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Decca by Jessica Mitford

[Decca](#) The Letters of Jessica Mitford **Written by** [Jessica Mitford](#)

Edited by [Peter Y. Sussman](#) **eBook**, 768 pages | Knopf Group E-Books | Biography & Autobiography |

\$35.00 | 978-0-307-56566-2 (0-307-56566-1)

"Decca" Mitford lived a larger-than-life life: born into the British aristocracy-one of the famous (and sometimes infamous) Mitford sisters-she ran away to Spain during the Spanish Civil War with her cousin Esmond Romilly, Winston Churchill's nephew, then came to America, became a tireless political activist and a member of the Communist Party, and embarked on a brilliant career as a memoirist and muckraking journalist (her funeral-industry exposé, *The American Way of Death*, became an instant classic). She was a celebrated wit, a charmer, and throughout her life a prolific and passionate writer of letters-now gathered here.

Decca's correspondence crackles with irreverent humor and mischief, and with acute insight into human behavior (and misbehavior) that attests to her generous experience of the worlds of politics, the arts, journalism, publishing, and high and low society. Here is correspondence with everyone from Katharine Graham and George Jackson, Betty Friedan, Miss Manners, Julie Andrews, Maya Angelou, Harry Truman, and Hillary Rodham Clinton to Decca's sisters the Duchess of Devonshire and the novelist Nancy Mitford, her parents, her husbands, her children, and her grandchildren.

In a profile of J.K. Rowling, *The Daily Telegraph* (UK), said, "Her favorite drink is gin and tonic, her least favorite food, trip. Her heroine is Jessica Mitford."

From the Hardcover edition.

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Decca by Jessica Mitford

[Decca](#) The Letters of Jessica Mitford **Written by [Jessica Mitford](#)**

Edited by [Peter Y. Sussman](#) **Hardcover**, 768 pages | Knopf | Biography & Autobiography | **\$35.00** | 978-0-375-41032-1 (0-375-41032-5)

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The American Way of Death Revisited by Jessica Mitford

[The American Way of Death Revisited](#) **Written by [Jessica Mitford](#)** **Trade Paperback**, 320 pages | Vintage | Social Science - Death & Dying; Business & Economics - Business Ethics | **\$14.95** | 978-0-679-77186-9 (0-679-77186-7)

"Mitford's funny and unforgiving book is the best memento mori we are likely to get. It should be updated and reissued each decade for our spiritual health."--*The New York Review of Books*

Only the scathing wit and searching intelligence of Jessica Mitford could turn an exposé of the American funeral industry into a book that is at once deadly serious and side-splittingly funny. When first published in 1963 this landmark of investigative journalism became a runaway bestseller and resulted in legislation to protect grieving families from the unscrupulous sales practices of those in "the dismal trade."

Just before her death in 1996, Mitford thoroughly revised and updated her classic study. **The American Way of Death Revisited** confronts new trends, including the success of the profession's lobbyists in Washington, inflated cremation costs, the telemarketing of pay-in-advance graves, and the effects of monopolies in a death-care industry now dominated by multinational corporations. With its hard-nosed consumer activism and a satiric vision out of Evelyn Waugh's novel **The Loved One**, **The American Way of Death Revisited** will not fail to inform, delight, and disturb.

"Brilliant--hilarious--A must-read for anyone planning to throw a funeral in their lifetime."--*New York Post*

"Witty and penetrating--it speaks the truth."--*The Washington Post*

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