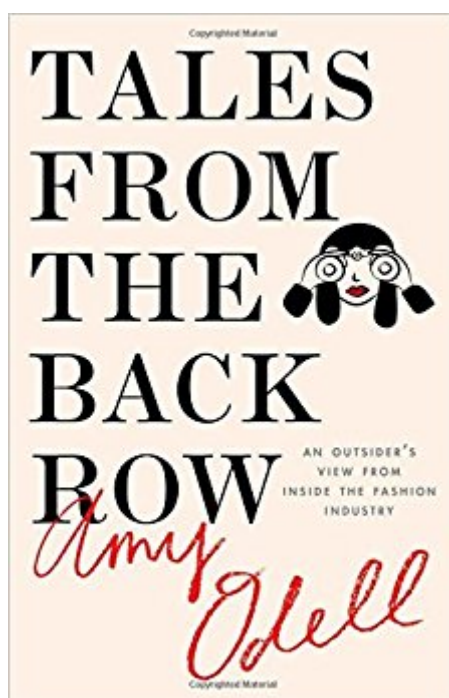


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# Tales From The Back Row: An Outsiderâ€™s View From Inside The Fashion Industry



## 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 to eyes."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Hilarious, insightful and smart. A must-read for anyone who wears clothes." (Chelsea Handler)"Book Report" rating...a witty and candid "outsider's" view from inside the fashion industry, complete with an intimidating Anna Wintour encounter." (In Touch)"Odell's shamelessly dry, very smart wit is blogger-perfect, but it translates well into writing reverentially and intelligently about fashion. Whether or not you also love to hate or hate to love the fashion world, you will straight-up adore Amy Odell's candid observations and anecdotes culled from her years covering the runways." (Bustle, "September 2015's Best Books")"This delightful book of essays by Cosmopolitan.com editor Amy Odell pulls back the curtain and shows that it's not always so fabulous climbing the fashion ladder." (Refinery29, "Fall's Most Highly Anticipated Nonfiction Reads")"A funny, insightful debut." (Harper's Bazaar)"Whether you're interested in pursuing a career in publishing, public relations or design, or you're just fascinated with what really goes on behind-the-scenes without the usual sugarcoating, we'd say this is required reading." (Fashionista.com)"A backstage pass to the intimidating, backbiting industry." (US Weekly)"Just delicious." (Book Riot)"A great and almost natural comic narrative, laced with lots of name-dropping, will evoke chuckles and a sigh of relief that there are no reader portraits." (Booklist)"Funny, insightful and relatable to pretty much anyone who works in media." (AM NY)"If you haven't snagged any invites (to NYFW), let Tales from the Back Row, Cosmopolitan.com Editor Amy Odell's first book, out now, transport you." (Trending NY)"TALES FROM THE BACK ROW takes you from the hottest fashion shows to the coolest after parties, along the decidedly unglamorous roads Amy Odell travels to get there. Don't miss this terrific debut. It's better than landing the most coveted seat at fashion week." (Lauren Weisberger, New York Times bestselling author of Revenge Wears Prada and The Devil Wears Prada)"Amy is one of my favorite people in the fashion industry. She's smart, stylish and simply not a dick." (Grace Helbig)"TALES FROM THE BACK ROW is a delicious peek behind the curtain of fame and fashion. Amy Odell doesn't pull any punches—not at the industry, the celebrities circling it, or even at herself—and her insider dish will make you laugh out loud." (The Fug Girls)

Amy Odell is the editor of Cosmopolitan.com. Chief amongst her interests are cats and Beyoncé. She is a feminist (thank you for asking) and the author of Tales from the Back Row.

This book is a must read for anyone who likes to laugh. The insight is smart, hilarious, and unlike anything I've ever read before. Besides making me laugh, Odell made this book extremely inspiring without sounding cliché and boring. My friends loved this book too, so we're doing a book club on it and I can't wait!

As someone who's spent a chunk of her career on the fringe of the NYC fashion/journalism scene, I really wanted to like--possibly be inspired by--this book, but ultimately these "essays" were disappointing. Odell repeats herself over and over, which makes me think she only has a handful of stories from her past she feels are worth relaying (and--oh, gee--they happen to be the ones full of name drops). The whole chapter about the VS show felt like a random stab at "real" journalism, but she blatantly admits there wasn't a story there worth reporting in the first place. Why on earth, then, did it wind up in the book?!

She is too cautious .... The book is so boring..... Every time you think she's going to tell us something we don't know, a new chapter comes along , drawing out a scene few ever see or care about .

Tales From the Back Row takes you behind the scenes of the New York fashion world and the celebrity party circuit--rarified places few of us get to enter. Odell describes her experiences as a young reporter and blogger working her way up from the bottom rung of the journalism ladder. She sees through the fashion world's fancy facades to reveal how ridiculous much of what goes on there really is. While the book is funny, entertaining and a very enjoyable read, I also found it heartfelt and honest. I think it will appeal to most everyone looking for a fun read. Millennials and people interested in fashion and the media will find it indispensable.

Amy Odell is hilarious and this book is a treasure. It's a good, juicy, behind the scenes read about fashion from someone who is not part of the world and so she dishes on all the things a non-fashion person wants to know about. This is a book I'll read more than once because the stories are so damn good. A++++

A lovely window into New York Fashion week's idiosyncracies inside the fashion shows and outside on the streets. Filled with humor, some tongue in cheek moments, Odell provided a candid synopsis of the confluence between bloggers, editors, designers, celebrities, and photographers.

Both prudential and proprietary, her account was not superfluous and enjoyable to read.

I've been following Amy's writing online since she started out at the Cut, and have always loved her hilarious & witty writing style. This book is a really fun look into the fashion industry from someone who's followed it closely for years but never really succumbed to the craze of it all. My background is in tech, so fashion is a bit of a mystery to me, although I can appreciate it. If nothing else, books like this are a reminder that every industry is a bit wild and crazy when you're on the inside. I definitely enjoyed reading it!

I was hoping this would be a good read for my fashion students, but I couldn't finish it. It wasn't interesting enough.

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