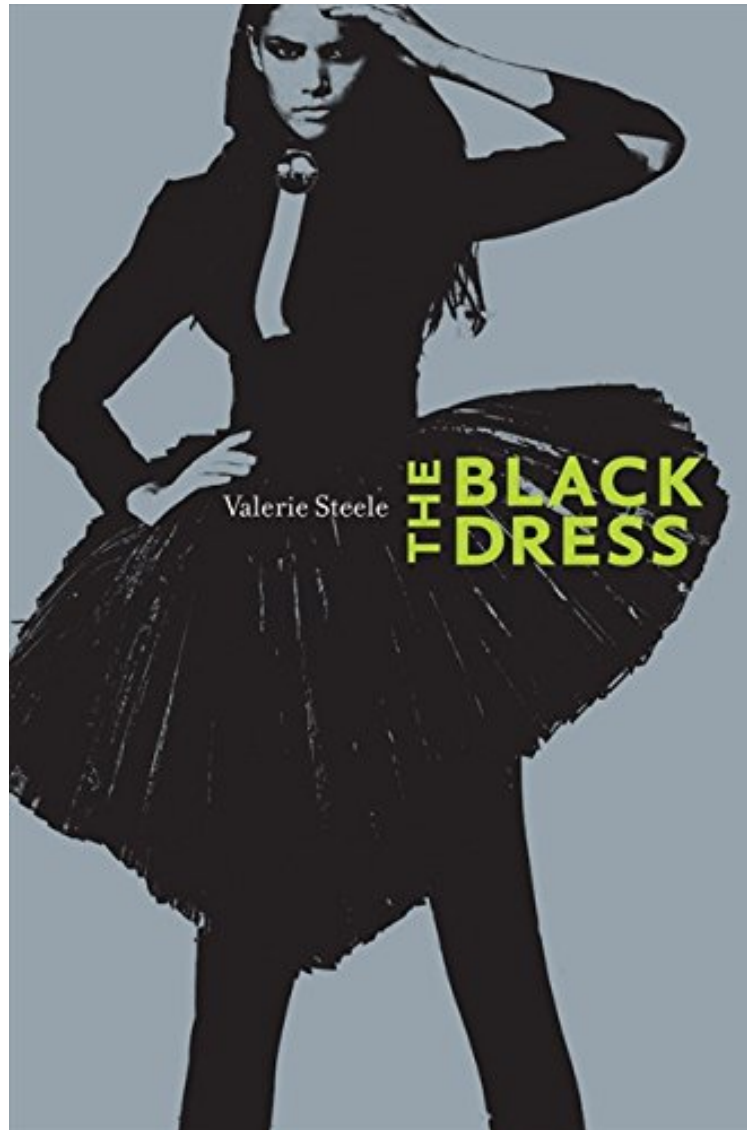


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## The Black Dress

*Valerie Steele*

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**Valerie Steele : The Black Dress** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Dress:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. A glossy tribute to the Little Black DressBy TVDIVAValerie Steele is the Director and Chief Curator of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. I collect her books because they provide acute insight into fashion history accompanied by beautiful illustrations and gorgeous photographs.This book about the impact of the LBD (Little Black Dress) is more like a fashion history

snack. There is an essay (about 15 typed pages altogether), and then 80 color and black and white photographs and/or illustrations - each on one page. On the facing page is a quote about wearing a black dress or just about wearing black. I have all the other books on the LBD, and what I like about this one is the pictures are different. (Only the Coco Chanel, Audrey Hepburn and Rita Hayworth photos are repeats in other books.) I also like the quotes, most of which I have never heard before. There is also a great index with ten square pictures on a page of the dresses and a little history of the dress and designer next to it. That to me is the best part of the book. There are other books available on .com that I highly recommend in addition to this one: *Dressed in Black* by Valerie Mendes *The Little Black Dress* by Amy Holman Edelman *The Little Black Dress: Vintage Treasure* by Didier Ludot 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Did not like By Jacquelin age 51 It could just be me but I found all the history of the little black dress downright boring. My opinion is no testament to the writing of the book which was very well written and very well researched. I expected a little more fluff however this is a serious book about fashion. Overall an excellent book but I neglected to read more reviews before I purchased it.

If you could have only one dress, wouldn't you make it a black one? Glamorous or modest, seductive or practical, chic and versatile, elegant, powerful, modern, and never out of style, the black dress has been the foundation of a woman's wardrobe for centuries. The allure of the black dress has captured the imagination of generations of couturiers and artists and served as the signature of society's most enviably dressed women. *The Black Dress* is a lush visual celebration of this fashion classic. With an essay and images selected by Dr. Valerie Steele, Director and Chief Curator of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, this volume features page after uniquely designed page of some of the most compelling dresses in the history of fashion. The diverse imagery includes fine art, runway shots and design sketches, stills from classic films and vintage fashion plates, and, above all, gorgeous evocations of the black dress from the world's greatest designers, illustrators, and photographers. These include paintings by Peter Paul Rubens, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edouard Manet, and John Singer Sargent; illustrations by Georges Barbier and Ruben Toledo; and iconic images of movie goddesses such as Audrey Hepburn and Rita Hayworth. The world's foremost fashion designers, from Coco Chanel to Christian Dior, Yohji Yamamoto to Boudicca, are featured in full color throughout, their designs accompanied by quotes on black from writers, artists and fashion personalities. Extended captions at the back of the book provide details on each dress and its place in fashion history.