



# Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me: Lessons In Grace And Elegance

*Lucia Van Der Post*

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## **Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me: Lessons In Grace And Elegance** Lucia Van Der Post

Lucia van der Post has dispensed advice on style and living for more than three decades. Her subtlety, taste, common sense, confidence, and witty, aphoristic style have garnered her legions of fans, a must-read weekly style column in the Times of London, and a longtime perch at the top of UK lifestyle journalism. Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me-a bestseller in the UK upon publication in fall 2007-is van der Post's warm, intimate guide to living stylishly through personal elegance, grace, and glamour. Leaving no aspect of a woman's life unconsidered, the browsable sections include How to Wear Clothes; How to Look Good; How to Work and Have a Life; Love, Marriage and Happiness; Perfect Presents; and Home, Sweet Home.

## **Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me: Lessons In Grace And Elegance Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2007 by John Murray

ISBN : 9780719566684

Author : Lucia Van Der Post

Format : Hardcover 496 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Self Help, Couture, Fashion

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## From Reader Review Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me: Lessons In Grace And Elegance for online ebook

### LINDA says

Cute idea for a book, I am sure that another author could write something touching about the lessons in life that they wish that their mother would have told them.

Unfortunately, this book was incorrectly titled. It should be "Things I wish My Mother Had Told Me: Lessons in Snootiness and Snobbery."

Really, this book was a BORE!

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### Shannon says

I would not get through this book. It was absolutely terrible. What a snob!

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### S. says

tamamen lüks tüketim üzerine yazılm?? bir kitap fakat lüks tüketim üzerine yazılm?? iyi bir kitap da de?il. en iyi tavsiyeler "ye?il bir marc jacobs ayakkab? joker parçan?z olabilir" minvalinde. paran? iyi markalara yat?r, pi?man olmazs?n diyor yazar. makyaj yap, spor yap, kilo ver, lüks ya?a, haval? tak?l falan filan.

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### Lobna Amer says

I was distinctly committed to get to the bottom of that book but I as continued to flip through the so-called "advice" I found my resolve waning, my contempt rising and the number of pages I skipped increasing. The book started off with tips about how women should look and while I completely agree with Oscar Wilde that only fools don't judge people by their looks, I still found the language used demeaning and the tips belittling to women as creatures of innate grace and beauty. Is it really what women need? More tips about the absolute necessity of having your teeth done a different shade of white for C100 per tooth? Is our choice of handbags the sum of what we are as women? Are we really deeming all women with hip measurements greater than 38 inches ungraceful? Unfashionable? Un-stylish? Should we add to our aspirations in life that £40 Estee lauder foundation?

I am a devout fashion girl. I love a good bag, a pair of great kick-ass glam shoes and a killer outfit. But as a twenty something in these times, I am inundated by nothing more than fashion tips and articles about the latest must-have beauty products. When I picked this book, I was looking for a cleanse from materialism. I was looking for a journey to find more inner strength and confidence. I thought I was going to read more about inner beauty, channelling inner grace, embracing your nature as a kind, loyal partner, daughter, sister, mother. I was wrong. This book was just a list of shops, beauty products and plastic surgeons. This book felt like a heavy pile of shallow, meaningless nonsense hitting me in the face.

## **The Katie says**

The title had a lot to live up to, and I really wasn't that impressed. A lot of this book talked about specific designers or stores to make her point instead of general ideas. I skipped whole pages sometimes. Especially since this designed for both American and British audiences. I got in on sale, so wasn't out much, but certainly wouldn't have paid full price for this book.

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## **Karen says**

I didn't hate this book as some reviewers did. Nor did I love it as other did. For the most part, I found the advice common-sensical to the point of being rather obvious, or intended for those who can shop above my pay grade. I will say, because of this book, I own fewer but better shoes, fewer but better handbags, fewer but better sunglasses. I buy the best jeans I can afford to suit my figure -- actually that is now pretty true of all my clothes. Immediate gratification in shopping can be a hard habit to overcome, but if you don't love something, don't buy it.

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## **Brandy Price says**

Subjects I very much enjoy, though I skipped about 30 pages in the middle about the nitty-gritty of her home preferences.

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## **Haruka says**

This is probably the Kardashian's family's favorite book! Seriously. She talks so much about \$3,600 Chanel jackets and \$800 manolos and facials costing well over \$2,000, her advice is more of a good work of fiction for average Americans than practical advice to follow. I work at a Fortune 500 company and I could never afford even a tad of what she suggests in this book. But to her credit, she does often mention shops like Zara, H & M, Gap, Banana Republic, etc., as well for lower income people like myself. Ms. Van Der Post's writing style is impeccable, quite easy to read and which makes it easy to get swept away living the glamorous life vicariously. I've spent a good amount of time scrolling through various websites of the shops she suggested so at least I can get good ideas on how to dress. I actually enjoy her shopping recommendations and endorsements. I go to Europe at least once a year so it gives me a good list of places to check out, even if I can't afford to buy anything. Of course I will never spend \$200 on a face cream, but there is always ebay and amazon to help me get more expensive stuff on the cheap. Her book is quite entertaining and I've said many a time, "I'll do this first thing when I win the lottery!" However the only time I feel that she delivers "motherly" advice is when she writes her section on love and relationships, and she gives women advice on how to appeal to their men, little tidbits like "Don't nag," "Always welcome his family members to your home (if you like them or not), "Remember he has needs too," etc. That kind of practical advice is what I'd expect from my mother, but most good mothers (unless your name is Kris Jenner or you are in the Hilton family) are never going to tell their daughters to spend so exorbitantly on the material items Ms. Van Der Post speaks about in the first part of the book. Fashionista advice, yes, motherly-- definitely not! But all in all, a good, entertaining read, just a bit out of touch with the majority of her reader's reality.

## Lily says

1 star

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## Huma Rashid says

This book is absolutely ridiculous. If it was possible to give it a 0 or a negative rating, I would do that. Please, please, please do not sully your mind with this crap. It's snooty and pretentious and elitist and exclusive and condescending and vulgar. It really just is. If you want to read about a rich woman sniffing her nose at things and recommending plastic surgery and talking about hanging out with the ex-wife of a late Saudi monarch, this will tickle your fancy. For women with sense, I'm telling you that there is nothing of value for you here.

To see me absolutely tear this crap apart, **[click here for the entries about this book at my book journal.](#)**

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## Polly says

Cute book, although it practically qualifies as fiction from my perspective. She talks about not being one of those rich people, but has no real conception of anything like my life--where buying a Chanel jacket is not an option no matter how much use I can get out of it. True, it wouldn't be glamorous and fun if it were realistic, but I wish people wouldn't cry poor when they so obviously don't know what the word means. Heck, I don't know what it means by many standards.

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## Emily says

Other reviews have stated that this book is written by a snooty rich woman. While there is some truth to these statements it doesn't change the fact that this is a great book. I have read many books on etiquette and grace and this book was by far the best. Unlike the other books I have read, this author focused on more traditional etiquette (the old fashion, high class gracefulness that we see in movies and on television). To be a woman of this type of classiness and grace you do need to care about your looks. Whether we like it or not taking care of your appearance will greatly help you in any social setting (work, friends, dating, etc).

The book talks a lot about how to care for your appearance, proper dress, makeup and even body care for that traditional elegance that many women desire. This may make the author seem 'snooty' but I'm really glad that some author out there took the chance and wrote this book. Not all of us are naturally gifted in fashion, cosmetics or skin/nail/hair care.

I learned a lot from this book. After reading it i decided to go out and treat myself to some nice items. Like the book recommended I went out and found myself an extremely nice bra (I don't normally spend much on undergarments so this was a big deal). I also looked for some elegant jewelry and even treated myself to some silky pajamas.

NOTE: While I enjoyed this book I do not recommend it for anybody with self esteem issues. This is a book for those who are already love themselves and their body but want to polish themselves up a tiny bit to make better impressions in the real world. I, for example, think that developing a sense of class will help me in the professional world.

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### **Laura says**

I bought this book when it was first published as I am a fan of the author. I loved it then and I've just re-read it. Yes, some of the shops she recommends are no longer active but her pearls of wisdom are brilliant. I can't say I've followed everything but her mantra of "every house needs music, books and fresh flowers" is something I've followed ever since.

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### **Mariam Daffa says**

This book is a must read for those who think they've got it made.

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### **Krista says**

The author's tone was witty, but the sadly, the majority of the advice was out of my price range.

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