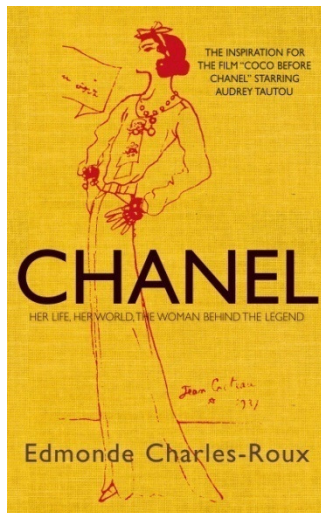


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Special Release – June 2009

Title Chanel:
Her Life, her World, the Woman Behind the Legend

Author Edmonde Charles-Roux

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This true story of the magnificent Coco Chanel is the inspiration for a major new film starring Audrey Tautou – opening at Australian cinemas 25 June 2009

She revolutionised how women looked. She banned corsets, shortened skirts and scented the world with Chanel No.5. Gabrielle ‘Coco’ Chanel was an icon. Yet her real story only came to light when *Vogue* editor Edmonde Charles-Roux, intrigued by Chanel’s carefully moulded image, decided to pursue the true history of this enigmatic icon.

Born illegitimate and raised in an orphanage – not by the two aunts that she invented – Gabrielle Chanel fought constantly to escape the mundane. She rose from back-street milliner to become the head of a vast business empire, and socialised with Picasso, Stravinsky and Cocteau. Edmonde Charles-Roux also reveals one of Chanel’s best-kept secrets – her love affair with a prodigal German spy.

Chanel’s legend did not fade with her death, and nor has the mark of sheer elegance that she left upon the world of fashion. This is the living woman behind the vibrant legend.

- The film *Coco Before Chanel* will be released in Australia on 25 June 2009, and was adapted from this biography in consultation with the author
- Charles-Roux spent a great deal of time with the fashion icon and secured her blessing to write this book
- Illustrated with 8 pages of photographs and drawings of Chanel and her fashions

Edmonde Charles-Roux served as a nurse and a Resistance worker in World War II, before beginning a career as a journalist writing for *Elle* and *Paris Match*. For twelve years she was Editor-in-Chief of the French edition of *Vogue*. She has written another biography, *Don Juan of Austria*, and two novels, *Elle*, *Adrienne* and *To Forget Palermo*, which won the Prix Goncourt.

