



Killer Fashion: Poisonous Petticoats, Strangling Scarves, and Other Deadly Garments Throughout History

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A beautifully illustrated book about deadly fashion—real historical stories of strangulation by scarves, neckbreaking high heels, and riot-causing top hats—from the author of the popular histories *Get Well Soon* and *It Ended Badly*

Isadora Duncan was Red
Put on a scarf; popped off her head
Fashion is silly, thought Stein
It may tear your head from your spine

A darkly comic book about some surprisingly lethal garments. Featuring stories like the untimely demise of dancer Isadora Duncan caused by her signature red scarf and the bloody riot that greeted the appearance of the first top hat, among many others, these bite-size accounts will frighten and delight. *Killer Fashion* includes over twenty of these short tales along with beautiful full-page illustrations. Both morbid and humorous, this book will appeal to fans of Edward Gorey and dark historical trivia.

Killer Fashion: Poisonous Petticoats, Strangling Scarves, and Other Deadly Garments Throughout History Details

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From Reader Review Killer Fashion: Poisonous Petticoats, Strangling Scarves, and Other Deadly Garments Throughout History for online ebook

Jessi ♥? H. Vojsk says

This was a really great illustrated book about fashion that went up in flames, that poisoned you with the gas they created when you wash them or when they go up in flames and a lot more.

It was kind of creepy, surprising and really different.

Starbubbles says

I really liked this, but I felt the sections were too short. I'm just a nerd who has a thirst for knowledge. Fashion knowledge! Mwahaha!

The poems were good too! I'm glad i finally got to read this.

Kirsty says

When I was a teenager, my goals were Wednesday Addams and Lydia Deetz, and I would have loved this book in my Christmas stocking. Who knew there were so many flammable fashions? Every other page is an item of clothing that makes you catch fire (some of them even self-ignite). Honestly, based on this I'm pretty surprised that all of humanity hasn't burned to death. If you're looking for a small Halloween present or Christmas stocking filler for a fashion student or any spooky-cute folk you know, this is ideal.

Konstantin says

Wright somehow made morbid historical trivia and hidden killers boring, which I didn't think was possible. Some of the anecdotes are over-the-top and obviously have a lot of filler, while the others are all too well known. The illustrations were lovely and whimsical, though. Nothing too see here, I'm afraid.

Daniel Kibblesmith says

Funny, illuminating, grim, tiny, and beautifully illustrated and designed, I love this Gorey-homaging educational journey through fashion history. And if I saw a top hat for the first time, I would trample people too. This should be a History Channel show with animated interludes.

Cassidy (Reminders of the Changing Time) says

To see all of my book-related content, check out my blog @ <http://bit.ly/2zzVt0R>

A quick and darkly funny read that traces the trends of fashion history - and each of their dangers. From garments all over the world, to the items synonymous with different eras of history, Killer Fashion reveals the risks that even the most mundane of them pose to the person wearing them. I mean, who knew that high heels, collars and even scarves had the power to kill someone?

In just 58 pages, Jennifer Wright leaves the reader with a new perspective and more knowledge on the topic of fashion throughout history, in the easy-breezy way that only humorous books like Killer Fashion seems to be able to. With the help of jaunty verses and illustrations, it manages to convey truly awful historic events in a way that both, explores their brutality and turns them on their head to give them a darkly-funny edge.

This book is the perfect way to chuckle along to and, with the format that it is in, no matter how many times that you've read it, you'll be able to come back to it over and over again.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for sending me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Head on over to <http://bit.ly/2y7JSWV> for this book, as well as all of the others featured in my reviews, complete with the added bonuses of free worldwide shipping and bringing a little joy to my life.

InkedBookDragon says

<https://inkedbookdragon.blogspot.com>

Fashion can be deadly. There is no denying that. I have gotten many scarves caught on things or stumbled in my shoes. I am sure we all have had a mishap at some point and our clothes were partially to blame. Scarves plus car doors can definitely be a recipe for disaster. I once witnessed a man get his coat caught in a bus door and the bus started moving with him running next to it. That could have ended very badly if someone had not seen it and told the driver. Fashion has killer potential.

I just finished "Killer Fashion: Poisonous Petticoats, Strangulating Scarves, and Other Deadly Garments Throughout History" by Jennifer Wright. Many of the items discussed I knew about but some of them surprised me. It wasn't so much the fact that they were dangerous that surprised me but the fact that people still continued to wear or use them when they fully knew that they could die from it. I am currently thinking of all the deadly objects that are currently residing in my closet.

I received a free copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Any quotes that may follow are directly from the text and are not my words.

Isadora Duncan was Red
Put on a scarf; popped off her head
Fashion is silly, thought Stein
It may tear your head from your spine

I am not quite sure what it says about me when I admit that I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I could not help but chuckle and smile when reading the little poems that accompanied the information. Historical incidents

for deadly objects and insidious habits are shown throughout this work, demonstrating the amount of research performed by the author. The illustrations and poetry definitely add a comical component to a very macabre subject.

My morbid curiosity led me to this book and I am glad it did. I highly recommend it.

Devann says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

This was a fun book detailing a lot of the horrible [and sometimes downright stupid] ways that people have endangered themselves for the name of fashion. I enjoyed the illustrations, the entries were short and informative, and there's even a bibliography in the back if you want to do some more reading. However I've got two complaints with this. The first is kind of nit-picky but I would have liked for the fashions to be in something resembling chronological order so we could see more of the evolution of one thing to another rather than just random entries.

The second is that while I know this was just supposed to be a short fun work I feel like there could have been some entry in the front or back about how even though there are a few fashions in here specific to men 'killer fashion' is mostly a gendered phenomenon and is rooted both in seeing women as more decoration than actual people and in some cases even purposely restricting their movements to make it harder to exert / defend themselves physically. I feel like this is an important thing to touch on when talking about this kind of history even in a work like this and was a bit put off that it wasn't even mentioned in passing.

Jennifer Wright says

The Author is biased,
But this tiny tome,
Of fashion fatalities,
Is a simply Must-Own.

From crinoline fires,
To a top hat-fueled riot,
To head-popping scarves!
I insist that you buy it.

annie k says

Honestly, the more I read (or watch...I heart documentaries) about our collective historic fashion faux pas and interests, the more out of fashion I wish to be. Granted, I'm not that far removed from total unfashionableness anyway, but...

Also, the entire industry has always been infuriating, hasn't it? I mean, procuring entire railway cars to bring your madness tainted workforce to and fro' instead of, I dunno, using non-madness inducing ingredients in

the production of goods seems a bit... wrong. Keeping the facts of radium exposure from young fashionable gals who like to look cute at the clubs... argh ?

I decided on my 4-Star rating because I wasn't tickled with some of the poetry (though I should make it 5-Stars, as the entire book is tame enough to introduce younger people to the foibles of one's fashion obsessions). Love the illustrations!

Manon says

I was provided an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Killer Fashion listed all kind of fashionable items that ever killed people. Each item had two pages. One with a text explaining how it had kill and mentioning an example, the other page had an illustration and a pretty sarcastic poem.

I really enjoyed it. I learnt stuff and laughed a bit too much. The illustrations were beautifully drawn and the poems, hilarious.

A perfect sarcastic read for fashion lovers and haters, though it could have been longer!

Schizanthus says

? Fashionably Fatal Friday the 13th Feature ?

While I strongly believe that clothing's not supposed to hurt you, there are plenty of people that don't seem to have a problem with suffering in the name of fashion. There are heels that ruin your feet, jeans so skinny the logo button ends up imprinted on your belly, clothes you can't sit down in, clothes that make you sweat, clothes that make you freeze, and ties that should come with a choking hazard warning.

But what lengths would you go to in order to pull off the latest style?

Is a fashionable death in **your** future?

I loved *Killer Fashion: Poisonous Petticoats, Strangulating Scarves, and Other Deadly Garments Throughout History* so much that it has inspired me to break out in poetry to give you a taste of some of the wonderfully wacky causes of death in this book.

Disclaimer: I know some of these 'rhymes' don't exactly rhyme but you will never, **ever** hear me claim that I think I'm a poet.

Radium's glow makes you look hot
Until your jaw begins to rot

Your fancy bra's underwire

May conduct that lightning's ire

Are you ready to break your toes
To fit into tiny shoes like those?

Dye turns dark hair pale
Until your kidneys fail

Lice crawl all around your wig
And that mouse is mighty big

A man lay dying in the gutter
"Blame that skirt", they heard him utter

Breathe in those toxic fumes
And you'll soon go looney tunes

Fake silky attire was a phase
Until it set the room ablaze

Wear makeup laced with lead
And you'll soon look pretty dead

With plenty of opportunities to die gruesome deaths for both men and women, for wearers and makers of the often toxic or flammable items, Jennifer Wright's quirky book is perfect for those strange and unusual kindred spirits of mine who gravitate towards equally strange and unusual books.

While I had heard of some of these torture devices and death traps disguised as clothes and accessories throughout history prior to reading this book, I hadn't read them in such an entertaining way before. I also learned a lot more than I would have expected from a book that's under 60 pages.

With quotes from such sources as newspapers, a magazine and a medical journal, and including citations that allow those of us who are so inclined to delve deeper, *Killer Fashion* is one of those books I got a lot more morbid enjoyment out of than I should probably admit.

Each fashion item is allocated two pages. One page has a paragraph ranging from a few sentences to a page of information. The opposite page has a four line poem under an almost full page illustration. Using black, white, grey and red (of course!), Brenna Thummler's illustrations ramp up the quirky factor nicely. Skeletal flapper girls dancing on stage? Brilliant! Just brilliant!

I definitely need to read this book again and investigate some of the books referenced throughout. I'm saying this with the greatest respect to the book, its author and illustrator; this would be a perfect gift book for the weirdo in your life. I would **love** it if someone bought a copy for me!

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley (thank you so much to NetGalley and Andrews McMeel Publishing for the opportunity) in exchange for honest feedback.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

Instagram || Twitter || Facebook || Amazon || Pinterest

Your clothes... are trying to *murder* you.

Now that I've gotten your attention - no, seriously, your clothes really are trying to murder you, and they've got a rap-sheet about a mile long.

KILLER FASHION is about deadly garments - and also deadly cosmetics, deadly wigs, deadly hair dye... it takes the word "garments" and stretches it a little far. But anyway, KILLER FASHION is about things you can wear (but probably shouldn't) that are actually deadly, or...err, potentially deadly?

Some of these things are obviously bad, like the mercury that used to be in the felt of hats, which is why hatters were called "mad hatters." Or the lead that used to be in makeup. Or the ammonia and bleach(!) concoction that Jean Harlow allegedly used to get her signature platinum blonde look.

Others are... kind of lame. Like, bras - because the underwire can cause you to be shocked by lightning (seriously?). Or heels - because you might trip and fall. Or neck-ties... because some psychopath might grab you by your tie and strangle you with it. In those instances, I wouldn't say it's the clothing that's deadly - it's the weather, the carelessness, and the innate psychotic behavior in certain human beings that are contributing to one's demise.

Also, these "killer" fashion objects are arranged in alphabetical order, but certain letters are skipped. That felt lazy to me (almost as lazy as writing about deadly lightning conducting bras, hmm?). I noticed you skipped Q - you could have done *qipao*, which has a spot of dark history during the Qing dynasty. There was also no "P", I believe, and you could have *totally* done "piercings" for that, which can be incredibly dangerous if done poorly, especially if done near arteries as in the tongue. Likewise, skinny jeans (I can't remember if there was a "J") cause nerve damage if worn too tightly. This is just off the top of my head, people.

I wanted to like KILLER FASHION more than I did, but it felt like a forced and half-assed effort. The poetry in here made the book feel young (how old is the intended audience for this book?), and the collection of "deadly" clothing assembled could have been, well, deadlier. I learned some new facts, which I'm always

grateful for, but this collection really fell short of my expectations.

Thanks to Netgalley/the publisher for the review copy!

2.5 stars

[Shai] Bibliophage says

Killer Fashion is a very informative and quite an entertaining book to read. This 48-page book tackles some of the fashion mishaps in the history that will leave you shocked in the end. I just found a certain illustration in this picture book to be not as exactly the trivia it wants to portray; the artwork for the Lotus Feet looks like more Japanese instead of Chinese women.

In spite of this minor inaccuracy, the facts about the invention and the terrible accidents caused by these peculiar fashion trends provides interesting information. Indeed, fashion kills unintentionally. ***Some will follow the fad even though they might not aware that their lives are at stake — because of fame and for aesthetic purposes, they will sacrifice anything just to appear glamorous.***

Madalyn (Novel Ink) says

1.) This was so much fun, and 2.) yep, I'm officially all the way obsessed with Jennifer Wright now.
