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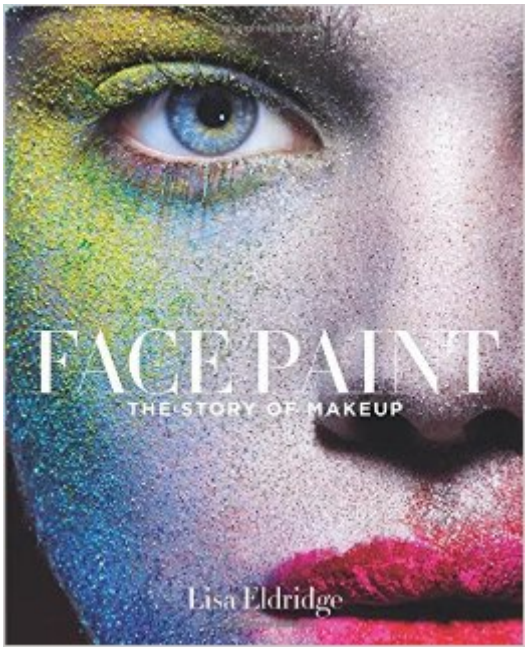
Face Paint: The Story Of Makeup



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Synopsis

Makeup, as we know it, has only been commercially available in the last 100 years, but applying decoration to the face and body may be one of the oldest global social practices. In Face Paint, Lisa Eldridge reveals the entire history of the art form, from Egyptian and Classical times up through the Victorian age and golden era of Hollywood, and also surveys the cutting-edge makeup science of today and tomorrow. Face Paint explores the practical and idiosyncratic reasons behind makeupâ ™s use, the actual materials employed over generations, and the glamorous icons that people emulate, it is also a social history of women and the ways in which we can understand their lives through the prism and impact of makeup.Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I’ve been a huge fan of Lisa Eldridge for several years, and eagerly pre-ordered this book when it was first available for pre-order several months ago. When Eldridge first revealed more details about the book, I had initially been disappointed that this was going to be more of an overview of makeup throughout history rather than a how-to book, but the more I read about it on her blog -- and now that I have it in my hands -- the happier I am with it. If you love makeup and are interested in how we have used it throughout history to define and create our personae, you’ll really love this book.This is a big, colorful book -- one full of glossy images and lots of eye candy. Eldridge not only looks at how we have used makeup throughout history to add glamour into our lives, but she also takes a look at the appeal of icons like Twiggy and of certain colors, like red, white, and black.The book is really well-researched, and Eldridge teases out all the interesting bits about makeup, like

how it was made in ancient times and why we have always seemed to be intrigued by using it to empower ourselves. As a history devotee, I loved reading all of this information, and both the inclusion of historical photos and the retro photos added a special dimension to this book.If you're looking for how-to books, I'd recommend Making Faces and

I pre-ordered this fabulous book and it was waiting for me when I got home. Luckily today was a take-out kind of day, so I snuggled up, chowed down and feasted my eyes upon the fabulous facts of makeup. I love that this book is by no means a how-to, which is refreshing since so many makeup artists turn authors seem to directly fall directly into that category. As a subscriber of Lisa's on Youtube, I have been blown away by her real passion for makeup, not just in its application, but also in it's creation. She is one of those rare people that has mastered what she does and loves what she does. This passion shines through in her book.Lisa takes you through some of the most fascinating periods of history and shows you just how integral makeup was, whether it as approved of at the time, or not, and it's amazing impact on the sociopolitical climate of the times. Now, if that's too historical for you, don't fret.This never feels like a history lesson. Every page has large beautiful prints of vintage makeup cases and advertisements,queens and courtesans, scans of paintings and sketches, all geared toward the world of cosmetics and its fascinating ride through the ages. I read it cover to cover, then went back and read it again. Every paragraph and every page there is a plethora of enthralling facts and histories for your mind to learn. Even better is she doesn't beat around the bush with women's struggles in society and how makeup played a large part in their freedom or lack thereof.As a side note, I was blown away to learn that the argument men make against makeup wearing because it "lies" to them and makes women "deceptive" is an argument that dates back to Ancient Greek and Roman times. (Prepare to see Socrates in a whole new light.

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