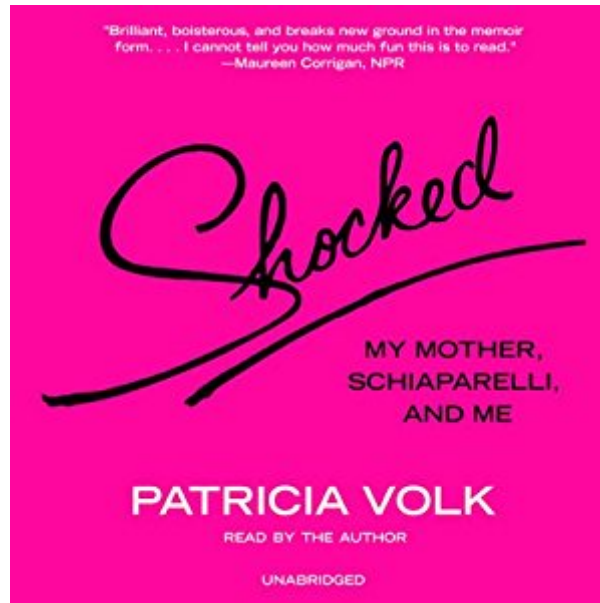


The book was found

# Shocked: My Mother, Schiaparelli, And Me



## Synopsis

From the acclaimed author of *Stuffed* comes an intimate memoir, written with charm and panache, that juxtaposes two fascinating lives - the iconoclastic designer Elsa Schiaparelli and the author's own mother - to explore how a girl fashions herself into a woman. Audrey Morgen Volk, an upper-middle-class New Yorker, was a great beauty and the polished hostess at her family's garment district restaurant. Elsa Schiaparelli - "Schiap" - the haute couture designer whose creations shocked the world, blurred the line between fashion and art, and believed that everything, even a button, has the potential to delight. Audrey's daughter Patricia read Schiap's autobiography, *Shocking Life*, at a tender age, and was transformed by it. These two women - volatile, opinionated, and brilliant, each in her own way - offered Patricia contrasting lessons about womanhood and personal style that allowed her to plot her own course. Moving seamlessly between the Volks' Manhattan and Florida milieu, and Schiap's life in Rome and Paris (among friends such as Dalí, Duchamp, and Picasso), *Shocked* weaves Audrey's traditional notions of domesticity with Schiaparelli's often outrageous ideas into a marvel-filled meditation on beauty and on being a daughter, sister, and mother, while demonstrating how a single book can change a life.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 5 hours and 31 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: July 30, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00E8JMQCO

Best Sellers Rank: #98 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Design #935

in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Parent & Adult Child #2820

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Health, Mind & Body > Family & Relationships

## Customer Reviews

One of the most difficult things for a grown child is to understand their parents; the lives they've lived, the decisions they've made, and the emotional legacy they've left behind. I think it's particularly tough to understand the parent of the child's own gender. In Patricia Volk's new memoir,

"Shocked", she's trying to come to terms with her mother, a woman whose great beauty was life-long. Volk writes about her mother, Audrey, and uses French/Italian designer Elsa Schiaparelli - "Schiap" - as counter point. Volk's memoir would not appeal to most readers. If you use a Venn diagram, appreciative readers would be those in the middle circle of "readers interested in fashion and history" and "women trying for a lifetime to understand their beautiful and narcissistic mothers". Volk writes about her mother doing and saying fairly appalling things to her two daughters, Patricia and her older sister, Jo Ann, as they grew up. I've always thought that beautiful mothers should not have daughters; unless a woman has an unbreakable sense of self-esteem, often daughters are seen as a threat to the mother. Volk writes about her mother and says she understood her and remembers her with love. I believe her when she writes that; but it seems the truth might be mixed with some wishful thinking. Both Audrey Volk and Elsa Schiaparelli were famous in their own circles. Schiaparelli on the world stage and Volk on the upper West Side of New York City, where she worked with her husband, Cecil, in their restaurant. Audrey, while never wearing Schiap's fashion designs, was a long-time user of the perfume "Shocking". The perfume and its distinctive bottle were a yearly gift from Cecil to his beautiful wife.

"Shocked: My Mother, Schiaparelli and Me" (2014 publication; 295 pages plus 8 pages of color pictures) is another delightful memoir from author Patricia Volk, who previously brought us "Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family". This time around, the author looks back at her (complicated) relationship with her mother Audrey, and for good measure also throws in a comparative look as between her mother and Italian haute couture designer Elsa Schiaparelli (or "Schiap"). Several comments: first, I read a lot of memoirs (as it is my favorite type of book), and this is one of the more unusual ones I've come across in a while. Why, you may ask? Because the author's razor-sharp recollections on her mother are beautifully interwoven with a look at the rebellious fashion icon that was Schiaparelli in the pre-WW II era, and then, on top of that, each chapter is illustrated with wonderful pictures and drawings that illustrate the things we were just reading about (living room designed by Salvador Dali based on Mae West's face; Audrey's green velvet coat made and designed by Audrey's mom; Schiap in hostess pajamas; Audrey's bottle of "Shocking" cologne, etc. etc.). The intersections between Audrey and Schiap are many: "My mother wears "Shocking" perfume by Elsa Schiaparelli. And the book that defuses her, the book that transforms me, is Shocking Life by Elsa Schiaparelli", we learn early in the book. And later: "The major difference between Schiap's clothes and my mother's is. Schiap's are designed to draw attention to the clothes, not the face. Wearing her clothes is a performance, dressing as theater. An unattractive

woman and a beautiful woman become, for a moment, equals.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Shocked: My Mother, Schiaparelli, and Me Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka: The Ken and Barbie Killers (Crimes Canada: True Crimes That Shocked The Nation Book 3) The Crime of the Century: Richard Speck and the Murders That Shocked a Nation TAKING TORI: The True Story of Terri-Lynne McClintic and Michael Rafferty (Crimes Canada: True Crimes That Shocked the Nation Book 13) For the Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago DK Readers L3: Titanic: The Disaster that Shocked the World! The Anthrax Letters: A Bioterrorism Expert Investigates the Attacks that Shocked America The Soiling of Old Glory: The Story of a Photograph That Shocked America Gitchie Girl: The Survivor's Inside Story of the Mass Murders that Shocked the Heartland Mail Order Bride: Emily and the Overbearing Mother-in-Law (Mail Order Brides and Mother-in-Laws Book 1) The Mother-in-Law Cure: Lessons in Food and Famiglia from My Italian Mother-in-Law The Mother's Songs: Images of God the Mother The Mother-to-Mother Postpartum Depression Support Book Mother Teresa of Calcutta: Finding God Helping Others: Life of Mother Teresa Mom Coloring Book: I Love You Mom: Beautiful and Relaxing Coloring Book Gift for Mom, Grandma, and other Mothers - Perfect Mom Gift for Birthday, Mother's Day and Other Special Occasions The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son On Life, Love, and Loss The Rainbow Comes and Goes CD: A Mother and Son On Life, Love, and Loss Mother Earth Spirituality: Native American Paths to Healing Ourselves and Our World (Religion and Spirituality) Revelations of St. Bridget: On the Life and Passion of Our Lord and the Life of His Blessed Mother The Complete Visions of Anne Catherine Emmerich (Illustrated): The Lowly Life and Bitter Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother Together with the Mysteries of the Old Testament

[Dmca](#)