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LEGENDARY AUTHORS And the Clothes They Wore

Terry Newman

There is only one thing more interesting than a writer, and that's a stylish writer. The shape and twist of their hair, how they hold a cigarette, or penchant for wearing a particular item is their creative DNA on display, whether it's an exotic turban like Zadie Smith's signature headpiece, James Joyce's wire-framed glasses, or Samuel Beckett's Wallabees. Quite often a writers' wardrobe is distinctly out of fashion and for that very reason stands out and alone. Likewise, curious fashion-hounds find writers a stimulating muse in today's non-linear fashion climate.

LEGENDARY AUTHORS AND THE CLOTHES THEY WORE (Harper Design; 208 Pages; 100 photographs; \$29.99; on sale: June 27, 2017) by Terry Newman examines icons of literature and the sartorial stories they tell. This innovative gift book presents 50 fully illustrated profiles of prominent men and women of letters, highlighting their key works, signature fashion moments from their wardrobe that express their persona, and how they influence the fashion world today. This segues into an examination of how this particular item of clothing or style makes up part of fashion's lingua franca, getting under the skin of the fashion story and talking in more detail about its historical trajectory and distinctive impact on popular culture.

Entertaining features—revealing anecdotes about the authors and their work, archival photography, first-person quotations, little known facts, and clothing-oriented excerpts that exemplify their writing style—make this a lively look at the authors we love. Newman writes: “What you read is as important as what you wear. And what authors wear is source material for designers’ creativity. The literary and fashion worlds are therefore synchronized, and the geek chic of librarians is a look that is set to prevail.” She adds: “Fashion is a history book as well as a mirror, and the incidental assimilation of who is wearing what, where, why, and when adds density to a cultural read.”

On the book cover and featured within is the remarkable Joan Didion. In 2015, she was the face of Céline. Everything Didion writes is distinctly Didion; she is an original and that’s something designers can connect with. Her personalized journalism where innermost emotions and ideas are transparently communicated or experimental fiction such as her novel *Democracy* where she, as the author, takes center stage as narrator are bodies of work that reflect the soul. Her style does the same.

For some writers, their style does not mirror, but rather, deflects. Take Sylvia Plath, her *Bell Jar* wardrobe was prim and proper, and a foil for her tormented psyche. The pearls and twinsets, and later, her less formal but still sensible choices, all projected assimilation and a non-confrontational, even somewhat bland persona, yet her work was dark, confessional. For Plath, fashion was aspirational: she dressed in the way she wanted to be seen, rather than exhibit her interior turmoil.

Delving into the wardrobes of literary icons—past and present—and the way they write about clothes provides a glimpse into the world they each inhabited and their moment in time. A testament to the notion that reading and writing never go out of style, this beautifully designed book is sure to captivate lovers of fine literature and dedicated followers of fashion.

<u>Featuring:</u>	Allen Ginsberg	Edith Sitwell
Maya Angelou	Malcolm Gladwell	Patti Smith
Djuna Barnes	Ernest Hemingway	Zadie Smith
Samuel Beckett	Zora Neale Hurston	Susan Sontag
Saul Bellow	James Joyce	Gertrude Stein
William Burroughs	Karl Ove Knausgaard	Jacqueline Susann
Truman Capote	Fran Lebowitz	Gay Talese
Michael Chabon	Nancy Mitford	Donna Tartt
Colette	Toni Morrison	Hunter S. Thompson
Quentin Crisp	Joyce Carol Oates	Mark Twain
Robert R. Crumb	Joe Orton	John Updike
Simone de Beauvoir	Dorothy Parker	David Foster Wallace
Joan Didion	Sylvia Plath	Cornel West
T. S. Eliot	Edgar Allan Poe	Edith Wharton
Bret Easton Ellis	Marcel Proust	Oscar Wilde
F. Scott and	Arthur Rimbaud	Tom Wolfe
Zelda Fitzgerald	George Sand	Virginia Woolf

About the Author

Terry Newman has worked in the fashion industry for more than twenty-five years, both as an editor (*i-D*, *Attitude*, and *Self Service*) and a writer, contributing to newspapers such as the *Guardian*, *Independent*, and the *Saturday* and *Sunday Times*. She has also written and presented fashion programs in the United Kingdom for Channel Four (*She's Gotta Have It* and *Slave*). A contributor to books such as *i-D's Fashion Now*, *Fashion Now 2*, and *Soul i-D*, she currently lectures at the University for the Creative Arts in Epsom, England. She lives in London with her husband and two children.

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