, etc. Dunne knows his audience, though, and most of the book's photos depict highly recognizable faces. It was fun, for example, to finally see a photo of Natalie Wood's habit of checking her makeup in her reflection in her silverware. Many books about Ms. Wood write about this habit, but Dunne got the charming photo of Wood spoofing herself. A few of the photos are startling. For example, there is a four-photo montage of Elizabeth Montgomery trying to make her husband, Gig Young, jealous by dancing with George Hamilton. The two last photos show Montgomery casting a positively wicked look over her shoulder, then George Hamilton dissolving into tears. Dunne's writing, as usual, is so spare it seems simplistic. But as a longtime fan, I admire the way he just put the words on the page, without excessive embellishment. He seems to always be asking himself, "How can I make my point in five words? In four? In three?" If you're a movie fan, this is a must-have for your bookshelf.

yes , I had read the Book before but wanted one for my collection, Its a Great Book, and really does show , The Way They Were .-with more to come .,and it did .

What a trip down memory lane! The book is full of black & white glossies of stars of yesteryear caught in candid moments, & the recounting of events was fascinating. I was a longtime fan of Dominick's & through this book learned a lot about his life & I grew to be a fan of Lenny's as well. This book has elements of an enduring love story, backstories & backstage gossip, comedy & tragedy. It's not a 'fluffy' book. He did not sugarcoat his downward spiral, nor did he make excuses or resort to self-pity. Well worth reading!

Great book for anyone who loved Dominick Dunne. Book came in fantastic condition-cover was in great shape as well. Has great tidbits of his time in the film industry and raising his family. Lots of pictures

Semi-interesting bits of tripe about Hollywood for those who care. Meh.

Just what I wanted. Easy and entertaining read and full of juicy bits!

A wonderful look-back at Old Hollywood. I bought it. Read it. And now gifting it over to a friend who is a real fan of the elegant days of old Hollywood. BUY it ! You'll love it !

very good

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