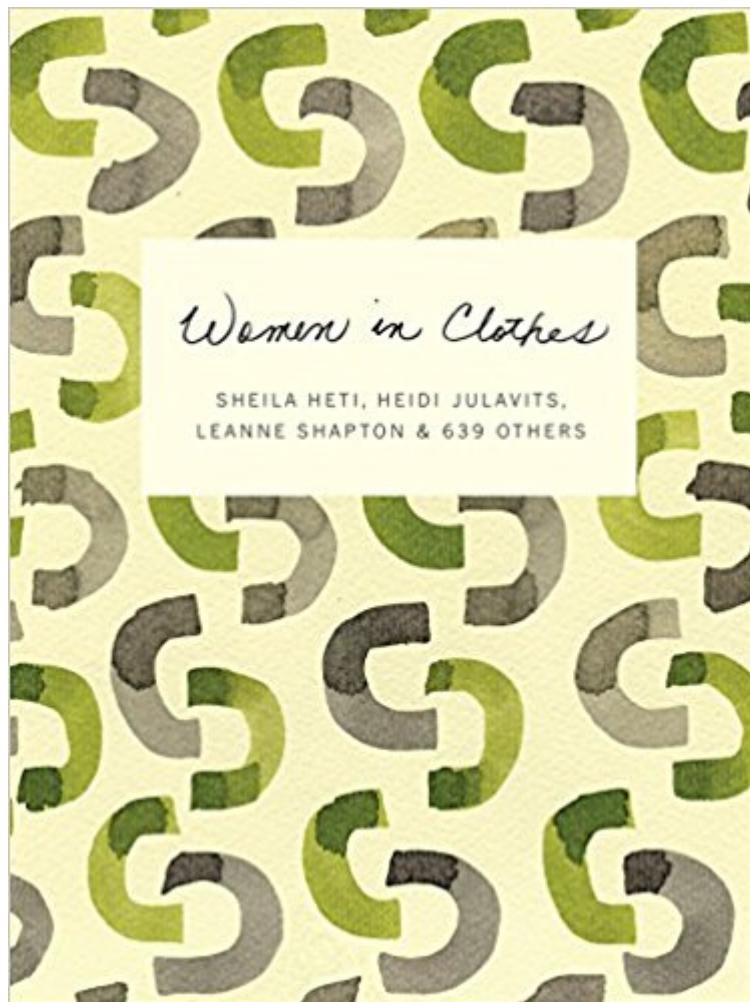


The book was found

Women In Clothes



Synopsis

Women in Clothes is a book unlike any other. It is essentially a conversation among hundreds of women of all nationalities—famous, anonymous, religious, secular, married, single, young, old—on the subject of clothing, and how the garments we put on every day define and shape our lives. It began with a survey. The editors composed a list of more than fifty questions designed to prompt women to think more deeply about their personal style. Writers, activists, and artists including Cindy Sherman, Kim Gordon, Kalpona Akter, Sarah Nicole Prickett, Tavi Gevinson, Miranda July, Roxane Gay, Lena Dunham, and Molly Ringwald answered these questions with photographs, interviews, personal testimonies, and illustrations. Even our most basic clothing choices can give us confidence, show the connection between our appearance and our habits of mind, express our values and our politics, bond us with our friends, or function as armor or disguise. They are the tools we use to reinvent ourselves and to transform how others see us. Women in Clothes embraces the complexity of women's style decisions, revealing the sometimes funny, sometimes strange, always thoughtful impulses that influence our daily ritual of getting dressed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Poems, interviews, pieces that read like diary or journal entries—all these responses help the editors fulfill their aims: to liberate readers from the idea that women have to fit a certain image or ideal, to show the connection between dress and habits of mind, and

to offer readers a new way of interpreting their outsides. “What are my values?” one woman asks. “What do I want to express?” Those questions inform the multitude of eclectic responses gathered in this delightfully idiosyncratic book. Kirkus Reviews says, “Thoughtfully crafted and visually entertaining, this collection, edited by Heti, Julavits, and Shapton, uses personal reflections from 642 contributors to examine women’s relationship with clothes in a deceptively lighthearted and irreverent tone.” It also inspires meaningful questions: the prose is spiced with striking visuals, a provocative time capsule of contemporary womanhood.

Publishers Weekly says, “[A] delirious assortment of conversations, essays, journal entries, and photographs.” This big, busy book feels like a thrift store brimming with jumbles of clothes and accessories and alive with women’s voices. Their comments and stories are canny, funny, incisive, twee, surprising, and caring, as thoughts and anecdotes about clothes touch on everything from gender to beauty, sex, mother-daughter relationships, aspirations, money, human rights, health, work, creativity, and violence. A uniquely kaleidoscopic and spirited approach to an irresistible subject of universal resonance.

Booklist says, “This is the wisdom of the crowd, and while it’s not authoritative or prescriptive, it’s reassuring and fun.” Associated Press says, “This charming patchwork expands the scope of fashion writing by looking not at forerunners of style but at how those outside the industry think about what they wear.” The range of women involved [is] dazzling, a welcome addition to writing that often focuses on a single trend for all.

Madeleine Schwartz, *The Boston Globe*, says, “[A] thoughtful, droll, and often moving tome.” *Women in Clothes* is the pulchritudinous addendum to Mr. Twain’s famous quote: “clothes make the woman.” Sloane Crosley, *Interview*, says, “[A] winningly zine-like compendium.” Meghan O’Grady, *Vogue.com*, says, “[Women in Clothes] dares to dive into the realm of heels and chiffon to suss out the deeper underpinnings of what we wear.” Bustle.com says, “

SHEILA HETI is the author of five books, including the critically acclaimed *How Should a Person Be?* She writes regularly for the *London Review of Books* and is an editor and interviewer at *The Believer* magazine. HEIDI JULAVITS is the author of four novels, most recently *The Vanishers*, winner of the PEN/New England Fiction Award. She is a founding editor of *The Believer* and an associate professor at Columbia University. LEANNE SHAPTON is a Canadian illustrator, author, and publisher based in New York City. She is the author of *Important Artifacts* and *Swimming*.

Studies, winner of the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography.

Oh, I'm so in love with this book! I haven't finished it yet, but I'm reading every word, straight through. I'm sure it's not for everyone, but if you love clothing, weep when an old favorite wears out, do hand-washing and NO dryer for your clothes, design and make clothing for yourself, or always try to figure out why you feel fabulous when you wear certain combinations, you won't want to miss this book. It's just wonderful.

This book deserves to be read and shared by those with an interest in fashion. I have largely recommended it to my friends who have a strong historical and industry interest in style, fashion and beauty. The interview format of this book results in very intimate perspectives of self-expression, and it also made it possible to address topics which I think go unspoken in fashion magazines and real life because they're sensitive--clothing budget, body image, social class. This book emphasizes women's experiences as the primary point of access for fashion and beauty, and their related concepts, rather than a single perspective that elevates fashion and takes it to a point of abstraction where it's only relevant to the lives of a very few. I do wish I purchased this book in print, and I may, still, because I think the photos and the layout might be more rewarding in that format--reading it on Kindle, however, solves the "small type" problem to which other reviewers allude.

This was recommended on the Into Mind blog along with some other wardrobe/personal care reads. I checked out most of the books on the list from the library, but this one pulled me in and I couldn't put it down. I ended up keeping it past the due date because I didn't want to send it back! Then Christmas rolled around and I bought it as a gift for my older sister and *almost* bought a second one for myself. Shortly after I gave it to her I caved and bought a copy for myself. I have seriously considered buying 3 or 4 copies just to have on hand to give to girlfriends that would appreciate it.

I wanted to love this book. Instead I felt overwhelmed and a bit bored. The writing is clever, the idea great. It just didn't hold my interest as I had hoped. I am sure others will find it dearly engaging. There are some smart contributors and that makes the book fun to flip through. It did remind me of being an art student in the early 90s, which was nice to go back to in my mind. And some of the surveys are just plain fun to read. I like the surveys that are on the book's website.

Too wordy! Too much information about the women's lives and not their choices of clothing.

This is a great book to just pick up, open to a random page, and read a couple interviews. Interesting points of view, fun stories, and I'm not even that in to fashion.

A book with a great premise that starts out strong, but soon slips into self indulgence on the part of the authors and becomes boring and a chore to read even if you skip the absolutely ridiculous parts.

This is a collection of conversations, surveys, projects, and quips from women all over. Some are funny, some are quirky, some are sad, but together they add depth to the idea of fashion. I felt as if I knew women better after reading this book; sitting in a coffee shop, I felt a certain unity, or at least an understanding, with the minds of everyone else sitting there. I even looked at myself differently after reading this, not feeling so neurotic for some of the things I do in my daily (or traveling or shopping) routine-- the book normalized my experience of choosing and wearing clothes. For being such a large collection, it was really easy to get through. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in clothes, fashion, psychology (of women in particular), or even in relationships, because this book touches on far more than the superficial subject of just 'clothes.' A really great read.

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