



Bitches on a Budget: Sage Advice for Surviving Tough Times in Style

Rosalyn Hoffman

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A witty, recession-era guide to being thrifty while not forgoing the fabulous.

Today's woman may have a dwindling stock portfolio, but that shouldn't make her bite one well-manicured nail with worry. Rosalyn Hoffman dishes up the wisdom women need to get perfect style without busting what's left of their bank accounts.

The author is a recession-era fashion guru, travel agent, grooming consultant, therapist, sommelier, and life coach all rolled into one, and with this book vows no coupon clipping, Prada depriving, carb hating allowed. Because it doesn't take oodles of moola to live well- and that's one trend that will never go out of style.

Bitches on a Budget: Sage Advice for Surviving Tough Times in Style Details

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Author : Rosalyn Hoffman

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Ashley says

The tips in this book just didn't seem practical. I skimmed it and brought it back.

Nellie Neal says

The weird politics that are thrown into this book were off-putting. Not to mention that it seemed like the author had a lavish lifestyle that was completely unrealistic.

Julie H says

I just graduated from college and thought this would be a useful 'establishing myself' book. If you can get passed her annoying writing (she constantly calls you a bitch throughout the book), she offers good advice.

What I found most helpful is that she provides examples of cheap stores, products, entertainment, and services. She believes that the best place to buy jeans is at Banana Republic, underwear and bras at GapBody, t-shirts and workout clothes from Target and Wal-Mart, accessories from Forever 21, and etc. You should avoid clothes from JcPenny and Kohls due to cost and lack of stylish options. She also provides great ideas for cheap entertainment (book club with friends, volunteering). I appreciated her idea that we need to go back and start using the library again.

I've already started using some of her ideas. Recommended if you don't mind being calling a biatch the whole time.

lucy :) says

There was something really off about this book. The tone of the writing and the content didn't seem to match. The whole thing was just so shameless; you're not allowed to be pretentious and rude if you're buying designer knockoffs and begging for freebies everywhere you go.

Strangely, the few take-aways I got from this book will probably end up costing me more money...

Alexis says

Ugh, if I read the word "bitch" one more time..!

In all seriousness, I've never had the luxury of "spa days" or Chanel bags so this book was a pretty pointless read.

Monica says

Who did the author write this book for? The 1%? First, I don't miss anything about Dubya. AT. ALL. Second, not only do I not go to the spa on a regular basis, I've never been at all. And third, 99 dollars is NOT a good deal on jeans.

Rachael says

While this book was witty and had some sound advice to stay fabulous in down economic times, i didn't really care for it that much. It didn't talk anything about keeping or sticking to a budget. It talked about spending money in thriftier ways....but on items that are of no real necessity. I gave it two stars because it was entertaining but wasn't anything i thought it would be.

Cassidy says

I quit reading at the beginning of the "health" chapter when the author said that trying to be skinny is to be a "starving, unemployed refugee that you just might be." I love my body and I've never suffered from an eating disorder myself, but trivializing something as serious as eating disorders is incredibly offensive and insensitive. The chapters leading up to this excerpt weren't helpful to say the least but this remark made me shut the book and toss it once and for all.

Jessica says

I gave this book a chance for 84 pages. I'm really not sure who the audience was here, but probably not someone I would ever care to hang out with. The reader was referred to as a bitch on AVERAGE once per paragraph. The assumption was made that before the recession happened you were buying \$1200 Armani suits and Prada bags, and you shouldn't skimp now- just pair them with t-shirts from Target. The chapter on nutrition baffled me- what does staying at a good bmi have to do with budgeting?

Final thought: to the author I say, "shut the hell up, bitch, you have no clue what the average American woman is buying."

Desiree says

Despite the fact that this book was absolutely not written for me (she considers Prada a god-given right and talks about the 'good old days' of spas and vacations in the Bush era (yeah, um, I was homeless?)), I really enjoyed this. I love her snarky sense of humor and the way she belittles the materialism and excess that has

become the American lifestyle. A really fun read.

Kara says

Not worth your time. This author seems to think cutting back is shopping at J Crew instead of Saks... Or buying that must have item at \$900 rather than \$1800. She states you should never shop at the Goodwill, because that's just pathetic. I've bought furs, Manolos, Burberry, and Hermes from the Goodwill. Oh and those cute J Crew clothes, they cost me \$5.

Jenny Garone says

Supposedly this book will be useful no matter what your budget, but unless you had previously been dropping coin on liposuction & \$450 blazers, this probably ain't the book for you. I quit reading around the time she mentioned how toxic coloring your hair is...and then pages later gives suggestions on how to get the most out of your botox. Yep, just shoot that poison directly into your face. THAT'S smart spendin'!

Jacqui says

The "sage advice" for tough times includes not buying any more \$2000 Chanel boots and buying cute outfits to pamper your dog when you can't afford to pamper yourself. I'll admit I skimmed this after the first 30 pages or so. I didn't want to waste my time on it.

Jillian says

I'm fairly certain that this author had a very expensive and fancy lifestyle prior to having to cut back...funny at times, amusing at others, and there are only a few spots so far with useful information. It's apparent that she lives in an entirely different universe than I do!

Erin says

Eh, not so much what I expected.

The advice seemed to run the spectrum...either very obvious ways to save money, or "saving" money on such ludicrous items that it made me wonder who this book was really written for. If you have to debate which kind of plastic surgery to get to save money, then you really aren't a bitch on a budget. And suggesting coats in the \$300 range to save....most people just don't buy anything.
