



Mademoiselle Chanel: A Novel

By C.W. Gortner

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For readers of *The Paris Wife* and *Z* comes this vivid novel full of drama, passion, tragedy, and beauty that stunningly imagines the life of iconic fashion designer Coco Chanel—the ambitious, gifted laundrywoman’s daughter who revolutionized fashion, built an international empire, and become one of the most influential and controversial figures of the twentieth century.

Born into rural poverty, Gabrielle Chanel and her siblings are sent to orphanage after their mother’s death. The sisters nurture Gabrielle’s exceptional sewing skills, a talent that will propel the willful young woman into a life far removed from the drudgery of her childhood.

Transforming herself into Coco—a seamstress and sometime torch singer—the petite brunette burns with ambition, an incandescence that draws a wealthy gentleman who will become the love of her life. She immerses herself in his world of money and luxury, discovering a freedom that sparks her creativity. But it is only when her lover takes her to Paris that Coco discovers her destiny.

Rejecting the frilly, corseted silhouette of the past, her sleek, minimalist styles reflect the youthful ease and confidence of the 1920s modern woman. As Coco’s reputation spreads, her couturier business explodes, taking her into rarefied society circles and bohemian salons. But her fame and fortune cannot save her from heartbreak as the years pass. And when Paris falls to the Nazis, Coco is forced to make choices that will haunt her.

An enthralling novel of an extraordinary woman who created the life she desired, *Mademoiselle Chanel* explores the inner world of a woman of staggering ambition whose strength, passion and artistic vision would become her trademark.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In a novel as brilliant and complicated as Coco Chanel herself, C. W. Gortner's prose is so electric and luminous it could be a film, and not just any film, but one of the grandest biopics of our time. Divine!"--Erika Robuck, bestselling author of "Hemingway's Girl"

"In this deliciously satisfying novel, C.W. Gortner tells the epic, rags-to-riches story of how this brilliant, mercurial, self-created woman became a legend."--Christina Baker Kline, "New York Times" bestselling author of "Orphan Train"

"A richly imagined, deftly researched novel, in which the ever fascinating Coco Chanel comes to life in all her woe and splendor, her story unfolding as elegantly as a Chanel gown."--Cathy Marie Buchanan, author of "The Painted Girls"

"From her heart-wrenching early years through her decades of struggle and glory, Gabrielle Chanel was fascinating--as is C.W. Gortner's "Mademoiselle Chanel." Coco lives again in this rich tale of brilliance, determination, and fierce self-creation."--Ania Szado, author of "Studio Saint-Ex"

"Well-written and historically accurate . . . An homage to a couture icon whose influence is still powerful today."--Kirkus Reviews

"Gortner brings to life a woman who was as alluring and captivating as her signature scent."--Historical Novels Review

"Gortner brings history to life in a fascinating study of one woman's unstoppable ambition."--Booklist

From the Back Cover

Born into rural poverty, Gabrielle Chanel and her sisters are sent to a convent orphanage after their mother's death. The nuns of the order nurture Gabrielle's exceptional sewing skills, a talent that would propel the willful young woman into a life far removed from the drudgery of her childhood.

Burning with ambition, the petite brunette transforms herself into Coco, by day a hard-working seamstress and by night a singer in a nightclub, where her incandescence draws in a wealthy gentleman who becomes the love of her life. She immerses herself in his world of money and luxury, discovering a freedom that sparks her creativity. But it is only when her lover takes her to Paris that Coco discovers her destiny.

Rejecting the frilly, corseted silhouette of the past, Coco's sleek, minimalist styles reflect the youthful ease and confidence of the 1920s modern woman. As her reputation spreads, her couture business explodes, taking her into rarefied circles of society and bohemian salons. But her fame and fortune cannot save her from heartbreak as the years pass. And when Paris falls to the Nazis, Coco is forced to make choices that will haunt her always.

About the Author

C. W. Gortner is the author of many bestselling historical novels—including *Mademoiselle Chanel*—which

have been published in more than twenty countries. He lives in San Francisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Smith:

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Doris Brown:

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Robert Collado:

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