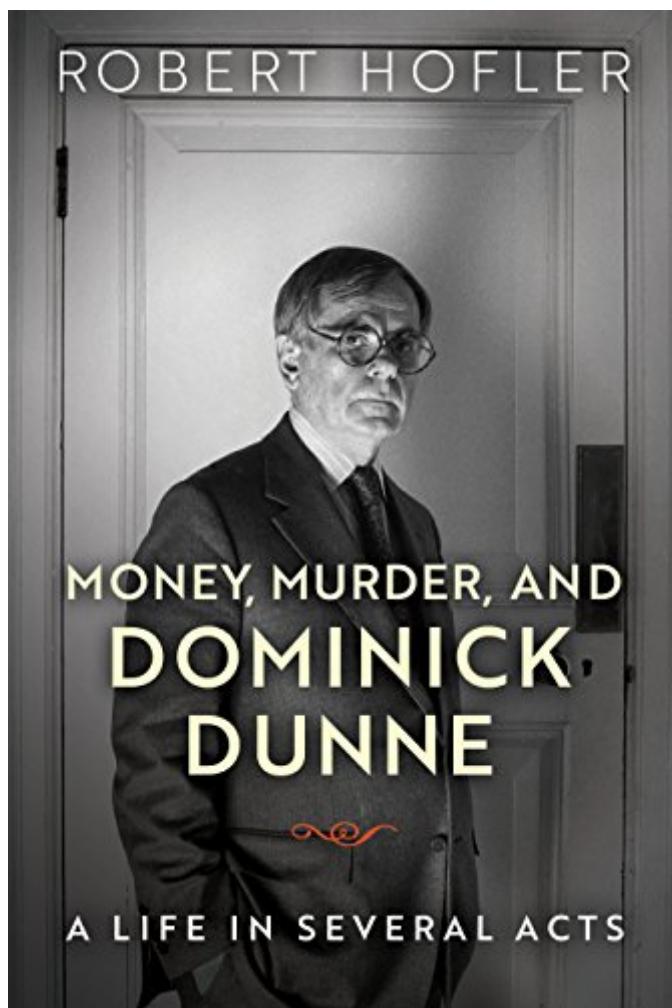


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# Money, Murder, And Dominick Dunne: A Life In Several Acts



## Synopsis

Dominick Dunne seemed to live his entire adult life in the public eye, but in this biography Robert Hofler reveals a conflicted, enigmatic man who reinvented himself again and again. As a television and film producer in the 1950s–1970s, hobnobbing with Humphrey Bogart and Natalie Wood, he found success and crushing failure in a pitiless Hollywood. As a *Vanity Fair* journalist covering the lives of the rich and powerful, he mesmerized readers with his detailed coverage of spectacular murder cases—O.J. Simpson, the Menendez brothers, Michael Skakel, Phil Spector, and Claus von Bülow. He had his own television show, *Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege, and Justice*. His five best-selling novels, including *The Two Mrs. Grenvilles*, *People Like Us*, and *An Inconvenient Woman*, were inspired by real lives and scandals. The brother of John Gregory Dunne and brother-in-law of Joan Didion, he was a friend and confidante of many literary luminaries. Dunne also had the ear of some of the world's most famous women, among them Princess Diana, Nancy Reagan, Liz Smith, Barbara Walters, and Elizabeth Taylor. Dunne admitted to inventing himself, and it was that public persona he wrote about in his own memoir, *The Way We Lived Then*. Left out of that account, but brought to light here, were his intense rivalry with his brother John Gregory, the gay affairs and relationships he had throughout his marriage and beyond, and his fights with editors at *Vanity Fair*. Robert Hofler also reveals the painful rift in the family after the murder of Dominick's daughter, Dominique—compounded by his coverage of her killer's trial, which launched his career as a reporter.

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## **Customer Reviews**

I always loved reading Dominick Dunne's articles in *Vanity Fair* and I also have his book "The Way We Lived Then" so I was very anxious to read this book - and glad that I did. This book is a biography of his life but also provides a view of how he covered his daughter's murder trial, the OJ Simpson trial, OJ's 2nd trial, and Phil Spector's trial. It also discusses how he wrote all of his novels and provides back stories about who the characters are really based on. Covers his friendships, his downfall from Hollywood, and how he rose up again to become the darling of the rich. The writing style of this author is really good and this book was hard to put down. There is a lot of Hollywood inside information provided (e.g., who knew that Nancy (Davis) Reagan was known in Hollywood for a unique talent she had to make men happy). This book dishes on lots of people but mostly, of course, on Nick (as Dominick was called by his friends). There were a couple of things that I didn't like: 1) the author's continuous writing about Dominick's homosexuality - OK, I get it, he was gay; and 2) wrong facts (example: author states that Dominick visited the same health clinic in Germany where Farah Fawcet died....really? If I recall, she died in Los Angeles and NOT in Germany. Makes me wonder if the author got other "facts" incorrect but since I'm not privy to all these Hollywood people and their private lives, as a reader, I have to assume that all other things in the book are true. If you liked Dominick Dunne as an author and columnist; if you like reading the scoop about Hollywood and other celebrities - people both still living and those who have died, then this book is for you.

In late 2009, I read and reviewed Dominick Dunne's last book, "Too Much Money", which was a sequel to his earlier, and better, book, "People Like Us", which was my favorite Dunne novel. In my review of "Too Much Money", I wrote that Dominick Dunne appeared to "out" himself in the book. (The book had more than a few gratuitous gay sex scenes, which just wasn't common in Dunne's previous writings). Well, imagine my surprise, when reading author Robert Hofler's new and dishy book, "Money, Murder, and Dominick Dunne", that Dunne was gay, even though he had been

married and had three children. Hofler's book is a breezy and deliciously dishy book about Dunne and the people he either loved or hated. There were many in both groups. Dunne' life had both tragedy and great success, after a period of down-and-out drug and alcohol abuse. His beloved daughter Dominique, an actress, was murdered by her boyfriend and the man received a light sentence. That began Dominick's life-long interest - I don't want to call it an "obsession - in criminal justice, or "injustice", as is often the case. He became a writer - and quite successful, at that - after years on a downward progression. He covered many trials, all of famous people - he once told a fellow author he didn't cover the trials of non important people. His books were mostly fiction; he wrote nonfiction for "Vanity Fair". Dominick Dunne lived into his 80s. He left a strong record of work. Robert Hofler's book is a nuanced look at a very interesting man, often at odds with himself. And it really is "dishlist"!

Dominick Dunne was a great crime reporter, a best-selling novelist, and an unrelenting gossip monger. But the true story of his own life is more compelling, hilarious, and heartbreaking than anything he wrote. Bob Hofler's biography captures the man in full along with a sensational supporting cast of scandalous movie stars, criminals, and media personalities who, for better and for much worse, helped mold our celebrity culture.

I'm not sure Dunne deserved this kind of full-scale biographical treatment. I enjoyed the gossip. The meticulous reporting on the different trials he covered bored me a little. However, I did read right through to the end and I don't do that with all biographies.

Totally enjoying this book, so many facts about Dunne that I never knew and I thought I knew a lot about this man, and eye opener and an easy read.....

I am still reading , am really enjoying it , it you were a Fan Of Dominicks , you will appreciate this Book .

Dominick Dunne was one of my favorite, most memorable colleagues. I learned things about him here and now love him more than ever.

Excellent book, great research, wonderful writing.

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