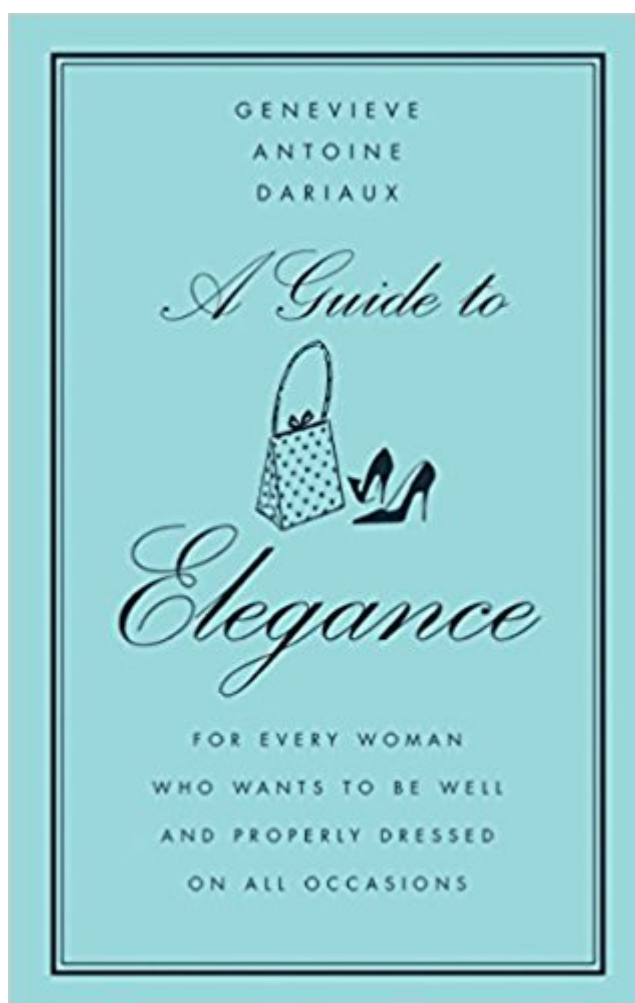


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# A Guide To Elegance: For Every Woman Who Wants To Be Well And Properly Dressed On All Occasions



## Synopsis

The original *What Not to Wear* from one of fashion's most enduringly stylish women ... Written by French style guru Madame Genevieve Antoine Dariaux, *Elegance* is a classic style bible for timeless chic, grace, and poise -- every tidbit of advice today's woman could possibly need, all at the tips of her (perfectly manicured) fingers. From Accessories to Zippers, Madame Dariaux imparts her pearls of wisdom on all things fashion-related -- and also offers advice on other crucial areas in life from shopping with girlfriends (don't) to marriage and sex.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Reprinted with an ironic twinkle.' Observer 'Charming and entertaining...The perfect gift for anyone who fancies themselves a cut above Trinny and Susannah's sartorial sniping.' Express Featured as one of the 'Books of 2003' in the Daily Mail, The Times and the Independent. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Madame Genevieve Antoine Dariaux spent most of her life in Paris, and now lives in the south of France. Even as a child she preferred to accompany her mother to the dressmaker's rather than go to the movies. Her talent for design and making costume jewelry led her to open her own fashion house, and her success eventually took her to Nina Ricci, where she was the directrice for many years.

What an absolutely delightful read! Well written and full of practical information. The fact that it was written some time ago says much to the reality of true elegance. Young women, please don't become discouraged with this priceless volume, can only say 'read on' and learn the true art of real and lasting elegance. If you are smart enough to discover the priceless information in this book do yourself a favor and order Edith Wharton's book *The Decoration of Houses*, only then will your home look as well as you.

As a woman moves from a teenager to young adulthood to adulthood to career woman and wife, she's faced with new social situations that she must navigate successfully. This book is a great road map for that. I enjoyed how the author broke down the topics and used easy lists. I feel like this has prepared me a bit more more every vacation, trip, work function, wedding, family gathering and occasion. I would like to see the author create a book for dressing by occasion. Example: 3 pm wedding vs 6 pm and varying level of formality by venue.

Charmingly dated, this book explains many details about etiquette that seem to have been forgotten. I purchased this book mostly as a writer's resource and it worked perfectly to fill in the "rules" of women's dress in the 1940's /50's/ 60's. With the exception on the references about gloves, most of the information is still relevant today. There is a mention of tanning to a golden brown complexion that probably is worth ignoring. But the concepts of having a few good classic wardrobe pieces is still very much relevant.

I learned about this book through the fictional book also called "Elegance". I loved that book and wanted to get this one to understand what that author was writing about. I think that this book is a great one to have in my library for a reference and reminder for my wardrobe. I'd give it 5 stars, but there's a section where the author suggests that when a woman can afford it, she should upgrade her engagement diamond. I know women still do this today, but I think an elegant woman holds on to the diamond her husband first gave her. Yes - this book was written during a different time of fashion and when women held a different place in the world, yet the overall concepts are still true. If you get hung up on the references to the 60's then this won't work for you, but if you can look past that, you'll see that it still applies today. I recommend it to anyone interested in fashion and elegance.

This is the book that *Elegance*, by Kathleen Tessaro was based on. I recommend buying them both - the novel is a great read and the original is a true classic.

There were some fantastic ideas in here. I built my post baby wardrobe from it. Well the ideas behind it. The Hermès handbags need to stay in the store, but I could adapt everything to my budget. Great colour combination ideas too.

It is true the author, does not write to the upper middle class and the affluent....this book is for any woman who dreams about being elegant. But, while I found the book a delight to read, I found myself sifting and sorting through ideas, information, suggestions made by the author. Not every woman, myself included would have the distinction of city and country wardrobe. Here in Southern Oregon, the country is part of the city! If you are residing in a large metropolitan area, this book could be an indispensable guide for knowing how to assemble a basic wardrobe that can take you from the beach to the most elaborate dinner party or theater opening. For me, I enjoyed the author's lively style knowing the only hat I would wear would be winter ones, when it is pouring rain down, or I am brave to go out into the snow. I believe the main idea Genevieve Antoine Dariaux, expressed was being elegant is more than dress and wardrobe, it is manners and being a gracious woman. Much of what she expressed, brought back my mom's teachings as well as my early home economics classes in Jr. High, about having a basic color for accessories, and proper foundation garments. Of knowing how to apply make-up at any age. Bottom line neatness and cleanliness top to bottom. For me, it was like attending a smorgasbord, I was able to pick and choose ideas, that would work well in my less-affluent community. As a seamstress, my creative "juices" were running to overflow with ideas of what to add to my current wardrobe. And I could give Mrs. Dariaux a huge hug, for reinforcing what I have come to believe about grey hair (and beyond): it is not a sign of "old" as corporate America has dictated, it is sign of wisdom, experience and maturity - a woman is never old until she allows herself to act and feel that way.

This book can be summarized in one sentence. *Elegance* is about good taste and discretion. That is it. Some of her rules can be taken with a pinch of salt (try telling a teenager she is not to wear black until she is 18!), but the general idea is powerful, simply because it is so rare to find a truly elegant woman these days. The taboos that I still believe work are - no diamonds (except wedding ring) during the day, no white shoes or bags- ever, diet alone, shop alone, and never act with affectation. *Elegance* is not expensive, it is more about cultivating a taste for a few superior things instead of a

closet of cheapies. An interesting, fascinating read if you admire old school classic beauties.

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