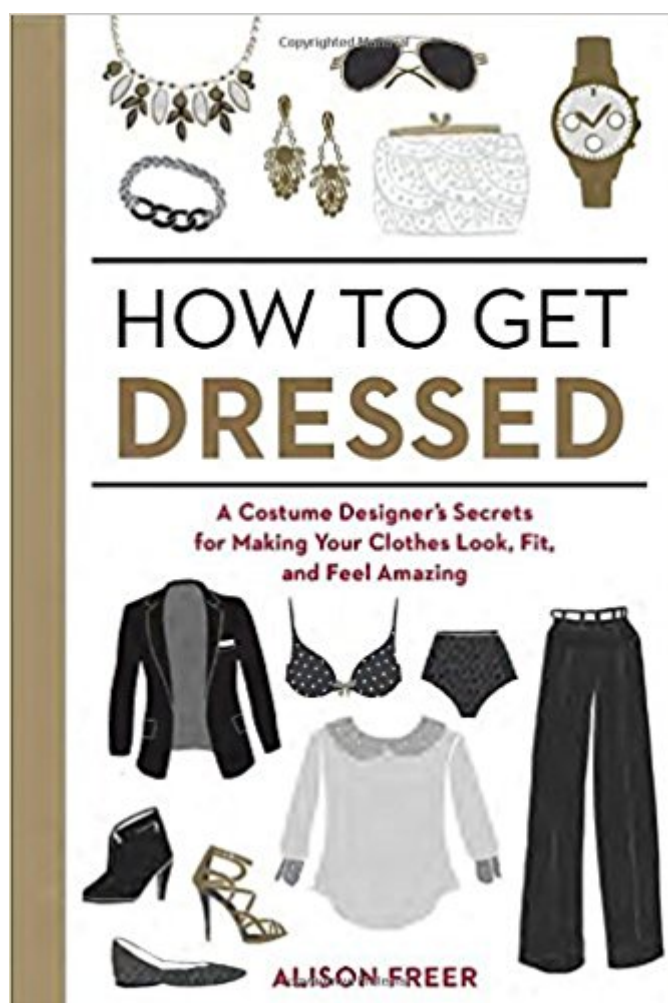


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# How To Get Dressed: A Costume Designer's Secrets For Making Your Clothes Look, Fit, And Feel Amazing



## 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 "rules," 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

A New York Times Best Seller"Professional costume designer Freer spills all her secrets for transforming your closet into a truly functional wardrobe. Her tips tackle clothing fitting issues, closet organization, undergarment truths, brilliant thrifting tips, and more. For someone looking to overhaul

their closet, this is not a book to miss."--Bustle"Freer has quite a few styling tricks up her sleeve, and now it's easier for everyone to gain access to her straight-forward advice for cheap. Her new book *How To Get Dressed* gets to the nitty-gritty of revamping your wardrobe."--Huffington Post"[Freer is] refreshingly down-to-earth in her first book, which is packed full of helpful tips for building and maintaining a stylish wardrobe . . . for those looking for a comprehensive and highly readable clothes-care book, this is the one."--Publishers Weekly"Alison really nails the basics of good style while allowing room for readers to inject their own personality into a look. Most of all, her writing constantly reminds me of what fashion is really supposed to be: fun for everyone."--Jane Pratt, founder of xoJane.com "Years in the trenches of Hollywood have made Alison Freer an authority on every single clothing problem that could befall a person. As a result, this book is crammed full of wardrobe tricks that really work and is a truly indispensable guide to getting dressed."--Nancy Jo Sales, Author of *The Bling Ring* and contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*"Not everyone can have two maids at her beck and call. Alison is right about many things, but mainly this: ironing really is for mere mortal humans. Her purrrfect fashion advice will have you looking your very best (but not better than moi!). Two paws up, dahhhlings!"--Ashley Tschudin, Official Voice of Choupette Lagerfeld, @ChoupettesDiary

ALISON FREER is a costume designer from Texas living and working in Hollywood. With more than 150 TV shows, films, commercials, and music videos under her belt, she has reams of hard-won, practical wardrobe expertise at her fingertips. Alison is also the clothes editor at xoJane.com, where her unique take on how to solve common fashion and style conundrums has won her a dedicated following. Alison is also a contributing editor to Racked.com, in addition to hosting TLC's *A Makeover Story* during its fifth season. She also appeared on Melissa River's *TV Candy* on the TV Guide network as the show's resident style expert.

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). If there's a problem with your clothes that you can think of, Alison likely has a quick fix in her book. The best part of *How to get Dressed* is Alison herself. Her personality and voice are clear in her writing, and you feel like you are BFFs with her by the end of the book. While she is incredibly knowledgeable, all this information would be a snooze in the hands of another writer, but Alison keeps the book moving along. It's not just a reference book to look things up in for future use, but also just a pleasant, entertaining read (and I rarely read nonfiction for pleasure). Unlike those fashion magazines I mentioned before, Alison doesn't try to say "this style is better for this body type" or "this is unflattering for this body type," but instead she tells you how to make your clothes fit your body. In fact, some clothes that you might think are unflattering could be extremely flattering if they were properly fitted to you! When I read fashion magazines, I feel like I need to throw out all my clothes and start over, which is of course totally impossible and cost prohibitive. But with *How to Get Dressed*, I feel like I already have a lot to work with, most of my clothes just need some extra love to really sing. Alison really supports every woman (or man) as an individual. As she says in her book, the fashion "rules" we've heard all our lives are really just to make us all dress and look the same, and that is so boring I could scream! Alison has a chapter about finding and nurturing your signature style. I love this idea, because without a signature style in mind, I feel like I am just buying whatever I see in stores, but not putting my own spin on it, which results in me dressing just like everyone else. Alison makes no judgment on different styles, and is supportive of everyone's unique style. I think that's what I love most about Alison, and *How to Get Dressed*. I didn't feel like I needed to change who I am in order to look great, or buy a bunch of new expensive clothes. It's the only book or magazine I've read that emphasizes the fact that every style and every body can look and feel great. Buy this book! Buy it now, and start feeling great in the clothes you already own!

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. I absolutely love this book, and plan on buying copies for a friend's daughter who's graduating high school, my sister for her birthday, and a new mom for mother's day. There's so much useful stuff in here for any point in your life, because everyone wants to get more out of their clothes, and this book tells you how.

Of all the books I've bought and checked out from the library about how to dress my figure, I think this is my favorite. *What Not to Wear* would have my body type in mid-rise jeans, but after reading this I switched to low rise and I look and feel better in my jeans. It's an easy and interested read and I loved all the insights into how celebrities dress to fool our eyes - so interesting!

I liked this book. I can't say I loved it because it ended up not really being what I was looking for. That being said, it was a fun read and I definitely learned plenty! I just had my last baby and tossed the majority of my weird in-between babies wardrobe I've been making work for the past five years. I was looking for help in putting together a wardrobe. This wasn't that. I really did appreciate all the tips though, from proper laundry routines to storing everything from clothes to earrings. I'll even be using some of the ideas for my kids' clothes storage. And the confirmation that dry cleaning is mostly a rip-off was definitely worth the price of the book. This is a really well written, fun book. I

can't call it a necessity, but I think my wardrobe will be better for reading it!

This was a very useful book, not so much about how to dress, which I thought was the key topic, but about storing and maintaining clothes. This may be a less sexy topic but it has far more resonance for those of us with loads of clothing and limited space. I also loved reading about the authors personal experiences in tv and film in professional costume. She writes very amusing stories about her job.

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