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Van Cleef Arpels: Treasures and Legends

Vincent Meylan : Van Cleef Arpels: Treasures and Legends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Van Cleef Arpels: Treasures and Legends:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Not Just A Book Of Pretty PhotographsBy Britt Le BonzoPurchasers of this book should be warned that about half of the book is stories about the legendary people who collected Van Cleef Arpel's jewelry. The stories are fascinating, but it leaves room for fewer photographs and most of the pictures are of the collections of the rich and famous. I found the Persian turquoise and diamond necklace owned by the royal family to be breathtaking - as were many of the emerald necklaces. For those of you who want to see more jewelry and a wider variety of styles - you would probably be happier with the hardback catalogue book from the recent oriental (Japanese or Chinese, I think) museum show, available from .0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. By doris n rozkiewiczAwesome book!!! My mother loves it!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Great book for any jewelry loverBy KBThis is a must read for any Van Cleef fan or anyone who loves jewelry and history. I love how there are stories to each of these pieces. It makes you appreciate the jewels even more!

From Empress Farah and the secrets of the treasure of Iran, to Queen Marie Amlie's missing emeralds, via Fantmas and the blood-red rubies of the kings of Burma, entering the world of Van Cleef Arpels is like embarking upon a fascinating treasure hunt. In this book, Vincent Meylan explores a century in the history of one of the most prestigious Parisian jewelry dynasties. He opens doors and unlocks caskets to reveal the mysterious, and sometimes fantastic, stories of its clients and the fabulous and exceptional stones that they entrusted to the "golden hands" of Van Cleef Arpels. The Maharani of Baroda, the Duchess of Windsor, Princess Lilian of Belgium, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlene Dietrich, Princess Grace of Monaco, Maria Callas, Barbara Hutton and the Countess of Camargo: they are all the heroines of this incredible epic full of rubies, diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires. Van Cleef Arpels: Treasures and Legends is full of extravagant fairytales and fascinating behind-the-scenes revelations. It also tells the sometimes troubled story of a dynasty of jewelers, of gifted men and women who have, for over a century, helped to shape that inimitably Parisian art de vivre that is the envy of the world.

Contents:Chapter I: The Goddess with a Passion for Diamonds; Sita Devi, Maharani of Baroda; Diamonds, Pearl Carpets, and Gladiators; Chapter II: Royal Favorites; The Theft of the Duchess's Jewels: Wallis Warfield Simpson, Duchess of Windsor; For the Love of a King: Lilian, Princess of Rthy; The Lost Emeralds of Queen Astrid; Chapter III: Prince Charming; Diamonds on the Nile: Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Crown Prince and Future Shah of Iran; Streets filled with Diamonds; When Hollywood Met High Society: Prince Rainier of Monaco; Chapter IV: The Crown of the Thousand and One Nights; Empress Farah; The Diamond Flowers of Princess Soraya; The Iranian Crown Jewels; Chapter V: A Girl's Best Friend; The World's Sexiest Garter: Marlene Dietrich; The Demure Jewels of a Star Who Was Anything But: Ava Gardner; Christmas Stocking Filler: Elizabeth Taylor; Chapter VI: Queens of Style; The Heartaches of Nina Dyer; The Eugnie Blue Diamond; The Gilded Legend of the Aga Khans; "Poor Little Rich Girl": Barbara Hutton; Cuba's Madame de Pompadour: Maria; Chapter VII: Dancing Jewels; "Emeralds"; The Legend of the Emerald Cross; A Revolution and Two World Wars: The Saga of the Romanov Emeralds; The Diadem of the Last Queen of the French; From Napoleon to Stalin: The Trials and Tribulations of Empress Marie-Louise's Emeralds; "Rubies"; The Blood-Red "Thibaw" Ruby; A Wedding Gift for the Queen of Spain; "Diamonds"; From the Empress Josephine to Princess Grace; The Pink Diamond of the Prince of Baroda; The Diamonds of the Queen of Thailand; Chapter VIII: Treasures and Legends; Esther ("Estelle") Arpels, Mme. Alfred Van Cleef; Rene Puissant, ne Van Cleef; The Mystery of the Ruby Peonies; Hlne Ostrowska, Mme. Louis Arpels; Fantmas at Van Cleef Arpels; Catalog of historic jewelry published in 1950 as publicity for Van Cleef Arpels New York.

Vincent Meylan has recently authored a new book on Van Cleef Arpels and while the firm has been releasing forgettable PR-driven coffee-table books at a steady clip over the last few years, this one is decidedly more scholarly than some of the others. (Golconda)I have to say my collection of sparkly paste looked rather dull after tearing myself away from the entirely different world I found in this book. (September/October 2014)He opens the doors and unlocks the caskets to reveal the mysterious and sometimes fantastic, stories of its clients and the fabulous and exceptional stones that they entrusted to the "golden hands" of Van Cleef Arpels. (The Journal of Antiques Collectibles, December 2014)About the AuthorVincent Meylan is responsible for the 'history and royalty' pages in Point de Vue. He is also a specialist in precious stones and in 'haute joaillerie'. He is the author of several biographies and of Queens' Jewels and of Boucheron: The Secret Archives.