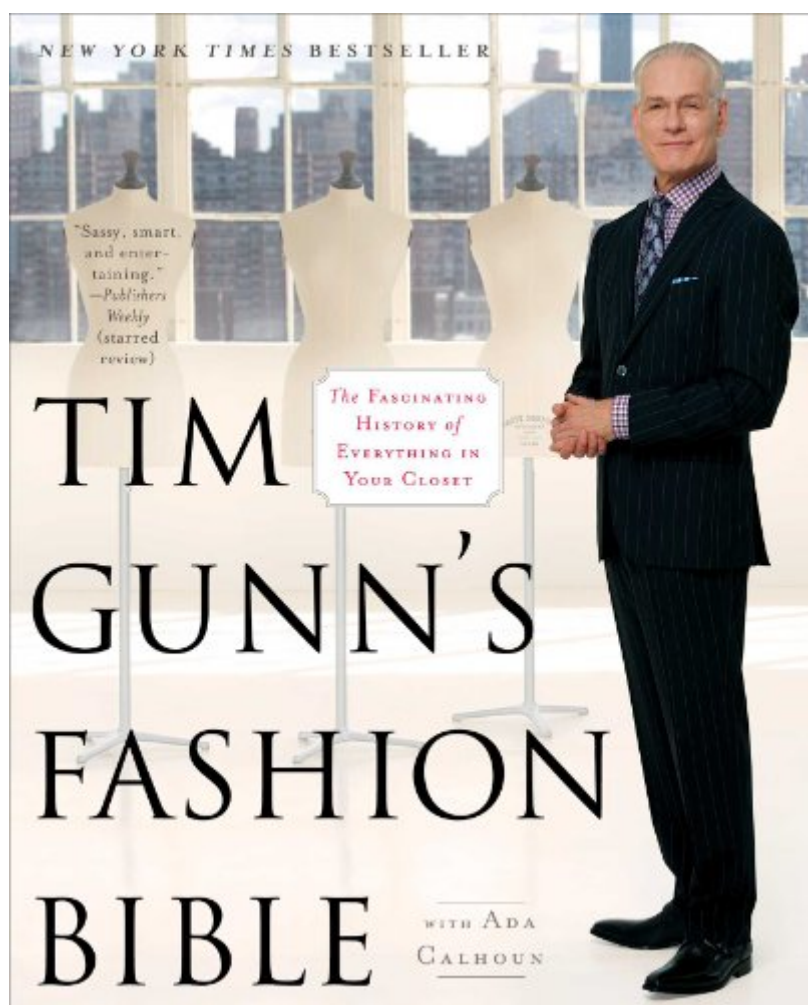


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Tim Gunn's Fashion Bible: The Fascinating History Of Everything In Your Closet



Synopsis

In the beginning there was the fig leaf... and the toga. Crinolines and ruffs. Chain mail and corsets. What do these antiquated items have to do with the oh-so-twenty-first-century skinny jeans, graphic tee, and sexy pumps you slipped into this morning? Everything! Fashion begets fashion, and life— from economics to politics, weather to warfare, practicality to the utterly impractical— is reflected in the styles of any given era, evolving into the threads you buy and wear today. With the candidness, intelligence, and charm that made him a household name on Project Runway, Tim Gunn reveals the fascinating story behind each article of clothing dating back to ancient times, in a book that reads like a walking tour from museum to closet with Tim at your side. From Cleopatra's crown to Helen of Troy's sandals, from Queen Victoria's corset to Madonna's cone bra, Dynasty's power suits to Hillary Clinton's pantsuits, Tim Gunn's Fashion Bible takes you on a runway-ready journey through the highs and lows of fashion history. Drawing from his exhaustive knowledge and intensive research to offer cutting-edge insights into modern style, Tim explains how the 1960s ruined American underwear, how Beau Brummell created the look men have worn for more than a century, why cargo capri pants are a plague on our nation, and much more. He will make you see your wardrobe in a whole new way. Prepare to be inspired as you change your thinking about the past, present, and future of fashion!

Book Information

File Size: 45915 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Gallery Books (September 11, 2012)

Publication Date: September 11, 2012

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B0064CL138

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #157,000 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

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inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Fashion #57 inÃ Â Kindle Store >
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Customer Reviews

Tim Gunn is a fashion god and ANYONE with even a passing interest in fashion, fashion history, or who has clothes in their closet should own this book! Written in Tim Gunn's appealing voice, this book is unusual, informative, and a fabulous read! Not only does the reader learn about where our modern clothes comes from, but also why this history is important for all of us to understand on some level. Filled with tips, I cannot recommend this book highly enough!

All I can say is it is a bible! There is a lot of information about fashion in the book that I love reading about. I love just having it in my fashion book collection and I LOVE Tim Gunn... I say it's a good read! :)

My only reason for watching "Project Runway" and favorite fashion connoisseur is back with an updated version of his "Fashion Bible". Though I did not read the original edition, this updated version is definitely worth your time. Gunn gives a brief account of every item you have in your closet, from skirts to gloves to everything in between. Interspersed between compelling paragraphs on the evolution of dresses are fashion tips and pieces of advice, but it's not the center point of the book. It should be said that this book is not one of those fashion advice books, which disappointed some readers (Gunn's other books, "Gunn's Golden Rules" and "Tim Gunn's Guide to Style" probably fit that mold more accurately). However, I really enjoyed this book and bought it fully knowing it wouldn't be...it was more entertaining than preachy. Gunn also does a good job defending exactly why fashion is important, stating that "If you have a limited range of outfits...it's as if you only have a limited range of words in your vocabulary." A little melodramatic, perhaps, but makes an important point -- we need to have different clothes for different situations. It's something I learned the hard way in medical school, as I abruptly transitioned at the end of my second year from sitting in classrooms and dressing like a college student to seeing patients in the hospital and clinic and needing to look like a professional. Needless to say, I spent a good chunk of my small intercession frantically shopping for proper dress slacks and shirts. But even if you work from home or wear a uniform, Gunn makes the point that, regardless of one's career, there are some situations that will inevitably come up and require more formal wear--weddings, parties, funerals, and job interviews,

for example. One of the principles he reiterates throughout the book is that people dress casually all the time nowadays, whether to the grocery or to the airport, and this is not necessarily a good thing: "(Americans') insistence on wearing what makes us comfortable--even if it makes those around us uncomfortable--is one of our less attractive national attributes." As comfy as yoga leggings and Uggs can be, I'll definitely try to take them out of heavy rotation in my closet and reserve them for workouts and really cold weather. Duly noted, Tim. He also takes hipsters to task for their 'ironic' wearing of ugly sweaters "I sometimes see young people wearing (Cosby-esque, embellished) sweaters ironically, but irony is no excuse." I agree wholeheartedly that the wearing ugly clothing as ironic social commentary thing has overstayed its welcome (super-oversized horn-rimmed glasses and 80's sweatbands, I'm looking at you). But alas, Tim's not completely judgmental--in his conclusion, he acknowledges that there are different (and all equally relevant) body types and different lifestyles that require different proportions of casual vs professional vs athletic clothes. However, there are some things we all should have at our disposal, and the last few pages works as a guide to take inventory of your own closet and see what you have and what you lack. And then, with your newfound enthusiasm and clothing knowledge, get to shopping and fill in the blanks, now knowing the long and fascinating history behind what you're looking for.

As Sun protection. I love hearing Tim Gunn's opinions, and enjoy the historical background. Nevertheless, they will pry my cargo crops from my cold dead fingers (thighs?)

Tim Gunn has impeccable taste. He is the picture of refinement and as such, I put a lot of stock in his outlook on fashion. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I have a better understanding of the history behind what we wear and have gained an appreciation for the many designers that have contributed to fashion throughout the ages. The book made me laugh out loud at times when describing ridiculous fads and I found myself vindicated at every turn when Tim Gunn had the same feeling as myself with regards to many current clothing trends (like jeggings, ugh!). If you enjoy reading about fashion or are curious about where clothing customs come from, this is a must read.

I found this book fascinating, and as always, I enjoyed Tim Gunn's dry wit. If you are a layman of fashion (as I am), I recommend reading this book. You will see your basic t-shirts and jeans in a whole new light.

excellent!

I loooove Tim Gunn, both on screen and in writing. His prose mirrors his speech, if you've seen him on Project Runway, expect the same style of wit and criticism. I've bought each of his previous books, but this one is my favorite simply because I was a history major in college, and in this book Mr. Gunn explains the history of fashion, where items of clothing originally came from and how they've evolved. You don't have to be a fashion guru to enjoy the book, just someone interested in how clothes have changed. Excellent read.

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