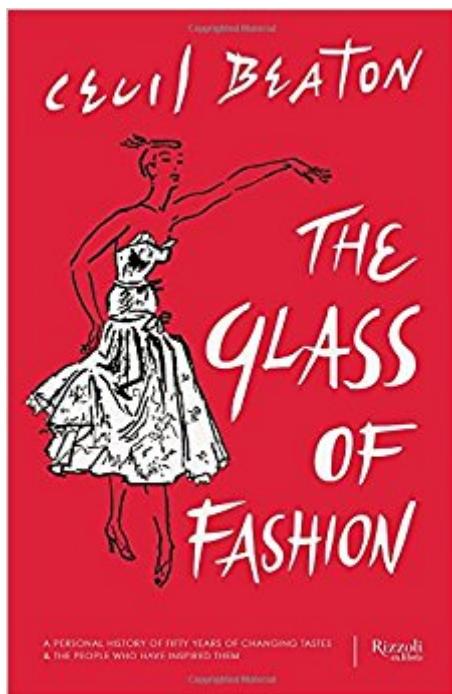


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# The Glass Of Fashion: A Personal History Of Fifty Years Of Changing Tastes And The People Who Have Inspired Them



## Synopsis

Gorgeously repackaged, this reissue of the classic book presents the iconic photographer's expert and witty reminiscences of the personalities who inspired fashion's golden eras, and left an indelible mark on his own sense of taste and style. "The camera will never be invented that could capture or encompass all that he actually sees," Truman Capote once said of Cecil Beaton. Though known for his portraits, Beaton was as incisive a writer as he was a photographer. First published in 1954, *The Glass of Fashion* is a classic "an invaluable primer on the history and highlights of fashion from a man who was a chronicler of taste, and an intimate compendium of the people who inspired his legendary eye. Across eighteen chapters, complemented by more than 150 of his own line drawings, Beaton writes with great wit about the influence of luminaries such as Chanel, Balenciaga, and Dior, as well as relatively unknown muses like his Aunt Jessie, who gave him his first glimpse of "the grown-up world of fashion." Out of print for decades but recognized and sought after as a touchstone text, *The Glass of Fashion* will be irresistible to a new generation of fashion enthusiasts and a seminal book in any Beaton library. It is both a treasury and a treasure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For book lovers, black alphabet in a handsome type on an off-white page is a work of art in itself. Embellish it with picturesque words that stir the senses, drizzle with dainty, italicized French phrases, illustrate with Beaton's sophisticated pen and ink drawings detailed to the point of cuteness, and you have some idea of this book's outward appeal. It is simply elegant. It is also a valuable resource on fashion during the first half of the 20th century. Probably no one could have

done it better than the multi-talented, award-winning Cecil Beaton (1904-1980). Included are numerous vignettes of people who left their mark on the fashion world or on Beaton personally. Some are familiar like Coco Chanel or Christian Dior; some are not, like Beaton's mother and her sister, his Aunt Jessie, who gave him his "first glimpse of the grownup world of fashion." Beaton's eye for detail and his encyclopedic knowledge of the subject and the era sets the book apart from the ordinary, run-of-the-mill fluffy bio about the rich and famous. This is a favorite in my book collection--almost 400 pages of the essence of Cecil Beaton. He is very generous with his expertise. He doesn't mind the reader knowing what he knows, and there is much to be learned here--like training under a master craftsman. It's easy to see why he was a photographer of the royals.

So glad this book is back in print. It used to be that I could only find this book at the library. You will really enjoy this book if you are interested in history of fashion, and intriguing personalities with lots of style. Beaton's illustrations, scattered throughout the book, are charming. Apparently the U.K. version also includes photographs that couldn't be included in the U.S. version due to copy right issues. I will be on the look out for the U.K. version, but for now, I am pleased to own a copy of this unusual and entertaining book.

It is surreal to read a book written by such an icon as Cecil Beaton. I get a kick out of his opinions of the day and of what he saw in his younger/childhood days. As a designer, I like to 'see' from the perspective of other designers and of different times - this book satisfies both. As a bonus, he really is a hoot!

My only beef is that there are so many typos throughout this book and in fact near the end of the book the pagination is totally off! I actually would love a refund on the book because it really needs a total redo in terms of proofreading. Sad that Cecil was dissed this way.

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