



# Eccentric Glamour: Creating an Insanely More Fabulous You

*Simon Doonan*

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This text is intended as an antidote to the epidemic of slutty dressing and porno-chic which has taken over since the arrival of Paris Hilton and Tara Reid. Simon Doonan offers a tongue-in-cheek guide to personal style for good-humoured, non-conformist women everywhere.

## Eccentric Glamour: Creating an Insanely More Fabulous You Details

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## From Reader Review Eccentric Glamour: Creating an Insanely More Fabulous You for online ebook

### Amber says

I am a very serious panda. Subjects I read about include but are not limited to: existentialism, dark subcultures, dangerous cults, atheism, deeply disturbing true crime, and shockingly brutal medieval history. My personality just gravitates towards serious and often bleak subjects. So I like to cleanse my palette with books like this one. What could be more frivolous than a book about fashion? For me, it's the equivalent of eating a whole bag of potato chips. I loved this book. I love glamour and drag queens and Dita Von Teese and Coco Chanel and all the other glamorous eccentrics out there. What a fun read. It added a splash of color to my all black wearing little world!

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### Michelle says

After reading this book, I realized how much I was trying to look like everyone else. No more...I purchased from a consignment shop in Georgetown a wonderful "Twiggy" style dress for the summer.

I laughed a lot reading this book.

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### Phyllis says

I am really feeling Simon Doonan's overall message that dressing the eccentric glamor style is a way of sharing yourself with the world. I agree with this, because since I adopted a sort of French New Wave Grandma aesthetic in my dress people respond to me in this amazing way, like they're just happy this random stranger in a black lace headscarf and leopard print coat exists. It's a really life-affirming phenomenon but I'm afraid I sound ridiculously fatheaded now, so back to the book. Doonan's theory of eccentric glamour is divided up into three categories: socialites, existentialists, and gypsies. I guess the term "gypsy" is pretty politically incorrect these days but I don't expect a lot of social consciousness from someone who works in the fashion industry, so I wasn't exactly shocked by his use of the word. The book jumps back and forth between meditations on eccentric glamor, memories of his childhood and his eccentrically glamorous mother, and profiles of eccentrically glamorous people.

This book was written around 2007, a time when it seemed every famous woman under 30 was getting out of the limo with no panties on, so there's a lot of weirdly judgmental and aggressive material on women trying to look like strippers and prostitutes. There's also repeated references to an epidemic of plastic surgery written with the assumption that a great deal of your friends have already had breast augmentation procedures done. That made me wonder who the intended audience for this book was, because most of the women I know couldn't afford plastic surgery even if they wanted it, and they don't want it anyway. I wish the people who write these style books would at least entertain the notion that someone who isn't a rich urban socialite might read their book. Anyway, I understood where he was coming from, but all the us versus the slutty girls material just gave me a "mind your own business, dude" reaction.

Doonan writes a whole chapter completely torpedoing the weird obsessive inferiority complex American women have about French style, and even though I really love the stereotypical fancypants French lady look

he was totally on point. If you have ever seen yet another book on why American women are gross and horrible and French women are the BEST at everything at the bookstore and groaned, the book is worth picking up just to read this chapter. Doonan also dug up a quote from Karl Lagerfeld in 1977 basically saying that being thin is *déclassé* and when I read this I felt like everything I thought was true was a lie. What an amazing moment.

Towards the end there's a totally unsolicited chapter on romance that is both depressing and embarrassing. It starts out with the news that eccentric glamor will get you lots of male attention, but most dudes are pompous, boring, stupid, or all three. If this doesn't deter you from seeking love, you can meet eligible bachelors at Home Depot! Then when you meet the man of your dreams the two of you can passively aggressively snipe at each other about gaining weight or being an overbearing bore at parties by pretending your pet is the one talking. AIN'T LOVE GRAND? If this chapter is any indication of what Simon Doonan and Jonathan Adler's home life is like, I think someday they will kill each other.

Overall, the book is written with the assumption that the reader is a beige sweatpants wearing caterpillar who just needs Simon Doonan to pull her out of her cotton-polyester blend cocoon so she can emerge a butterfly in sequined sea foam green crepe de chine hostess pajamas, but honestly, the ones who will really take his message of personal expression to heart probably already dress with a certain amount of panache, even if they don't fit into any of Doonan's categories. So this book had a "preaching to the choir" feel that most books on fashion have. It was a still a pretty fun read, though.

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### **Jillian says**

Tongue-in-cheek, but enhanced my creativity with wardrobe decisions, which makes life more fun in the long run.

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### **Mary Helene says**

What fun! and with original insights about what style is and does. What did I learn? "Just say no to ho!" and to buy a case of lipstick. And to watch how I enter a room. To stick with one purse. Shop vintage. oh, and did I mention, to have fun with what I wear?

I thought the interviews were a little weak, but it did sharpen my appreciation of glamorous eccentrics in my own environment. I'm glad he sang the praises of those folks in his life.

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### **Aly says**

A fun, whimsical book! I love Doonan's three types of those having "it": socialite, gypsy, or existentialist. Everything is tongue-in-cheek and he has such a sly wit without being vicious or damaging. I love when he says, "say no to ho!" -- saying no to the stripper look that some think is hot. Part of the book is profiles of various people (celebrities, hipsters, and fashion eccentrics) but I'm shocked that he interviewed Malcolm Gladwell...! I mean, Blink was great, but sorry, Malcolm, I rather see Johnny Depp or Anthony Kiedis talk about their coolness/cuteness. Kind of lost interest towards the end, but the first half of the chapters plus the profiles are the best stuff of the book.

## **Lisa London says**

I absolutely loved this book! Told with wit, wisdom and a few cheeky celebrity anecdotes, (the Shelley Winters story is hysterical) it's the perfect rainy day on the sofa read. Slip on a glamorous satin robe, open up a box of yummy chocs, kick off your marabou mules and dive in. Simon Doonan totally nails the joys of unapologetically eccentric, quirky, unique and over-the-top glamour. As he rightly says, why wear one string of pearls when you can wear ten and remain in people's memories? Lovers of eccentric glamour do not want to run with the herd - they love to be noticed! This book is a favourite on my shelves and is often taken down and read again, especially if I need reminding why it's powerful to dress exactly as you wish and not worry about other people judging you. In fact, as Doonan opines, they probably won't be judging you at all - they will be enjoying you! A decadent delight from start to finish, after reading this book I am a confirmed glamorous eccentric and Simon Doonan fan!

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## **tatiana says**

To those of you who (like yours truly) have been scorned, mocked and ostracized for their unique sense of style and otherwise bizarre penchant for utterly weird and wicked wardrobes then this, I say, is the book for you.

Simon Doonan not only validates but praises my fabulous fellow fashion freaks, while blatantly pooh-poohing the Paris Hiltons of the world with absolute candor and such a wonderfully twisted sense of humor. For this, I must give him 5 rhinestone-encrusted stars and two vixen-painted thumbnails up!

Read this book, my beloved revolutionary fashionistas...and, whatever you do, just "SAY NO TO HO!!!"

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## **Lauren Albert says**

Not for everyone. But I re-read it whenever I need cheering up. Any one who says that Miss Piggy epitomizes eccentric glamour is okay with me.

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## **Nilchance says**

This book was full of slut-shaming, "Gypsy is a synonym for romantic", and "be your own person but if you don't shave your legs you're repulsive" ideas. Unfortunate.

The adorable stories about Doonan's marriage to Jonathan Adler are what saved this book from one star, but I doubt I'll read another of Doonan's books.

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## **Bree says**

If you know me, I'm just about the least glamourama gal out there save for the occasional sparkle skull pin. Yet, I've got a sweet spot for high fashion and reading about these iconoclasts was entertaining. I'm gonna show up to work some day in a purple chinchilla jacket, just wait and see.

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## Barbara says

I don't know if you'll take the advice in this book, but you should read it. How can you not read a book by a gay British guy who both impersonates Queen Elizabeth and quotes Flava Flav?

Okay, some of the advice you shouldn't take. Ignore the permission to wear "a gold leotard with your lesbian aunt Sylvia's mauve nylon fanny pack." Unless you live in NYC, people will talk about you and not in a good way. At least they will if you live in Southwest Michigan.

Still, Doonan is hilarious. I laughed out loud several times and that's not normally true of fashion books. Okay, not true of any books, but most fashion books take themselves so seriously.

Interspersed with stories and interviews with Glamorous Eccentrics is bits of advice, some of which I might actually take. For example: I collect handbags, totebags, etc as I'm always in search of the perfect bag. Doonan thinks that a woman – at least a Glamour Eccentric, one of which I think I am not, should only have one great bag that she takes everywhere. He encourages a person to buy the Hermes Birkin bag they are coveting. That is advice I might take! Of course, chances are good I'll buy a knock off first and see if I really like that style, etc before I save up TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS to buy one of the damned things. Still, I covet that bag.

Doonan is kind to his reader. He reminds the reader that you are a work in progress and to be patient with oneself.

An example of the things that made me laugh:

These are some of the things that made me laugh: (they are all direct quotes from the book.)

- I am pro-pot dealer: the arrival of a mysterious and attractive criminal adds a memorable frisson of excitement to any occasion.

Doonan dispenses relationship advice that will either work or get you divorced more quickly. There are bits of wisdom that would be helpful to all of us, regardless of whether we are glamorous or eccentric. Sadly, I suspect I'm neither. For example, "alluring" is not cheap & tawdry. To paraphrase Doonan, it's timeless, it's beautiful and sensual. Alluring is "irresistible charm, which ever fails to mesmerize the viewer, regardless of gender."

I can't decide if this is a "fashion book" or a "self-help book" but it's definitely an entertaining book and I highly recommend it.

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## Ellen Zacarias says

A charming style guide written by a charismatic gay man. While his love of drama, bad advice, and loud cell

phone conversations may make me recoil in fear should I ever meet him in real life, I am in love with Simon Doonan's sharp-witted writing persona. His warm personality oozes out from the ink squiggles. On top of everything that I love about Doonan, he is also the husband of Jonathan Adler, one of the coolest stationery designers out there. What does being husbands with Jonathan Adler say about him? That he has great taste in men, of course.

Eccentric Glamour is dedicated to helping women find a distinct style in clothing instead of going for a generic "ho" look. There are three main categories that the fashion world tends to revolve around: gypsy, existentialist, and socialite. Doonan goes into the subcategories of each type, even noting the types of personalities that each style would depict. What image do you want to send to the world? The point here is to be aware that whatever you choose, even if you're unconscious about the choice, you are sending the world a message about the type of person you are. This message doesn't even have to be related to fashion. Certain styles imply intelligence and thoughtfulness, and Doonan gives you the option of dressing a certain way to either celebrate your personality or to hide it (if you're a professional).

With that being said, Doonan encourages his readers to be confident about whatever their size is, because that is how they will pull off whatever style they have. There is a section on doorway poses and etiquette (he's pretty relaxed about it). Oh, worried about aging? It's going to happen anyway, and the worst thing you could do is waste away your youth worrying about becoming old.

I don't know what kind of gals that Doonan hangs out with, but my social circles don't really have people with the "ho" problem of botox, collagen implants, boobaciousness, and super-revealing clothing. Nope. Here, near the coast of California, we have a different problem that is also acknowledged by Doonan: the pressure to underdress. Doonan deals with these fashion issues elegantly and flamboyantly.

This brings me to the point of being an "eccentric glamour," who is the opposite of a timid dresser or a conformist. An eccentric glamour has it figured out: they know who they are and what they want.

Doonan's writing can veer into the sarcastic realm in which you're not too sure whether he is being serious enough. Let's just say that the guide on men is really tongue-in-cheek (look at the intelligent awesomeness that is Jonathan Adler!). I'd be bored out of my mind if I dated a guy who was into stereotypically manly stuff and wasn't too bright. ;) Either way, his voice is very entertaining to read. I recommend Eccentric Glamour to anyone who is looking to develop their signature style.

Glamorous Book Lounge

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## Eileen says

Ok, so I have both a problem and a strange fascination with fashion books. Fashion books are mostly name-droppy, classist, expensive, dictatorial twaddle that make women feel bad while purporting to make them feel good. "Oh, honey, you can't have square glasses with that square face!" "One Balenciaga handbag should be kept as an investment piece." SERIOUSLY. PLEASE STOP. Even those books that supposedly take "an irreverent look at fashion" or whatever fall prey to at least some of this. Yet I continue to occasionally read them.

Part of this is because I am constantly annoyed with clothes in re 1. how expensive they are, 2. how stupid and ugly and horribly colored in the season's hot colors they are, and 3. how none of them ever fit me unless I make them myself. And yet I want better clothes, because I, the girl who still wears her little brother's twelve year old uniform oxfords with the sleeves cut and hemmed after she went through all of their elbows,

care about how I look. I see clothes as a high-level investment, even when I'm (always, always) shopping at Goodwill. I want fashion books to give me some damn ideas for how to get better clothes in the face of all this. Fashion books, give me some ideas! If you don't give me ideas, what good are you? I mean, you pass time on the train without requiring much concentration, so I can keep an eye on where we are.

This is actually one of the better "irreverent" fashion books I've read in a while. Simon Doonan is pretty funny, which helps a lot. He doesn't just tell people that a classic black jacket is the one essential for their wardrobe, which helps even more; instead, his fashion choices are generally, gasp gasp, Interesting. He has also had a number of eclectic, non-standard contemporary fashion people talk about style and clothing. I don't know who half of them are, and I'm all the more interested for it. Could this book be giving me IDEAS?

At the least, it provokes some thought while being entertaining, not condescending, and that's all I really want from a book about clothes.

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### **Noelle N. says**

I feel a little sheepish giving so many stars to a book that's not "literature" but Simon Doonan is hilarious. I laughed out loud so many times I can't count.

I didn't get this book for style tips, rather, I'd heard about him for a while in the fashion business and was curious. He'd be in the same category as David Sedaris for me. And now I need to go get his other books and check 'em out.

"Say no to ho" -Simon Doonan

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