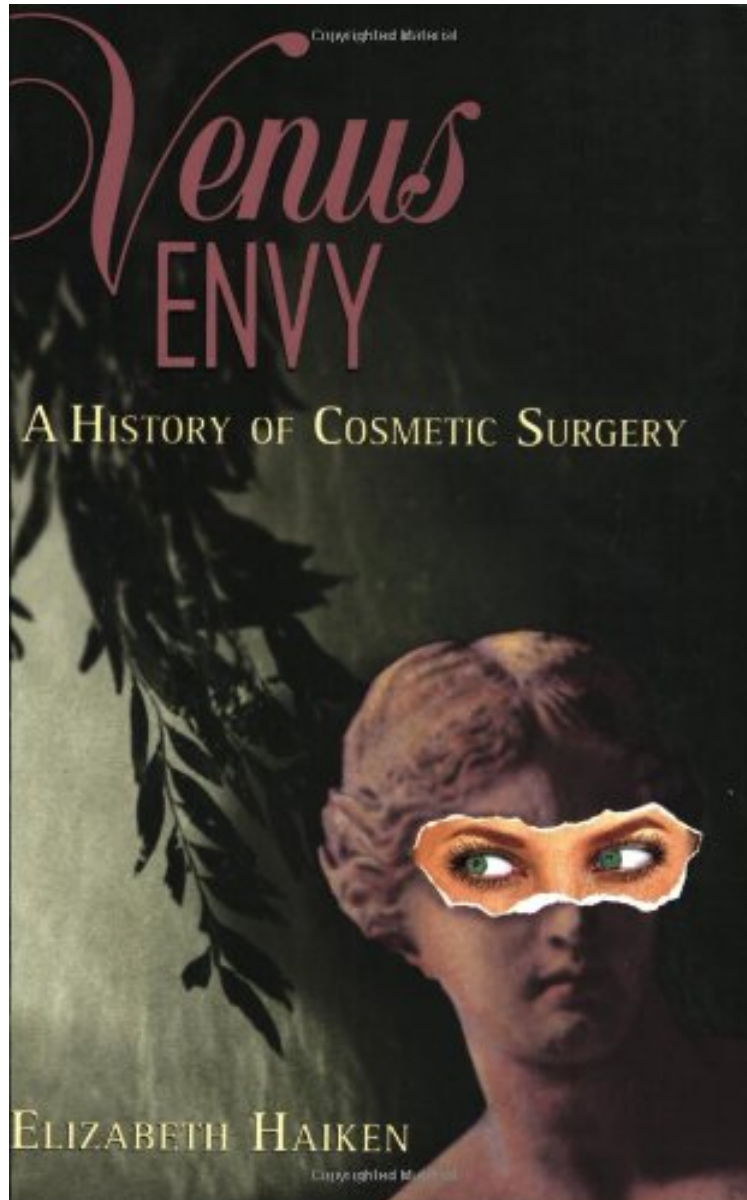


[Download free ebook] Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery

Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery

Elizabeth Haiken

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Elizabeth Haiken : Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fast shipping By Yoon Jung Park I did not read the book thoroughly yet, but fast shipping was satisfied. It seems like the contents of this book is not exactly what I wanted to find, but

looks interesting
11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. TERRIFIC BOOK ABOUT ABOUT COSMETIC SURGERY!
By David Roger Allen
Elizabeth Haiken, a U. of Tennessee history professor, has written a great, and at times chilling book about what used to be commonly called "plastic surgery," but which has come to be termed "cosmetic surgery." From the start (in the 19th century!), Cosmetic Surgery has always been controversial, and its practitioners accused of being quacks, often with justification. More than 100 years ago (in 1892), Rochester, NY surgeon John Orlando Roe published reports about his work doing "intranasal rhinoplasty" (nose jobs), and his success at correcting the then widespread "saddle nose" deformity caused by syphilis. Roe's idea was to build up the depression on noses of people afflicted by "saddle nose" problems, and thus help free them from the public stigma of having contracted a terrible venereal disease. Roe's "nose jobs" were NOT done only to make people prettier. People with "saddle noses" were denied employment and rejected as marriage partners (even though their syphilis episode may have been over). The politics of Cosmetic Surgery has been thick for a century. Haiken relates the tale of breast enlargements done in the 1960's using techniques of silicone injections. Such operations resulted in terrible tragedies, including amputated breasts. When the special "cosmetic silicone" was withdrawn from the market by its suppliers, quack surgeons CONTINUED to offer the breast enlargement operation (made famous by Carol Doda, a San Francisco night club dancer) using industrial silicone, even more dangerous than the withdrawn silicone.
Elizabeth Haiken's book is filled with fascinating graphic illustrations of cosmetic surgery examples and not a few "quack display advertisements" (including a current era ad offering penis enlargement and lengthening by Cosmetic Surgery International. The ad includes both an 800 phone number and an Internet Web Site address!). It also includes detailed discussion and examples of various persons seeking to escape ethnic identity labeling, or at least accused of so doing by detractors. Haiken has written a valuable and, for all its spectacular examples and gossipy talk, a surprisingly thoughtful and intelligent book. She has combined worthwhile history professor scholarship with clear and fast paced writing style. The result is a book worth buying and reading over and over again.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars
By puffinswan
Reads like a textbook-very dry.

Face lifts, nose jobs, breast implants, liposuction, collagen injection
the body at the end of the twentieth century has become endlessly mutable, and surgical alteration has become an accepted part of American culture. In *Venus Envy*, Elizabeth Haiken traces the quest for physical perfection through surgery from the turn of the century to the present. Drawing on a wide array of sources—personal accounts, medical records, popular magazines, medical journals, and beauty guides—Haiken reveals how our culture came to see cosmetic surgery as a panacea for both individual and social problems.

"Cosmetic Surgery lies at the nexus of medicine and consumer culture," says University of Tennessee historian Elizabeth Haiken. In *Venus Envy*, she looks at this peculiarly American medical specialty as it developed over the 20th century. Doctors wanted power and control, to only perform surgery for medical reasons, while patients—or consumers—wanted to alter their appearance as they saw fit, without much regard for the usual standards of medical necessity. Haiken documents this struggle in scientific debate, medical records, women's magazines, and the faces of celebrities like Fanny Brice, Michael Jackson, and Cher. In the end, cosmetic surgery has become an accepted tool in the American drive toward self-definition. "Surgeons and patients are confident that, by altering individual facial configurations, cosmetic surgery can confer a wide range of benefits that together add up to the American dream—and they are right."
From *Library Journal*
Haiken (history., Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville) tracks the evolution of plastic surgery in America from early attempts during World War I to the numerous varieties of cosmetic surgery available today. The author uses materials from the National Archives of Plastic Surgery and the Jerome Pierce Webster Library of Plastic Surgery as well as popular and medical literature of the times to illustrate the social, ethnic, psychological, and economic concerns that have contributed to the tremendous expansion of cosmetic surgery. Haiken also discusses why plastic surgeons who originally practiced only reconstructive surgery began to include cosmetic surgery in their practices. This well-written volume portrays an interesting example of the intersection between medicine and culture and is recommended for medical history collections in academic or special libraries.
?Tina Neville, Univ. of South Florida at St. Petersburg Lib.
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From *Kirkus*
sAn entertaining and enlightening history of how the practice of cosmetic surgery has been shaped by the priorities and demands of 20th-century American culture as much as by those of the medical profession. To characterize the shift in American attitudes toward cosmetic surgery, Haiken (History/Univ. of Tennessee) notes that when Fanny Brice had her nose bobbed in the 1920s, Americans asked why, whereas in the 1960s, when Barbra Streisand didn't, they asked why not. Haiken's history is full of anecdotes about surgeons and patients, excerpts from the popular press, especially women's magazines, and quotes from the medical literature. It is also extensively illustrated with movie and television stills, cartoons, before-and-after photos, and advertisements—including an astonishing one for a "Homely Girl Contest" run by the *New York Daily Mirror* in 1924. Haiken details how this field of surgery developed after WW I, the attempts of the American Board of Plastic Surgery to control its practice, and the discovery by surgeons that prosperity lay not in reconstructive but in purely cosmetic surgery. She reveals how surgeons who were reluctant to be linked to "beauty"

doctors found medical justification for cosmetic procedures in psychology: They were curing inferiority complexes caused by patients' perceived imperfections. While facial surgery receives the greater part of Haiken's attention, she also gives a brief history of breast surgery and touches on liposuction and penile enhancement. Perhaps most interesting is her discussion of the use of plastic surgery to conceal or minimize physical signs of ethnicity. Using Michael Jackson as a case in point, she demonstrates the desire of many members of minority groups to conform to narrow American ideals of beauty. A warts-and-all portrait of a medical speciality that still evokes ambivalence in individuals and in the culture at large. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.