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Off The Cuff: The Essential Style Guide For Men And The Women Who Love Them



Synopsis

OFF THE CUFF is all about dressing to make yourself feel confident. With his signature wit, Kressley gives blunt advice on everything from pleats (they make your butt look big) to the Penny Loafer (Happy Days are here again). OFF THE CUFF is divided into chapters breaking down the basics of shoes, shirts, pants, suits, accessories coats, etc. Dividing each chapter is Carson's Closet, which features illustrations of his own personal clothes for various looks such as "Urbane Cowboy" to "City Chic." This is a very helpful (and humorous) guide for the Everyman---whether he just wants a checklist on the basics or wants to develop a personal style. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've reviewed Alan Flusser. Alan Flusser is a daily part of how I think about what I wear. And Carson Kressley, you're not quite Alan Flusser. Which isn't to say this is a bad book as far as it goes. The author has a lot of very good insights into what works and what doesn't in men's wear. While I don't imagine many of the men who could most use this book are at all anxious to be seen reading it, I hope at least the women in their lives will take the subtitle to heart, read this book themselves, and exercise their subtle influence on their men. There are a lot of very good insights in here, and things nearly all men -- and most especially younger men -- can learn with profit. That said, I'm not sure Carson Kressley put enough stress on the essential point, the key understanding, the very nub so to speak of men's style, which is that the phrase "men's fashion" is an oxymoron. I was reading the other day about Lapo Elkann, grandson of Gianni Agnelli and a marketing chief at Fiat. He inherited

a couple dozen of his grandfather's suits, some made a half-century or more ago, wears them daily, and looks great and entirely in-style in them. For men, the subtleties of dressing well lie in fit, construction, and timeless style. The author rightly gives us his Number One rule, "Disregard trends." Things that fade in and out with fashion -- like the abomination of "truckers' caps," which Kressley rightly abhors (except on truck drivers and Ashton Kutcher) -- should be avoided like, well, like Ashton Kutcher. But I wish he'd put more emphasis on that. More Cary Grant, in other words, and less, um, Ashton Kutcher. And finally, I know it's part of his shtick, but I could have done with a little less of the "hey, did you know I'm gay (giggle, giggle)?" asides.

First of all, I did NOT want to give this book 5 stars... but it does deserve more than 4 stars in my book. In a scale of 1-100, I'd rate this book 85 to 90... probably closer to (or slightly above) 90. I didn't want to give the book a full 100 (or a full 5 stars -- though those are the only choices .com gives me) because there are some aspects of the book that I didn't like... no... let me rephrase that... there are some aspects of the book that I think could be improved: PICTURES, or lack thereof. The only pictures are those that are at the start of SOME chapters. Don't get me wrong: there are LOTS of illustrations/drawings--in color, too. But it would still be nice to see pictures of THE REAL THING(s), not just mere illustrations. IRREVERENT. Actually, one big PLUS of this book is Carson's irreverence, but there was a little bit too much. Yes, it's funny, but I think it's a bit overdone. It's kinda like I have the feeling that Carson put the book away for a while to get away from it, then came back en force to do the editing with a fresh "mind". But in the process, I think he went to almost every paragraph to inject some of that irreverence, that, for me as a reader, started to sound TIRED. There were even moments when the author would try to inject something that's funny to make the author sound smart and witty, which I'm sure Carson is. But on the whole, a bit overdone. Not to mention that there was, indeed, too much of use of the word "people". It's not 1979, people. Are you listening, people? Not appealing, people. But, after starting this review with some minor quibbles, let me say that THIS IS A GREAT BOOK. Carson wants you to find, nay, CREATE your own style. "Do as Carson says, not as he does." But of course!

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