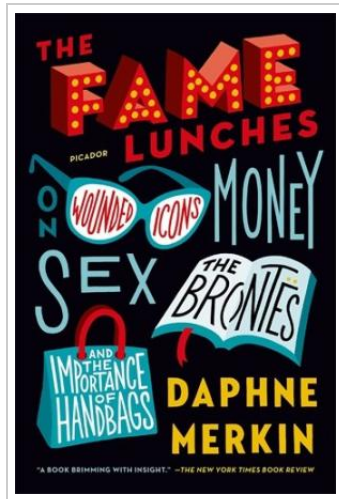




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The Fame Lunches: On Wounded Icons, Money, Sex, the Bront

By Daphne Merkin

Picador. Paperback. Condition: New. 416 pages. A wide-ranging collection of essays by one of America's most perceptive critics of popular and literary culture. From one of America's most insightful and independent-minded critics comes a remarkable new collection of essays, her first in more than fifteen years. Daphne Merkin brings her signature combination of wit, candor, and penetrating intelligence to a wide array of subjects that touch on every aspect of contemporary culture, from the high calling of the literary life to the poignant underside of celebrity to our collective fixation on fame. Sometimes it seems to me that the private life no longer suffices for many of us, she writes, that if we are not observed by others doing glamorous things, we might as well not exist. Merkin's elegant, widely admired profiles go beneath the glossy faades of neon-lit personalities to consider their vulnerabilities and demons, as well as their enduring hold on us. As her title essay explains, she writes in order to save myself through saving wounded icons . . . Famous people . . . who required my intervention on their behalf because only I understood the desolation that drove them. Here one will encounter a gallery of..

Reviews

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