



# Death Drive

## There Are No Accidents

### Stephen Bayley

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- New edition of Stephen Bayley's classic text – *A Times Book of the Year*, 2016
  - Expanded to include the tragic stories of Princess Diana and Ayrton Senna
  - Softback edition with deluxe binding – perfect as a gift

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 24 celebrity car crashes, from Isadora Duncan in an Amilcar, in 1927, to Helmut Newton in a Cadillac, in 2004. The author concludes by confronting the imminent demise of the car itself.

**Stephen Bayley** is an author, critic, columnist, consultant, broadcaster, curator and founding director of the influential Design Museum. Over the past 40 years his writing has changed the way the world thinks about design.

Tom Wolfe on Stephen Bayley: "*I don't know anybody with more interesting observations about style, taste and contemporary design*".

What the critics said about the first edition:

"Reading this book, one quickly gets accustomed to superb writing. Words cascade forth in perfect pitch and harmony on page after glorious page." — Gerard DeGroot, The Times

"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*, 3 June 2016

"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 lamp posts, 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*

