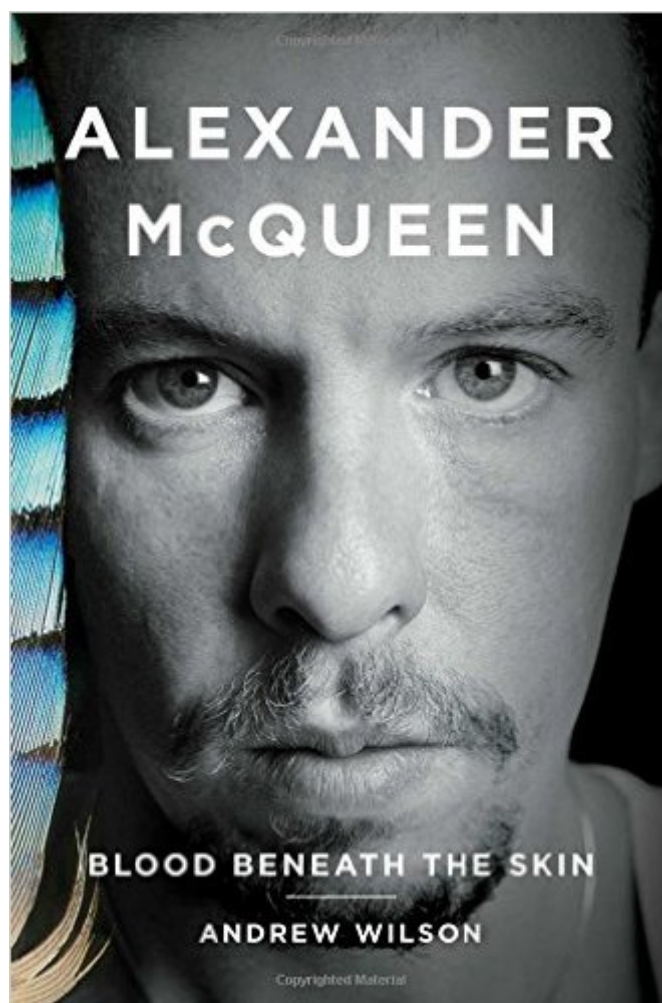


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Alexander McQueen: Blood Beneath The Skin



Synopsis

The first definitive biography of the iconic, notoriously private British fashion designer Alexander McQueen explores the connections between his dark work and even darker life. When forty-year-old Alexander McQueen committed suicide in February 2010, a shocked world mourned the loss. McQueen had risen from humble beginnings as the son of an East London taxi driver to scale the heights of fame, fortune, and glamour. He designed clothes for the world's most beautiful women and royalty, most famously the Duchess of Cambridge, who wore a McQueen dress on her wedding day. He created a multimillion-dollar luxury brand that became a favorite with celebrities including Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell. But behind the confident facade and bad-boy image, lay a sensitive soul who struggled to survive in the ruthless world of fashion. As the pressures of work intensified, McQueen became increasingly dependent on the drugs that contributed to his tragic end. Meanwhile, in his private life, his failure to find lasting love in a string of boyfriends only added to his despair. And then there were the dark secrets that haunted his sleep. | A modern-day fairy tale infused with the darkness of a Greek tragedy, Alexander McQueen tells the complete sensational story, and includes never-before-seen photos. Those closest to the designer "his family, friends, and lovers" have spoken for the first time about the man they knew, a fragmented individual, a lost boy who battled to gain entry into a world that ultimately destroyed him. "There's blood beneath every layer of skin," McQueen once said. Andrew Wilson's biography, filled with groundbreaking material, dispels myths, corrects inaccuracies, and offers new insights into McQueen's private life and the source of his creative genius.

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Customer Reviews

Why I picked it up â ” I lived in the New York area in 2011, when Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty was on at the Met. I must have gone at least 5 or 6 times, I was completely enamored with that show. It was the first time I had ever considered fashion as art, with clothes as just a medium. So many of his pieces, ideas, and feats of tailoring lodged in my brain and set my imagination aflame. I loved all the historical and mythological references. I idly wondered â ” not that I'd shown any inclination for it ever before â ” if I'd missed out by never considering a career in fashion design. (After reading this book, the short answer is no!) But I didn't know anything about the man behind the art, other than that he'd killed himself. So the moment I saw this biography on a shelf, I knew I had to read it and better get to know the creative genius whose clothes could fill me with so much emotion. The good â ” The book definitely fulfilled its purpose of giving me a much better sense of who Alexander McQueen was as a person. It filled in lots of details about his life and the struggles and people that shaped it. And of course it's always fun to read a story about how someone comes up from humble origins to make a huge success of themselves. And the costs of that success. So I definitely got what I came for, in that sense. The less good â ” It felt like this book had no narrative cohesion. Each chapter represented a period in McQueen's life and read like a fact file of every interesting interview scrap Andrew Wilson had managed to gather about that time. It felt like reading the highlighted bits of somebody's research notes. All seven of McQueen's boyfriends blended together in my head, as did many of his friends and colleagues.

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