



City Chic: An Urban Girl's Guide to Livin' Large on Less

Nina Willdorf

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Urban Girls work hard and play even harder. They have an eye for style that is only slowed by a budgetary bottom line. They live the lifestyles of the not-at-all-rich and the not-just-yet-famous. Soon enough, they will be superstars, oozing savoir-faire. But for now, before they assume the helm of the boardroom table, they still have their secret ways of living the good life.

City Chic is a practical, insiders' primer on how to squeeze the most style out of a small salary, how to creatively cheat at looking chic for cheap. From food and drink to personal maintenance to clothes to home decor, City Chic covers everything an Urban Girl needs to know.

- Big-idea decorating for small spaces
- Financially sound fitness techniques
- Cash-saving culinary tips
- Shopping sales calendars-by day, month and season
- and so much more!

City Chic: An Urban Girl's Guide to Livin' Large on Less Details

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From Reader Review City Chic: An Urban Girl's Guide to Livin' Large on Less for online ebook

Speeda says

This book is probably useful if you are living on your own for the first time in New York City, having to scale back from a place of relative wealth but still wanting to decorate your home and body in a tasteful manner -- think "Girls".

However, you're better off surfing the internet if you've been schlepping away for years in a smaller urban center and are looking to figure out some new short cuts.

This is because the author is deeply rooted in her own location and reality. There are almost no references to transportation costs because it is assumed the reader is living somewhere with an awesome bus or train system, but there are six chapters exploring sample sales and \$200 monthly clothing budgets. I don't recall any substantial content about credit cards, negotiating the lease on the apartment you're told how to decorate, job hunting, or pets, though I think it's reasonable to expect some of that content might be in there from the sweeping promises on the dust jacket.

In short, if your context is more of a meat and potatoes survival mode, you'll probably find yourself distracted by the gaps in advice, or facing tips that don't apply to your situation.

Kristina says

Fun easy read, I got some great shopping tips, some of her advice that I did not agree with, for instance she recommends cutting your own hair. Bad idea. As a hairdresser it is so annoying to try and fix some ones at home project. Cut and colors should be left to the professionals.

I did like her calendar break down of the best times to purchase item according to marketing sales for instance end of January is a prime time for european designer lines and houseware goods and September is anything denim.

Rachel says

The subtitle of this book should read more like "The Trust Fund Girl's Guide to Living Large in the City on More Than Most People's Annual Salary".

A financial guide this is not. There is no mention of credit card payments, student loans, savings accounts, or retirement accounts here. If you're looking for advice on that sort of thing, try Dave Ramsey, Suze Orman, or Guy Kiyosaki, but don't rely on this book.

IF, however, you're looking for a way to decorate your first urban apartment that doesn't include the ability to hire an interior designer, this is a great resource. Nina has great suggestions for how to mix Target accessories with more upscale pieces, and doesn't shy away from grabbing furniture off the street (maybe not such a great idea in today's bed bug epidemic world, but I've done it myself and have some great furniture to

show for it).

In short, this is a cute fluffy book for newly-urban women, but don't rely on it as a guide for budgeting.

Alice says

I wonder if it is because I was reading this, in a post-recession world, a decade after the first edition was published, but I found this a complete waste of time.

I'm the right audience age wise but not class wise. This book needs a more specific title, City Chic : An Upper Middle Class Girl moving from the suburbs to the city.

I can see how it might have been good advice a decade ago, but it just felt preachy, and the advice was definitely not revolutionary.

Saira Ceballos says

City Chic is good, but I wouldn't say that it was the best book ever.

Cons:

-Graphic design. It's very outdated the cover, the parts (1,2,3,4), the chapters. So 2003.(For that I'm putting 4 stars)

- As other reviewers are saying, this book is only focused on NYC or Philly as in it makes sense to people living there. I am aware of that the author is making it about you living in NYC.

-OMG, it annoys me as hell how Nina (Willdorf) is referring to us as "the Urban Girl" all the friggin time. The Urban Girl this, The Urban Girl that, just stop!!(for that I'm putting 3 stars)

-As with the New York thing, it's only set in Nyc (i repeated again) and not focused on other cities such as Melbourne, Instabul, that sort of thing.

Pros:

-Really useful tips. That sums it up so I don't have to write a whole list of useful tips.

Heather says

I regret to say this didn't teach me anything I didn't already know about budgeting or thrift. Frankly as a native Londoner I could have written it better... I can certainly cook and clothe myself for less. Not to mention one of her suggestions (claiming student discount you are not entitled to anymore) lacks integrity at best and is dishonest at worst. I don't recommend this and in glad I bought it in a charity shop and didn't pay full price.

Catherine says

This was a fun book to read when I first moved to DC from CA(on a non-profit salary). What it really did - with it's funny, chipper you can DIY attitude - was make me feel a little better about all the new challenges of living entirely on my own, far away from home. Most of the tips were just common sense, although if you're ballsy enough, it talks about the best way to sneak beer into bars so you can socialize on a dime.

Kara says

The problem with this book is that expectations didn't meet reality. My expectation was that this book would be a practical guide for frugal living, explaining how and where to cut costs. And, this book did that to an extent-- only dealing in the subjects of decorating, cooking, socializing, and shopping. While the tips Willdorff offered in those areas were helpful, I wish the book would have covered more practical topics: transportation and car maintenance, traveling, how to supplement your income, etc. Overall, it was a quick read and I could see it being a good gift for a recent high school graduate that's going off to college.

Tineey says

Alot of the things are pretty basic to me or they just didn't apply. It teaches you how to a savvy dumpster diver. Only thing I took from this read was how to use household items to get rid of stains from clothing.

Melissa Massello says

"From the former editor of The Boston Phoenix and Budget Travel, this guide to putting together an urbane wardrobe despite an over-stretched wallet is a super fun — and money saving — read."

Featured in **35 Budget Living Picks for National Book Lovers Day on ShoestringMag.com**

Olivia says

I agree with other reviewers. These tips are fine if you make a decent paycheck and don't want to go over budget, but after the first two chapters it was clear the author has never been truly strapped for cash. The idea that someone on a grad student income or even a teacher's salary could follow this advice is ludicrous.

S says

This book is filled with useful tips, but I already knew most of them, so it didn't end up being as helpful as

I'd hoped it would be. There are the obvious (shop at thrift stores! brew your own coffee instead of spending \$5 on a latte every day! work out at home instead of getting an expensive gym membership!), but I also liked seeing the author suggest dumpster-diving as a way to find furniture or other items that can be easily cleaned up with a little elbow grease. However, I was not impressed with the suggestion that antique shops are great places to find a sweet deal on old furniture. Ha! This lady clearly hasn't been to overpriced Seattle. In fact, I can't imagine that the antique shops in NYC are any cheaper. But I did like her suggestion that thrift shops in less-populated cities are less picked-through and have the potential for more interesting finds. I'll have to try that next time I'm in a small city!

Hoan says

Not such a super city chic book. Some okay tips but things I already do. I struggled a little to finish this in three days. Usually I can finish a good book in a few hours/a day. Not recommended

Jennifer says

It's a cute book and it does have a lot of helpful hints but it's really geared toward people just starting out in a big city. That's fine and all but there are parts that just aren't for me. She gets her hair cut about twice a year, I can't handle that. I'm sure it works for her but no. She also dedicates around \$300 on clothing per month. If you earn less than 30k a year there's no reason to spend that kind of money on clothes. She never once talks about saving some money for a rainy day, I guess she assumes there are none. It's important to stress how important it is to start saving if you can at that age. Garage sales are an amazing way to find just about anything you need to dress yourself or an apartment. I think she could have put something in about sacrificing something, like drinks or daily latte if you find something you can't live without. I once found a designer dress at a thrift store, it was a bit more than I usually pay for that sort of thing but I got it anyway and spent the next two weeks eating ramen and not going out, it evened out in the end and I fit into that dress better than I would have without my impromptu diet. Things like that in the book would have helped.

Elizabeth says

Before I got a job at the library, I used to go there when I was down and wanted inspiration for how to change my life. When I was 20, single, living alone, and obsessed with living a chic life, this book was my bible. It's about living wonderful on less. I love this book so much that I swiped a copy out of the donation box at the library (which is one of the tips for living less - take other people's discarded things)
