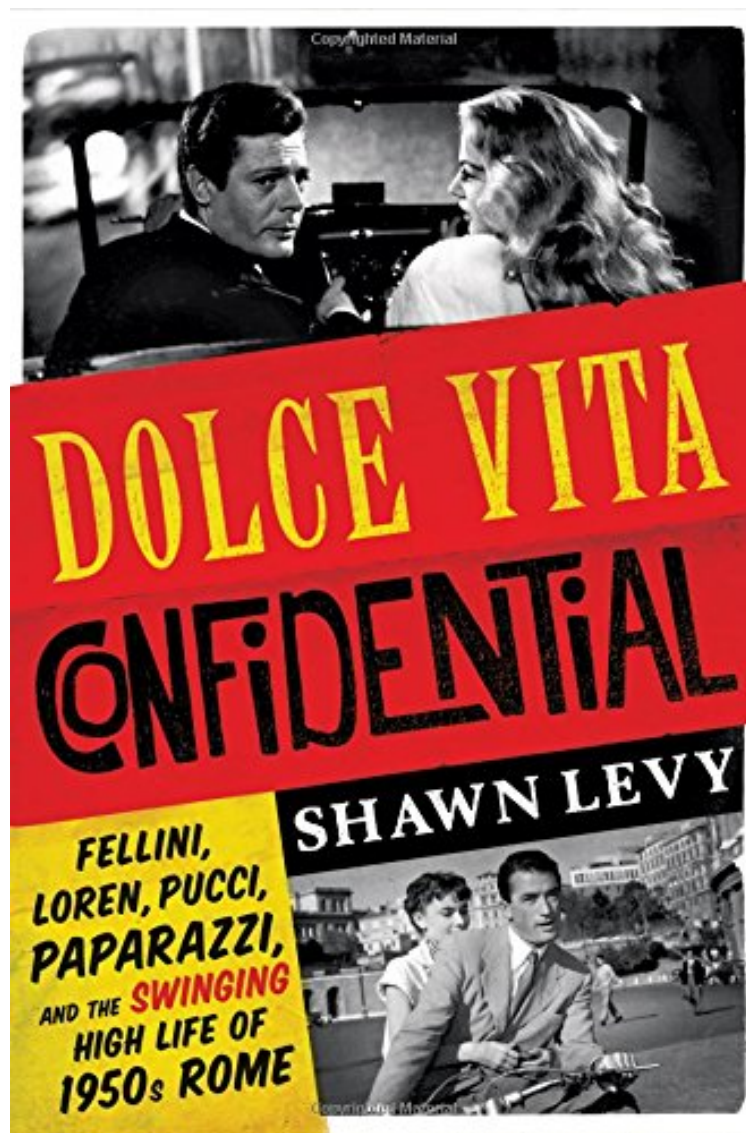


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Dolce Vita Confidential: Fellini, Loren, Pucci, Paparazzi, and the Swinging High Life of 1950s Rome

Shawn Levy

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#250801 in Books Shawn Levy 2016-10-04 2016-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.60 x 1.60 x 6.70l, .0 #File Name: 0393247589480 pagesDolce Vita Confidential Fellini Loren Pucci Paparazzi and the Swinging High Life of 1950s Rome | File size: 16.Mb

Shawn Levy : Dolce Vita Confidential: Fellini, Loren, Pucci, Paparazzi, and the Swinging High Life of 1950s Rome before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dolce Vita Confidential: Fellini, Loren, Pucci, Paparazzi, and the Swinging High Life of 1950s Rome:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and FunBy andrew reviewI love Shawn Levy's books and this one is no exception. Exploring Rome' cultural explosion of fashion, film , and excess through the prism of the paparazzi produces a fascinating glimpse into the recent past and explains a little how we got where we are now. Mini biographies of Fellini, Loren, and Pucci are delightful. Highly recommended.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. and I like every one Ive gotten toBy CustomerIve read several of Shawn Levys books, and I like every one Ive gotten to, especially his first, King of Comedy: The Life and Art of Jerry Lewis. He has written about the Rat Pack ... he did one book on the Swinging Sixties in London. He doesnt always choose topics I am passionate about, but he makes me interested, so Ill start one of his books no matter the subject, knowing it will be worth it. Thus, I happily pre-ordered his latest, on Rome in the 1950s.I expected to find good stories about the big film names of the period, placed in a larger cultural context, and that is exactly what Levy delivers. Once again, he burrows into areas I hadnt cared much about ... I should have been warned when Puccis name appeared in the subtitle. But you can trust Levy to make that larger context something you want to learn about, and so I read more than I ever thought I would about post-war fashion, in Italy and in Europe as a whole. And it was indeed educational, since I knew so little about the fashion world. The book convinces us that the big fashion names were integral to the creation of Italian culture after World War II.As for the dolce vita, its all here. Fellini and Loren make the subtitle, but Anita Ekberg deserves special mention. She comes across as much more interesting than her public image ... in fact, we learn that she was more than her image, which seems like a small point until you realize that image is pretty much all we ever knew, or cared about.Levy devotes a lot of time to Fellini, and rightly so ... La Dolce Vita is his movie, after all. I dont think I needed convincing about the importance of Fellini to Italian film and culture. Im not his biggest fan, and I would have enjoyed a more detailed description of the making of Antonionis LAventura, my favorite Italian film of all time. But the truth is, Antonionis film speaks to a general malaise ... it isnt specific to its time, which is why the story of upper-middle class people speaks to us, no matter our own class position. Fellini, though, in films like La Dolce Vita, managed to make movies that were intensely personal yet also very much of their moment. If you want to see a great film, LAventura is the choice. But if you want to see Rome in the 50s, filtered through the lens of Fellini the showman, La Dolce Vita is where youd look. Which is why its a great place for Levy to spend time.Levys writing is easy to read. You think youre just taking in a history of the scandals. But when you finish the book, you realize youve actually gotten a clear vision of a specific time and place. By blending movies and fashion and celebrity and paparazzi, Levy makes all of the aspects of that life more interesting. Dolce Vita Confidential is another success for Shawn Levy.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's a delicious slice of the sweet life, entertainingBy CustomerLevy takes us on a dizzying Vespa (or is Lambretta?) ride through 1950s and early 1960s Rome, where we meet the movie stars, the directors and producers, the fashion designers, the aristocrats, the criminals, and the paparazzi who buzzed about them all capturing their triumphs and tragedies. It's a delicious slice of the sweet life, entertaining, informative, and moving.

A romp through the worlds of film, fashion, and titillating journalism that made 1950s Rome the sexiest city on the planet.From the ashes of World War II, Rome was reborn as the epicenter of film, fashion, creative energy, tabloid media, and bold-faced libertinism that made Italian a global synonym for taste, style, and flair. A confluence of cultural contributions created a bright, burning moment in history: it was the heyday of fashion icons such as Pucci, whose use of color, line, and superb craftsmanship set the standard for womens clothing for decades, and Brioni, whose confident and classy creations for men inspired the contemporary American suit. Romes huge movie studio, Cinecitta, also known as Hollywood-on-the Tiber, attracted a dizzying array of stars from Charleton Heston, Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn, Ava Gardner, and Frank Sinatra to that stunning and combustible couple, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, who began their extramarital affair during the making of Cleopatra. And behind these stars trailed street photographersTazio Secchiarioli, Pierluigi Praturlon, and Marcello Gèpèttiwho searched, waited, and pounced on their subjects in pursuit of the most unflattering and dramatic portraits of fame.Fashionistas, exiles, moguls, and martyrs flocked to Rome hoping for a chance to experience and indulge in the glow of old money, new stars, fast cars, wanton libidos, and brazen news photographers. The scene was captured nowhere better than in Federico Fellinis masterpiece, La Dolce Vita, starring Marcello Mastroianni and the Swedish bombshell Anita Ekberg. It was condemned for its licentiousness, when in fact Fellini was condemning the very excess, narcissism, and debauchery of Romes bohemian scene.Gossipy, colorful, and richly informed, Dolce Vita Confidential re-creates Romes stunning ascent with vivid and compelling tales of its glitterati and artists, down to every last outrageous detail of the citys magnificent transformation. 8 pages of photographs

"In a brisk, frothy narrative....Levy has a passion for mid-century Italian cinema and is at his best when writing about its giants." - The Wall Street JournalUproariously readable....[Levy] tells some terrific, if dreadful, stories about the convergence of noblemen and actresses....He is a master of the group biography, pacing his chapters for maximum suspense and revelation....The climactic story is a humdinger....Wickedly readable. - The Sunday TimesLevy's absorbing, well-researched book exalts the intoxicating, beguiling dreaminess of Rome in its celluloid heyday. - Times

Literary Supplement Levy recounts with enthusiasm and colour....the excitement of that time and place in a prose style that is teeming with satisfying gossipy details. - The Guardian Dolce Vita Confidential is so much fun that after a few pages you'll want to set it aside, tie on a chic little scarf, jump on a Vespa, and cry 'ciao' as you buzz past corner cafes and flower stands. - Portland Tribune "Over 400 spirited and frothy pages, [Levy] carries us on a speedy Vespa ride....the book delights." - Portland Mercury This is an exciting account of a revolution in art and society. - The Spectator "Levy's research is deep and his details are revealing....[he] chronicles Fellini and Mastroianni's collaboration with insight and affection." - Newsday Shawn Levy has composed an exuberant portrait of postwar Rome and the filmmakers, movie stars, fashion designers, journalists, and paparazzi whose supreme hunger, energy, and creativity transformed it into the most stylish city in the world. He brings an infectious and freewheeling enthusiasm to every page as he reintroduces us to the extravagant romanticism of fast cars, reckless hedonism, and beautiful people behind the resurrection of the Eternal City. - Glenn Frankel, author of *The Seachers: The Making of an American Legend* About the Author Shawn Levy is a former film critic for *The Oregonian* and the best-selling author of *Rat Pack Confidential* and *Paul Newman: A Life*. He reviews movies for KGW-TV and lives in Portland, Oregon.