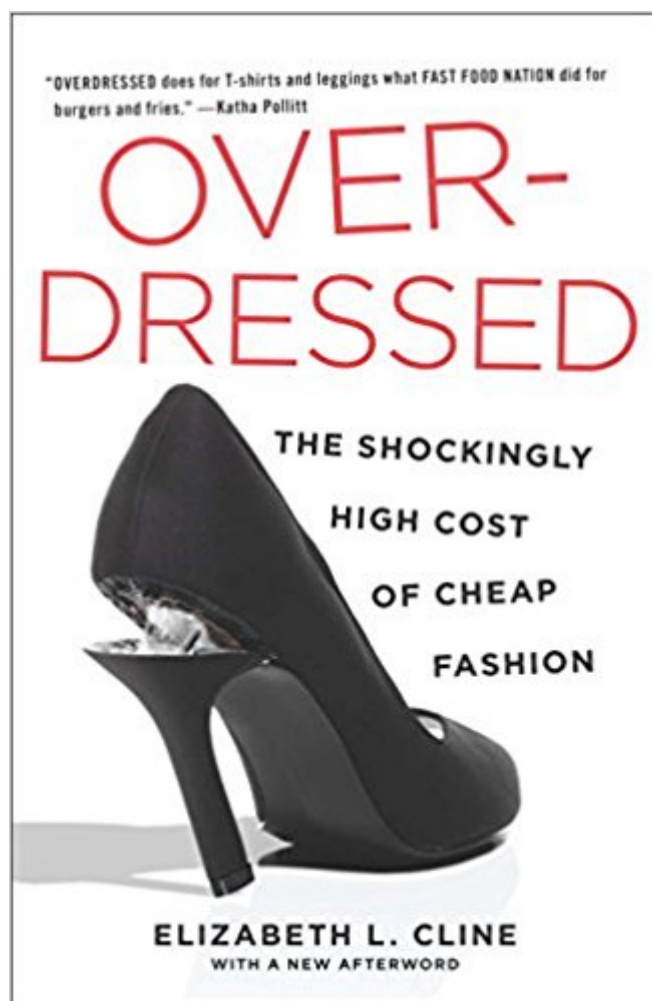


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# Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost Of Cheap Fashion



## Synopsis

“Overdressed does for T-shirts and leggings what Fast Food Nation did for burgers and fries. Cheap fashion has fundamentally changed the way most Americans dress. Stores ranging from discounters like Target to traditional chains like JCPenny now offer the newest trends at unprecedentedly low prices. And 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. Cline sets out to uncover the true nature of the cheap fashion juggernaut. 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?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Cline is the Michael Pollan of fashion. Hysterical levels of sartorial consumption are terrible for the environment, for workers, and even, ironically, for the way we look. Michelle Goldberg, Newsweek/The Daily Beast

“How did Americans end up with closets crammed with flimsy, ridiculously cheap garments? Elizabeth Cline travels the world to trace the rise of fast fashion and its cost in human misery, environmental damage, and common sense. Cheap fashion has fundamentally changed the way most Americans dress. Stores ranging from discounters like Target to traditional chains like JCPenny now offer the newest trends at unprecedentedly low prices. And 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. Cline sets out to uncover the true nature of the cheap fashion juggernaut. 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? Cline’s insightful book reveals the serious problems facing our industry today. The tremendous values and advantages of domestic production are often ignored in favor of a price point that makes clothing disposable.

•Erica Wolf, executive director, Save the Garment Center

Elizabeth L. Cline has written for AMCtv.com, The Daily Beast, New York, The Etsy Blog, Popular Science, The New Republic, The Village Voice and seedmagazine.com. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Visit [www.overdressedthebook.com](http://www.overdressedthebook.com)

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.

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.

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.

This book reminds me of my younger years when buying clothes was intentional, infrequent and felt like a special occasion. We took care of our clothes and made the most of every piece because we had to. For the good of the planet we should return to that thinking.

Written by a reformed cheap-clothes shopaholic, this book is an interesting, well written, non-sanctimonious look at how our choices in clothing impact people, economies and the environment. Most interesting to me was what happens to the clothes we donate. The writer also offers helpful alternatives to the cheap clothes trap that don't sacrifice fashion savviness.

The intro of this book has a much more anecdotal, conversational, engaging style. I'm about half way in and it's much more dry and factual. She doesn't have that Seth Godin touch of making things really interesting. I think I'll get through it eventually.

Cline's book explores the often ignored social and environmental implications of fast fashion, which is much needed in today's H&M-saturated marketplace. At first, it was hard for me to relate to her writing, since it was hard for me to read a fashion book from the perspective of someone who doesn't love fashion, and who conducts an interview for the book while wearing a polyester tank top from JCPenney that cost less than \$3 on clearance. But Cline's views of the value of clothing changes as the book progresses, and her journey is informative and inspirational. I highly recommend this book - and already have recommended it to numerous friends.

This book is simply a must-read for anyone who wears clothes. That basic fact of life in the twenty-first century could not be more different from what it was even a decade ago, let alone at this point back in the twentieth century. People from that era would not believe the clothing industry of today! Ms. Cline thoroughly researched her subject matter, visiting offshore clothing manufacturers while posing as a potential client. That subterfuge allowed her to get an inside look at realities most of the purchasing public knows absolutely nothing about. If you had read this book, for example, you would not have been surprised that Ralph Lauren had the uniforms for our American Olympic team manufactured in China. What else is manufactured outside of the U.S. for sale here? It's incredible, and it's information that totally changed my outlook on clothes buying. I've gotten back to my sewing machine and have begun to value sewing skills that I had let slide for several years. Even if sewing is not for you at all, this book will enlighten you about an everyday necessity with a complex back story. Ms. Cline tells that story in fascinating detail and does the buying public a valuable service.

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