



# Death Drive

*Stephen Bayley*

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232 pages

Revue de presse

Albert Camus once remarked that there s "nothing more absurd than to die in a car accident". That was before his car hit a tree at 80mph. Death Drive - a compendium of stories about famous people killed stupidly in cars - oozes absurdity. Stephen Bayley recounts delightfully grotesque tales about celebrities done in by trees, by lampposts, or by nonentities in ancient Chevys. A design masterpiece, this book combines exquisite prose with stylish presentation - the cars are described more lovingly than the people who perished in them. Like a Bugatti, Death Drive recalls a time when books and cars were beautiful.' --The Times, Books of the Year, 26 November 2016

'Death Drive is a must for petrol-heads. The range of cultural cross-reference and automotive detail is positively epicurean.' --Jay Merrick, The Independent

Akin to Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon, Death Drive is an autoerotic Babylon that never ends well. --Ray Edgar, The Age

When Stephen Bayley declares that a brand new car is as close as we can ever expect to get to perfection on Earth, some of us will merely be reminded what utterly sinful creatures we are. --Brian Ladd, The TLS  
Présentation de l'éditeur

Cars have a talismanic quality. No other manufactured object has the same disturbing allure. More emotions are involved in cars and car design than in any other product: vanity, cupidity, greed, social competitiveness and cultural modelling. But when all this perverse promise ends in catastrophe, these same talismanic qualities acquire an extra dimension. The car crash is a defining phenomenon of popular culture. Death Drive is both an appreciative essay about the historic place of the automobile in the modern imagination and a detailed exploration of the circumstances of twenty celebrity car crashes, from Isadora Duncan in an Amilcar, in 1927, to Helmut Newton in a Cadillac CRX, in 2004. En route the narrative traces one very big arc the role of the car in extending or creating the personality of a celebrity and concludes by confronting the imminent death of the car itself. Biographie de l'auteur

**Stephen Bayley** is an author, critic, columnist, consultant, broadcaster, curator and founding director of the influential Design Museum. Over the past thirty years his writing has changed the way the world thinks about design.

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