

# Dilettante

*author: Dana Brown*

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## Synopsis

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author	Dana Brown
readBy	Dana Brown
inLanguage	english

A witty, insightful, and delightfully snarky blend of pop culture meets memoir meets real-life *Devil Wears Prada* as readers learn the stories behind twenty-five years at *Vanity Fair* from the magazine's former deputy editor.

*Dilettante* offers the best seat in the house into the workings of one of the great cultural institutions of our time. "Buzz Bissinger, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Friday Night Lights*

Dana Brown was a twenty-one-year-old college dropout playing in punk bands and partying his way through downtown New York's early-nineties milieu when he first encountered Graydon Carter, the legendary editor of *Vanity Fair*. After the two had a handful of brief interactions (mostly with Brown in the role of cater waiter at Carter's famous cultural salons he hosted at his home), Carter saw what he believed to be Brown's untapped potential, and on a whim, hired him as his assistant. Brown instantly became a trusted confidante and witness to all of the biggest parties, blowups, and takedowns. From inside the famed *Vanity Fair* Oscar parties to the emerging world of the tech elite, Brown's job offered him access to some of the most exclusive gatherings and powerful people in the world, and the chance to learn in real time what exactly a magazine editor does—all while trying to stay sober enough from the required party scene attendance to get the job done. Against all odds, he rose up the ranks to eventually become the magazine's deputy editor, spending a quarter century curating tastes at one of the most storied cultural shops ever assembled.

*Dilettante* reveals Brown's most memorable moments from the halcyon days of the magazine business, explores his own journey as an unpedigreed outsider to established editor, and shares glimpses of some of the famous and infamous stories (and people) that tracked the magazine's extraordinary run all keenly observed by Brown. He recounts tales from the trenches, including encounters with everyone from Anna Wintour, Lee Radziwill, and Condé Nast owner Si Newhouse, to Seth

Rogen, Caitlyn Jenner, and acclaimed journalists Dominick Dunne and Christopher Hitchens.  
Written with equal parts affection, cultural exploration, and nostalgia, *Dilettante* is a defining story within that most magical time and place in the culture of media. It is also a highly readable memoir that skillfully delivers a universal coming-of-age story about growing up and finding your place in the world.

## Reader's comments

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