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Coco And The Little Black Dress



Synopsis

"Hurry up! You may only go to bed when all the sheets are ironed." Little Coco grew up in the orphanage and had to work hard for a living sewing and embroidering like an angel. Until her eighteenth birthday . . . Coco knew one thing for sure Coco. She would never, never be poor again. A beautifully illustrated picture book biography of Coco Chanel. Coco Chanel (1883-1971) was a famous French fashion designer. Born into a poor family, strictly brought up in the orphanage, influenced by the style of wealthy suitors , she remained faithful throughout her life to the simplicity. A luxurious simplicity , which has produced memorable style icons like the little black dress and perfume Chanel No. 5.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Annemarie Van Haeringen's COCO AND THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS was my daughter's and my first foray into children's nonfiction (other than nature books). This award winning book tells the story of the rise of famed fashion designer Coco Chanel. While the name Coco Chanel is probably familiar to most, I knew little about her life. This book is an uplifting tale for kids about how one can start with a humble upbringing, in an orphanage no less, and persevere to become one of the most recognizable names in fashion. This 32-page book tells the story of how Coco paved her own path, was willing to take chances, and explicitly tried to disrupt the fashion world. The book is geared to

children as young as four years, and my daughter was able to appreciate and follow it. As a parent, it is always nice to learn something from reading, and I did with this book. The book begins in the orphanage where Coco learned to sew then follows her career and how she observed how the rich and famous acted, but Coco was always astonished as their fashion choices. She sought to stand out from the crowd. Coco Chanel's story is fascinating, and the book does a great job of putting her story in language that a child can follow. The illustrations are nothing fancy, but they work in this story. Haeringen pulls off the challenging combination of great story with great illustrations. Coco Chanel's story is one that many kids could seek to emulate, and Haeringen relays the story in a way that lets a parent talk to a child about what Coco overcame. **COCO AND THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS** is wonderful and worth reading not just for the story of a fashion icon but for the story of someone who overcame significant odds.

I find it hard to review a children's book, not having kids of my own with whom to read them. Not everything can be as clever and deep as Dr. Seuss, or as elegant and visually striking as Oliver Jeffers, and judging a book meant for someone 30 years younger, can be a tricky. That said, I really liked Annmarie illustrations. They're simple, beautiful and stylish, very fitting for the subject matter. As for the narrative, I liked it, but I just don't know if it achieves what it's looking for. Maybe I was trying to find a clear life lesson, and there isn't one (although many can be inferred, as deciding what you're aiming for or following your own path). Maybe I found the description a bit simplistic, but suddenly muddled with some complex words (as jodhpurs or supple). But really, what do I know? My favorite books are *Fight Club* and *High Fidelity*, so I'm not the best judge for this one. If you know your children is going to appreciate a beautifully illustrated book, go for it.

For full review please search "5 Girls Book Reviews" in a search engine and/or Facebook "5 Girls Book Reviews" REVIEW BY: Arianna, age 12 years, 9 months MAY CONTAIN SPOILER: This book is wonderful at summing up one of the greatest fashion designer's life. My favorite part is when all the ladies come to Coco for her designs. I love Coco's little black dress!

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