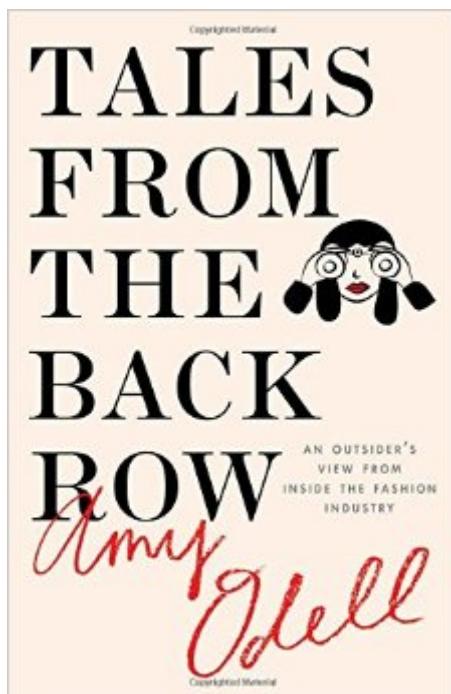


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Tales From The Back Row: An Outsider's View From Inside The Fashion Industry



Synopsis

"Hilarious, insightful and smart. A must-read for anyone who wears clothes." - Chelsea Handler

*US Weekly, "Riveting Reads for Labor Day" * Bustle, "2015 Books Every Funny Woman Should Read" • and "September 2015's Best Books" * Refinery29 "Fall's Most Highly Anticipated Nonfiction Reads" * theSkimm, "Skimm Reads" * Popsugar, "Motivational Books You Should Read this Fall" * AM NY, "New Books for New Yorkers to Read This Fall" * The Lowdown on High Fashion Cosmopolitan.com editor Amy Odell knows what it's really like to be a young woman working in the fashion industry. In *Tales from the Back Row*, Amy's "funny and fearless" takes readers behind the stage of New York's hottest fashion shows to meet the world's most influential models, designers, celebrities, editors, and photographers. But first, she has to push her way through the crowds outside, where we see the lengths people go to be noticed by the lurking paparazzi, and weave her way through the packed venue, from the very back row to the front. And as Amy climbs the ladder (with tips about how you can, too), she introduces an industry powered by larger-than-life characters: she meets the intimidating Anna Wintour and the surprisingly gracious Rachel Zoe, not to mention the hilarious Chelsea Handler, and more. As she describes the allure of Alexander Wang's ripped tights and Marchesa's Oscar-worthy dresses, Amy artfully layers in something else: ultimately this book is about how the fashion industry is an exaggerated mirror of human fallibility "reflecting our desperate desire to belong, to make a mark, to be included. For Amy is the first to admit that as much as she is embarrassed by the thrill she gets when she receives an invitation to an exclusive after-party, she can't help but RSVP "yes."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have to take what Odell's says as truth for the most part since she is writing about stuff I only glimpse via the occasional Project Runway in the background or seeing critics go after who wore what on some red carpet. I mean I know what fashion is in the loosest sense. But Odell's take is from the inside. No matter what the title says. Yes she is much lower on the totem pole than Anna Wintour (I do know who she is! but that is from watching Sixty Minutes more than anything else I have to admit). Much, much lower. And that self-realization of where she sits in the scheme of things makes this book. My main problem is that I did not find it that funny. Or wry. Or clever. Let alone hilarious as some people who get paid to form such opinions burbled. That is not to say that is dull and dry and lacking any charm. For the most part. Odell does have a charming voice via her writing. And she does a wonderful job of capturing some of the absurdities without seeming to bite the hand that feeds her as it were. She does like what 'fashion' is overall even if she also points out the warts. But there is simply no verve to the book. There are moments where just too much information gets piled on that the book lost momentum too many times. This might be fascinating to others. But I suspect most of those others know what kind of shoes to wear with a blue suit. Or which patterns inexplicably go together (says the reader that thinks it is daring to match a striped dress shirt with a subtly patterned tie). I was hoping for more outsider I think. Dare I say more snide look at the outrageous world of the fashion industry and why New York suddenly can be horrid to those of us that are visitors no matter how often or long we stay.

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