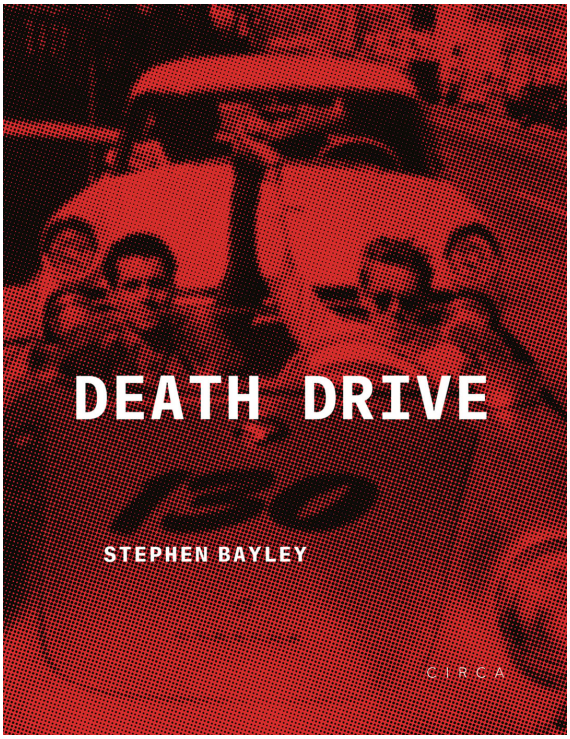
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Death Drive

There Are No Accidents

Stephen Bayley

ISBN	9781911422501
Publisher	Circa Press
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World
Size	210 mm x 160 mm
Pages	256 Pages
Illustrations	80 b&w
Price	£20.00

- 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
- Finalist at the MOTORWORLD Book Prize 2026: The Award for Automotive Literature

"This is not a book for those who are only interested in cars. It is a compelling, sometimes uncomfortable journey through our fascination with speed, status and mortality…" — **NL Magazine**

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







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