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Women's Wardrobe (Chic Simple)



Synopsis

You have lots of clothes but nothing to wear. If you could only start over. You can -- and look fashionable and save money. Chic Simple Women's Wardrobe will help you pick what to keep in your closet and what to discard; shop cleverly and economically; and develop a unique personal style that truly works. How? By asking a few simple questions: Who am I? What clothes suit my lifestyle? What do I like to wear? The answers will help you learn to dress for any occasion, choose the right clothes and accessories for your body type, and look smashing from morning to evening. In addition, you will learn to: SAVE MONEY BY BUYING THE RIGHT OUTFIT THE FIRST TIME SHOP IN YOUR CLOSET EXPAND YOUR WARDROBE BY MIXING VERSATILE PIECES FROM DIFFERENT OUTFITS APPLY THE NEW CORPORATE CASUAL LOOK TRANSFORM A WORK SUIT FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN DRESS FOR AN INTERVIEW, WEDDING, OR PARTY TRAVEL LIGHT AND IN STYLE The book also includes such practical information as a glossary of fashion terms and materials, regional dressing guidelines, care and maintenance tips. and an international directory of stores. Chic Simple Women's Wardrobe is the book that will eliminate all your fashion angst and help make getting dressed fun again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have looked for years for a definitive guide to building a wardrobe of chic, classic clothes. This is it. I sew most of my clothing, and this has been a wonderful guide and inspiration for me. I took the

good basic pieces I had in my closet and have slowly added to them using the authors' wonderful advice. I now have a beautiful wardrobe, I look sophisticated and polished, now matter what the occasion, and I never look into my closet any more and think "I have nothing to wear". It has even helped me find just the right accessories to go with my beautiful clothes. I would recommend this book to sewers and non-sewers alike. It can make a real difference in the way you look, and eventually, the way you feel about yourself. I am much more confident when I know I look great!

I found this book to be timeless and extremely helpful, not at all trendy. Unlike the fashion mags which are outdated one week after they go on sale, this book gives tips on how to build a year-round wardrobe from the ground up, with basic, timeless fashions and advice on how to coordinate tops, bottoms, shoes. It is a big help for those of us who are shopping addicts and tend to buy trendy clothes and accessories only to find we don't have a thing to wear 4 months later. Also try "Dressing For Occasions", another Chic Simple book. I would not recommend this for fashionistas in the big cities or women with an interest in lots of inexpensive trendy up-to-the-minute items.

the song "get a job" usually pops into my head, because most of the clothes (sans the summer beachwear) are for professional wear, and may be too formal for everyday (business casual is getting more and more casual). That said, this is the BEST fashion source book I have ever read because rather than focusing on the avant garde, it gives simple instructions on how to build a wardrobe, not imitate anything trendy, and I have seen many reviews complain that this book is difficult to follow on a thrift store budget, but I regularly shop at the Salvation Army, and haven't experienced a problem finding simple cut black blazers and beige sweaters. (Anything you can find at the Gap you can find at the thrift store three months later) If you do want a good thrift store guide try anything by Rachel Ashwell, or the book Second Hand Chic. But I think this book can save you money, because it does suggest that you look through your wardrobe for your favorite pieces and shop in your closet, mixing and matching what you already have. Finding new combinations of outfits really can be like having new clothes, it also suggests swapping accessories to vamp up something you already have. These options are much cheaper than running out to the store (even the thrift store) to get new clothes. This book is also very well designed, with full color pictures and wonderful typography, but the best reason to get this book is the back section, it is true that this is not the flashiest part of the book, that there aren't even any pictures, but it does give a guide of what to wear based on where you live and what your body type is. It covers all kinds of body flaws and how clothes can help you hide them. (If you have a big bust, don't wear high pants with belts, etc.)

At the very least, it helped me find a good suit for interviews.

The design and photos are beautiful and elegant. I loved the layout and it's a book I enjoy leafing through for pleasure. As a practical guide to building a wardrobe I found it frustrating. The clothes shown are lovely but seem very geared toward people with a lot of money and/or time who can afford to purchase clothes at exclusive boutiques (or comb through sales racks & thrift stores). Many items shown also come from private collections. As a small, pear-shaped mom with a limited budget and no time I just couldn't imagine how I'd ever build such a wardrobe. Sooo if you want a lovely book to look at, this is great. If you want a quick, easy to use workbook for any budget, look elsewhere. I continue to dream of a simple workbook that will help a woman with budget, time, and figure limitations build a great wardrobe. (Feel free to email recommendations).

The problem with all CS books is they show pretty outfits, which anyone with a little taste can create, but they lack direction on integrating the pieces into a functional wardrobe. Are the pictures pretty? Yes. Do you need another purple jacket that doesn't match with anything else than one outfit? CS books are about 90% single-outfit ensembles. Consider this before buying.

This book has great pictures -- full color, lots of white space (like those great DK books for kids). I found the clothing to be slightly matronly and not exactly pret-a-porte, but perhaps that's because I'm younger than the target audience (women 30+). What this book does right: give you a basic understanding of a basic wardrobe and how to shop intelligently to put together a good closet of basics; a checklist of must-have items (or at least items to think about owning); a basic understanding of higher fashion and why/when it's useful to own some more expensive pieces of clothing; great photos (of not-necessarily-great outfits). I enjoyed the tone of the book, intelligent and sassy, like an older more-fashionable friend. I also enjoyed a section that gave a general picture of how fashion plays out in different regions, just for the social science buff in me. I wouldn't make this book your fashion bible, but if you are fashionably clueless, it's a good place to start.

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