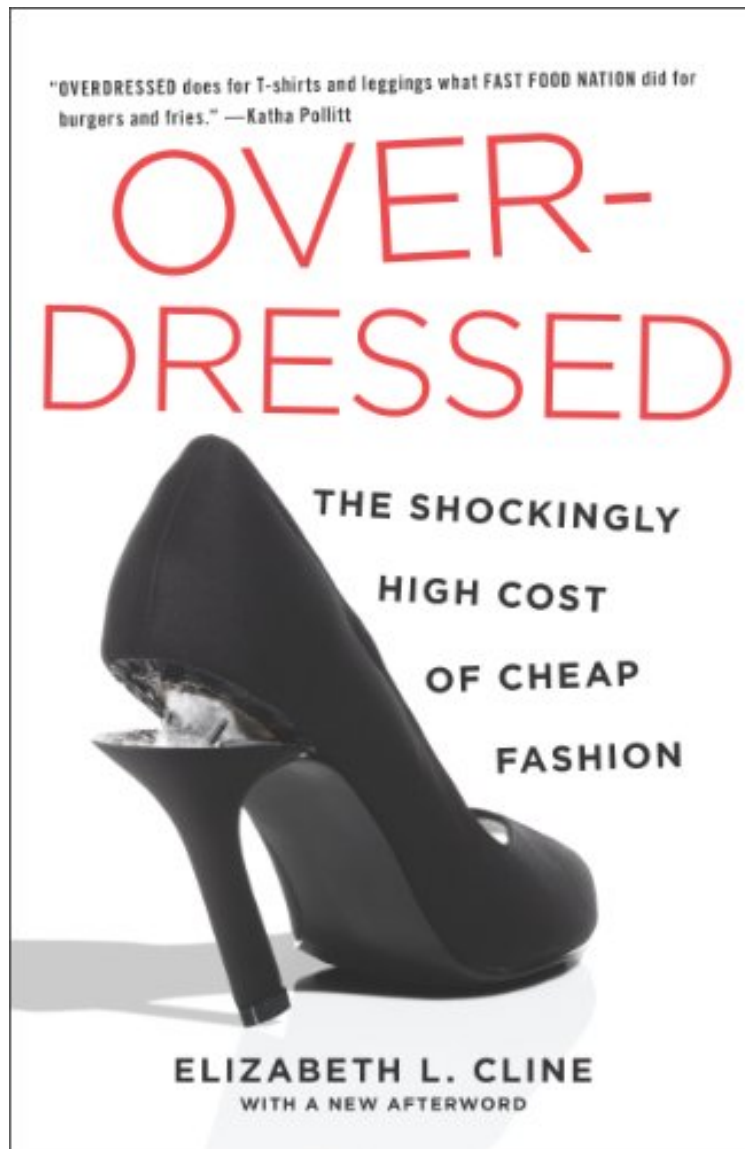


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Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion

Elizabeth L. Cline

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Elizabeth L. Cline : Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Loved the general messageBy Megan M.I liked the general message of this book, which is to think before you buy. The facts about the factories and working conditions were enough to make me think about how I approach buying clothes. While there doesn't seem to be a real solution to this issue (until clothing companies stop the vicious cycle of fast fashion), I wish the author presented a few more alternatives than

making your own clothes. It's just not a realistic option for many people. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Everyone Should Read This By Cindy Vojnovic Even though I was not clueless before reading this book, this was a real eye-opener. It's an easy read, her first person narrative makes it read like an exciting story. But don't let that fool you-it's packed with information, hard statistics, and thoughtful analysis. I apparently had more of a clue than the author claims to have had when she began writing this book, and still found it an extremely worthwhile as well as interesting read. The way it's written, I think just about anyone on the awareness scale can get something out of this book. It's the kind of book you are going to want to talk about, and give to others to read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm not sure why this has some negative reviews, ... By Stephanie S. I'm not sure why this has some negative reviews, because I found it extremely interesting and well-researched. There are a few typos and grammatical errors, but none that made the book difficult to understand. I'm currently loaning it to a friend who is also enjoying all the information.

Until recently, Elizabeth Cline was a typical American consumer. She'd grown accustomed to shopping at outlet malls, discount stores like T.J. Maxx, and cheap but trendy retailers like Forever 21, Target, and HM. She was buying a new item of clothing almost every week (the national average is sixty-four per year) but all she had to show for it was a closet and countless storage bins packed full of low-quality fads she barely wore, including the same sailor-stripe tops and fleece hoodies as a million other shoppers. When she found herself lugging home seven pairs of identical canvas flats from Kmart (a steal at \$7 per pair, marked down from \$15!), she realized that something was deeply wrong. Cheap fashion has fundamentally changed the way most Americans dress. Stores ranging from discounters like Target to traditional chains like JCPenney now offer the newest trends at unprecedentedly low prices. Retailers are producing clothes at enormous volumes in order to drive prices down and profits up, and they've turned clothing into a disposable good. After all, we have little reason to keep wearing and repairing the clothes we already own when styles change so fast and it's cheaper to just buy more. But what are we doing with all these cheap clothes? And more important, what are they doing to us, our society, our environment, and our economic well-being? In *Overdressed*, Cline sets out to uncover the true nature of the cheap fashion juggernaut, tracing the rise of budget clothing chains, the death of middle-market and independent retailers, and the roots of our obsession with deals and steals. She travels to cheap-chic factories in China, follows the fashion industry as it chases even lower costs into Bangladesh, and looks at the impact (both here and abroad) of America's drastic increase in imports. She even explores how cheap fashion harms the charity thrift shops and textile recyclers where our masses of clothing castoffs end up. Sewing, once a life skill for American women and a pathway from poverty to the middle class for workers, is now a dead-end sweatshop job. The pressures of cheap have forced retailers to drastically reduce detail and craftsmanship, making the clothes we wear more and more uniform, basic, and low quality. Creative independent designers struggle to produce good and sustainable clothes at affordable prices. Cline shows how consumers can break the buy-and-toss cycle by supporting innovative and stylish sustainable designers and retailers, refashioning clothes throughout their lifetimes, and mending and even making clothes themselves. *Overdressed* will inspire you to vote with your dollars and find a path back to being well dressed and feeling good about what you wear.