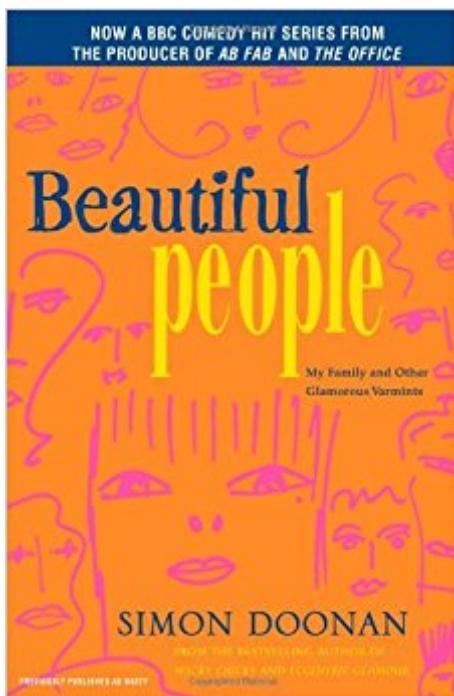


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# Beautiful People: My Family And Other Glamorous Varmints



## Synopsis

A wickedly funny memoir with echoes of David Sedaris and Augusten Burroughs, *Beautiful People* (originally published in hardcover as *Nasty*) is now a BBC comedy hit series from the producer of *Ab Fab* and *The Office*. Proclaimed "the most brilliant, brash thing in type" by Liz Smith, Simon Doonan's saucy prose has established him as an emerging star among literary humorists. In this break-through memoir, reminiscent of both Sedaris and Burroughs, he revisits the landscape of his youth, and displays the irresistible charm that earned him his dedicated audience. Long before he became a celebrity in his own right--as the author of best-selling books, as the style arbiter of VH1 and *America's Top Model*, and the marketing genius behind Barney's New York--Simon Doonan was a "scabby knee'd troll" in Reading, England. In *Beautiful People*, Doonan returns to the working-class neighborhood of his youth, and chronicles the misadventures of the Doonan clan in all their wacky glory. Readers meet his mother Betty, whose gravity-defying, peroxide hairdo signified her natural glamour; his father Terry, an amateur vintner who turned parsnips into the legendary Chateau Doonan; his grandfather D.C., a hard-drinking betting man who plotted to win his fortune by turning Simon into a jockey; and his demented grandma Narg and schizophrenic Uncle Ken, both of whom lived upstairs. Fearing he would fall victim to the insanity that runs in his family, or, worse, the banality of suburban life, Doonan decamps with his flamboyant best-friend Biddie to London, where they hope to find the *Beautiful People*, that elusive clan who luxuriate on floor pillows and amuse each other with bon mots. Throughout the memoir--in essays about family holidays, the tart who lived next door, his first job--Doonan continues his bumbling pursuit of the fabulous life, only to learn, in the end, that perhaps the *Beautiful People* were the ones he left behind.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fabulously entertaining ....Visionary fashion director of Barney's department store, Doonan "(*Wacky Chicks*, " 2003, etc.) is known for taking the ordinary and spinning it into the fantastic ... Doonan recalls the challenges of his childhood with love and respect and, where that isn't possible, bemusement ... A kick, a hoot, a truly wonderful read, with loads of down-and-dirty details about characters who are way more interesting than those dull Beautiful People Doonan was so all afire to find." --Kirkus Reviews"""*Nasty*" is wickedly funny. Simon Doonan has an ear and an eye for sublimely bizarre details that will make readers laugh out loud." -- Candace Bushnell "Beneath the hilarious camp writing in Simon Doonan's memoir, "*Nasty*, " I was touched by his wistful yearning for the life of glamour, glitz, and Beautiful People, which he ultimately achieved." -- Dominick Dunne "That Simon Doonan is a writer with a flair for the clever aphorism and a trenchant wit is no surprise. But that he is also capable of telling a tremendously moving tale is something of a revelation. It's all here: the inexorable bonds of family; Swinging London in all its Rita Tushingham glory; the calamities of AIDS..."*Nasty*" is a book for anyone who has ever yearned to transcend their own beginnings. In other words, if you were ever younger than you are now, you must read this book." -- David Rakoff, author of "*Fraud*"At last: a childhood memoir that's about coming to terms with fabulousness rather than incest or binge drinking. Who knew that Simon -- or anyone -- could write about growing up in a gray corner of England with as much wit, charm, and dead-on smarts as he brings to his chronicles of the luxe life in Manhattan?" -- Graydon Carter

Simon Doonan is the bestselling author of *Wacky Chicks* and *Confessions of a Window Dresser*. In addition to his role as creative director of Barneys New York, Simon writes the "*Simon Says*" column for *The New York Observer*. He frequently contributes observations and opinions to myriad other publications and television shows. He is a regular commentator on VH1, the Trio network, and *Full Frontal Fashion*. He lives in New York City with his partner, Jonathan Adler, and his Norwich terrier, Liberace.

Fresh and funny- even for us on the other side of the pond! Great to read about real human experiences that the rest of us can relate to. I read it through and couldn't stop laughing. I have since bought the videos of the sitcom, which though not meant to mirror exactly Doonans life, does

a wonderful job of bringing to life some of the funnier moments. The actors in the sitcom are amazing and the writing is exquisite and precise- I bought a special VCR so I could watch them in the states. Well worth the expense. P.S. expect to google some terms

I enjoyed the book tremendously, as I have all of Simon Doonan's books that I've read. Before I had even finished reading it, I ordered my next Doonan book. Simon is fun, honest, and very readable. He always makes my day. Even though Simon is openly gay, he sincerely loves and cares for everyone. I wish I could claim him as my brother.

I am a devotee of the television series, and very much enjoyed reading the source material. This charming memoir is very entertaining. The loving portrait of each character and event makes you love the author's family as much as he does. There's much to be learned from the way Simon Doonan looks at his own extended family.

This is a really fun, quick, and easy read. I breezed right through it in about two days. Simon Doonan is a very charming personality and writer. Here he describes how, throughout his life, from dreary, mid-century suburban England to fabulous New York, he and the people around him have made their own fun, glamour, and beauty. *Beautiful People* leaves you in a state of fuzzy, warm cheer. It's too short though; I'm considering re-reading it. Beware: almost entirely fluffy and unchallenging.

Simon Doonan's story of his childhood in postwar England is both hilarious and endearing.

I loved every page of this book. I laughed out loud many times, and teared up too. Highly recommend this book to everyone who likes to laugh. I've read all his books except for *Wacky Chicks*, which I'm going to download now.

Finally some truth to the life of a gay man living in fabulosity who grew up on life's terms, with foul potato wine, treks to the beach with horrible people, and a family he calls beautiful, despite warts and bruises.

I read this book on vacation and when I finished I read it again. Simon Doonan recounts his life with humor, honesty and some heartbreakingly true truths. What a wonderful love letter to his family. He is

indeed one of the "Beautiful People".

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