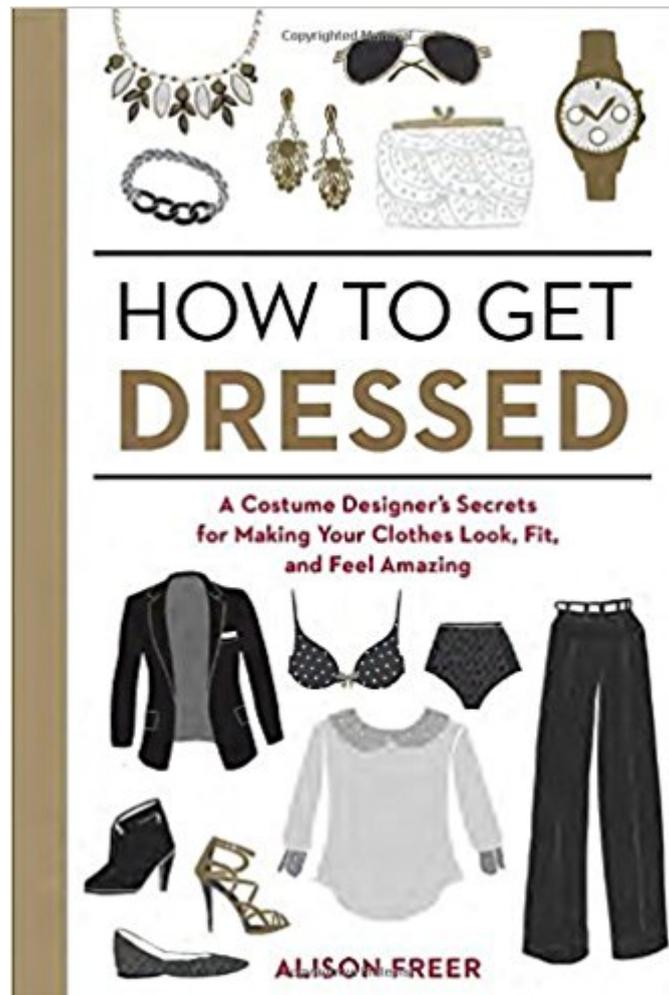


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How To Get Dressed: A Costume Designer's Secrets For Making Your Clothes Look, Fit, And Feel Amazing



Synopsis

Costume designer Alison Freer's styling kit is a magical bag of tricks, built to solve every single wardrobe malfunction on earth. TV and film productions wait for nothing, so her solutions have to work fast. In *How to Get Dressed*, Alison distills her secrets into a fun, comprehensive style guide focused on rethinking your wardrobe like a fashion expert and making what's in your closet work for you. She provides real-world advice about everything style-related, including:

- Making every garment you own fit better
- Mastering closet organization
- The undergarments you actually need
- The scoop on tailors and which alterations are worth it
- Shopping thrift and vintage like a rockstar

Instead of repeating boring style clichés, Alison breaks the rules and gets real about everything from bras to how to deal with inevitable fashion disasters. Including helpful information such as how to skip ironing and the dry cleaners, remove every stain under the sun, and help clueless men get their sartorial acts together, *How to Get Dressed* has hundreds of insider tips from Alison's arsenal of tools and expertise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alison Freer is a Hollywood costume designer, and I've followed her style articles on the website xoJane for years. Her advice online has never led me astray, and I've used many of her tips to great success (including making my own wax-coated denim). I was obviously super excited about her book, and I have to say, it didn't disappoint! *How to Get Dressed* is like *Lucky Magazine* or *Cosmo*, if either of those magazines were actually remotely useful. Where fashion magazines fall short, *How*

to Get Dressed delivers. It's not a book about fashion, but about style. It's not about trends, but about making YOUR personal style work for you. It's not about following fashion rules, but about breaking them to great success. It's about looking great, but still being yourself. What more could we ask for?! Well, the book offers a lot more than that. I think my favorite section of the book is the chapter on closets. As a person with far too many clothes and clutter in my life, I long for organization, and Alison's tips for organizing one's clothes and closets are actually useful and doable, and make me think that even *I* could be organized (that remains to be seen, but that's because of me, not Alison's awesome tips)! As an avid knitter, I jumped with joy at her spot-on advice for storing knits (don't hang them up by the shoulders--they'll stretch!), and learned a great many tips on storing other types of garments that I didn't know about. That's the thing about Alison: she REALLY knows her stuff. She isn't just a fashion blogger who can put together a cute ensemble; she's a professional, unionized costume designer, and she knows how various fabrics and garments inherently work (nylon doesn't unravel; the physics behind a bra; how darts and other alterations work).

It's hard to know where to start on this review, because I loved *so many* things about the book, but I'll try to go in order! It's wonderfully inclusive. Too much fashion advice focuses on one body type, narrow gender expression, what's "flattering" rather than what you love. How To Get Dressed does none of that. It's got advice for everyone. It doesn't treat one type of body as more worthy of feeling and looking beautiful than any other. The author doesn't just use feminine pronouns, but uses "people who..." as well, and talks directly to the reader frequently through the book. You can really feel the care that's been taken not to exclude anyone or make them feel like a gate-crasher to femininity, which is so rare and so important. It's incredibly practical! I kind of went in like, "I'm dressed. I know this stuff" but NOPE. Broken heel strap? Bloodstain? Bra strap won't stay put? Alison Freer seriously has a fix for everything. I now know what to put in my bag for every wedding I ever attend forever and ever amen. This was a big one for me, and my fave chapter: How to create a signature look. I haven't put this into action yet, but I can't wait to go into a shop and not have to wonder "Yeah but will I really ever wear it?" again. That's because there's a whole chapter in here that helps you figure out what you need before-hand, and whether any item fits in with the steez you're trying to cultivate. It's super enlightening. And finally, it's funny. Just skimming through it I laughed out loud. There are tons of TV behind-the-scenes stories, personal anecdotes and examples so you don't ever feel like it's a text book.

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