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On The Button: The Significance Of An Ordinary Item



Synopsis

What do you use every day that is small and large, worthless and beyond price? It's easily found in the gutter, yet you may never be able to replace it. You are always losing it, but it faithfully protects you; sexy and uptight, it is knitted in to your affections or it may give you nightmares. It has led to conflict, fostered and repressed political and religious change, and epitomizes the great aesthetic movements. It's Eurocentric, and is found all over the world. On the Button is an inventive and unusual exploration of the cultural history of the button, illustrated with a multiplicity of buttons in black and white and color. It tells tales of a huge variety of the button's forms and functions, its sometimes uncompromising glamour, its stronghold in fashion and literature, its place in the visual arts, its association with crime and death, and its tender call to nostalgia and the sentimental. There have been works addressed to the button collector and general cultural histories, but On the Button links the two, revealing why we are so attracted to buttons, and how they punch way above their weight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Nina Edwards knows everything you might want to know about buttons, and much more that you have never imagined. Her book is a tour de force, and full of interesting stories." - Alison Lurie, novelist and author of *The Language of Clothes* "The author sums it up best herself in the end. 'This book...has turned into somewhat of a maze....' It is a maze of delightful exploration and discovery. Not a button's collector's handbook, to be sure but an engaging, in-depth account of the

button's connection to the many facets of our lives."" - New Hampshire State Button Society

Nina Edwards is a freelance writer. She is also an actor and lives in London.

This book is a marvel! I have tagged passages and new information non-stop! Her opening chapter is the best essay I have ever read on what buttons mean to button collectors!

This is a great book for those who love buttons and are interested in the history of buttons. Lots of research went into this book. Wish there were more illustrations.

The book just arrived, I haven't read it yet. I'm sorry it doesn't have more colored pages and I didn't realize it was a British book.

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