



Elizabeth Taylor: My Love Affair with Jewelry

By Elizabeth Taylor

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Elizabeth Taylor: My Love Affair with Jewelry By Elizabeth Taylor

From an early age Elizabeth Taylor has loved jewellery and she wears it with a style all her own. Her collection has been appraised as one of the best private collections in the world, and includes pieces by Van Cleef & Arpels, Cartier, Bulgari, Ruser and Schlumberger. Once when she was asked why she had so many diamonds, she replied, "because they are my passion". The story of her jewellery illuminates her life: her romances with Mike Todd and Richard Burton; her friendships with Rock Hudson, Roddy McDowell, Michael Jackson and others; and her triumphs and her setbacks. It also recalls a time when Hollywood represented royalty, American style. Each of the 14 chapters opens with a story about Miss Taylor, told in the first person. Each features portraits of the jewels in over 100 specially commissioned photographs, and shows Miss Taylor wearing the jewellery. Each story marks an episode in her extraordinary life and is told in an informal, intimate style.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Taylor has presumably had love affairs with many things over the course of her illustrious life. Her acting career might be one, and her seven husbands might be others. But perhaps her one constant love affair is the lifelong one she's had with baubles, bangles and beads. In this dazzling book, Taylor shows off her collection, complementing the gorgeous color photographs with snippets about the provenance of each piece. "I mean, how many young women get a set of rubies just for doing something wholesome like swimming laps? Or win a diamond ring at Ping-Pong with their husband...? Well, I did, and for all of these memories and the people in my life I feel blessed," Taylor writes. She then launches into descriptions of the "glorious" ruby and diamond Cartier necklace from Mike Todd, the 33.19-carat Krupp diamond from Richard Burton ("When it came up for auction in the late 1960s, I thought how perfect it would be if a nice Jewish girl like me were to own it") and a crystal and diamond lily of the valley brooch from Rex Harrison ("You're the stingiest man alive," Taylor told Harrison, "...your giving me this pin would be doubly important because it would signify a personal triumph over your naturally stingy nature"). The photographs, many never before published, are a mix of catalogue-type photos and shots of Taylor wearing the items, creating not only a tremendous feast for the eyes but an entertaining waltz through a Hollywood icon's decadent life.

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From Library Journal

Known for her beauty, her seven marriages, and her stunning jewelry collection, screen star Elizabeth Taylor treats us to a first look at her jewelry, in gorgeous actual-size photos and in personal photos-some never before seen publicly-of herself wearing them. Taylor reminisces about the occasions when these pieces were given to her by the men in her life. The two greatest loves of Taylor's life, movie producer Mike Todd and actor Richard Burton, gave her some of the most famous jewels: Todd presented a stunning Belle Epoque diamond necklace, diamond girandole earrings, and a diamond tiara, while Burton made world headlines when he gave Taylor the famous 33-carat Krupp Diamond ring. Every piece in Taylor's collection has sentimental meaning, some as poignant as the gold charm bracelet celebrating the birth of her children. This stunning book is more than a catalog of Taylor's jewelry; it serves as a very personal autobiography that will delight both Taylor's fans and lovers of fine jewelry. Recommended for all public and academic libraries where there is interest.

Therese Duzinkiewicz Baker, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green

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From [Booklist](#)

It is no secret that the last great film star from the last great days of the Hollywood studio system owns an incomparable jewelry collection. But just how incomparable can't really be appreciated without perusing the pages of this suitably lavish, oversized album of exquisite-quality photographs taken of the entire collection just for display within these pages. Backed by an extensive publicity campaign, the book not only affords readers the opportunity for an intimate gaze upon these priceless pieces but also to hear Miss Taylor herself relate the history of the article and *her* history of the possession of it, for, as the head of Christie's Jewelry Department Worldwide, Francois Curiel, says in the introduction, "It is the intensely personal quality of the Elizabeth Taylor collection that sets it apart from all others." Not exactly an essential purchase for public libraries, but librarians should keep in mind that lots of buzz will be associated with the book's appearance.

Brad Hooper

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maxine Lucas:

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