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The Wedding Dress: 300 Years Of Bridal Fashions



Synopsis

From the romance of its evolution to the splendor of its design, the wedding dress is unlike any other garment, a talisman from a fantasy world, the manifestation of dreams coming true. This book draws on wedding garments in the V&A's renowned collection along with photographs, letters, memoirs, and newspaper accounts to explore the history of the white wedding dress and the traditions that have developed around it from 1700 to today, when designers from Vera Wang to Vivienne Westwood continue to challenge the aesthetic. Paintings, drawings, and wedding photos depict queens, princesses, celebrities, and everyday women—including Kate Middleton—in their gowns. The text considers the dress in the context of the commercialization of weddings that began in the Victorian era. The Wedding Dress is not only about costume, but also about the cultivation of the image of the bride.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A high quality book with excellent photographs. The book is more than just a picture book of fashion changes of wedding dresses, it delves into another aspect of our historical adventure. Who would imagine that wedding dresses could tell you so much about historical life, customs and everyday views? An interesting waltz through aspects of political and daily life affecting the wedding dress and its function and how important it became as symbolism for both rich and poor.

It was quite a pleasure to find there the information not only about "haute" wedding fashion through centuries, but photos and stories about "ordinary" weddings. Of course, royal weddings and

celebrities' ones are really nice to look at - but they don't give you the whole picture. And this book covers everything. Rare photos, rare info - it became one of the jewels of my library.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is well organized and well put together. I enjoyed how the book is broken up and the history behind the wedding dresses. They had some very old examples which I loved many the books stated were in a very fragile state. I enjoyed seeing the older dresses because this would be the only way I could see them. While I did love the older examples the author did pick out some of the more interesting new more modern examples as well. They went into how the shapes and hemlines to fabric choices changed depending on your station in life or just the fashion trends at the time. Some of the dresses they did know the owners so to hear about them was very interesting. There are several detailed pictures in the book which I enjoy because you can see the wonderful craftsmanship that went into producing a dress. To show you how times have changed from the late 1800's to the early 1900's there was a section in this book where they were speaking about a woman who because she was 35 (she felt too old to wear white and a traditional wedding dress) because to get married. In your mid 30's now I don't think anyone really bats an eye, so this book gave some nice historical perspective. The book is British based as many of the examples come from the Victoria and Albert museum collection which doesn't detract from the beauty of the dresses for me but for some it may be important. The pictures are clear there is a nice balance between the pictures and the written content, and the written content was very valuable to expanding the understanding about the images on each of the pages. If you can get a copy I would highly suggest you nab one :)

Beautiful colour plates, definitions of phrases, and written by somebody who obviously loves fashion. Read it from cover to cover.

This book is a terrific record of wedding dresses through history . Fabulous photos and a great coffee table book. This book has been a great interest piece and has caused much discussion and reminiscing .

I bought this hoping for a book with lots of good quality pictures of wedding dresses for inspiration. This didn't really deliver. It talks about the history and such, but I didn't want something that discusses that. The few pictures it does include are decent, although the single photo of Princess Diana's dress was not very good quality. I won't be returning it, it wasn't that bad, but I am still

searching for a book that has more good quality photos.

Its an excellent book. A lot of really great reading and the pictures are great coming from that time. It was delievered neat and on time. Very happy

I love this for t the information, history and pics.

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