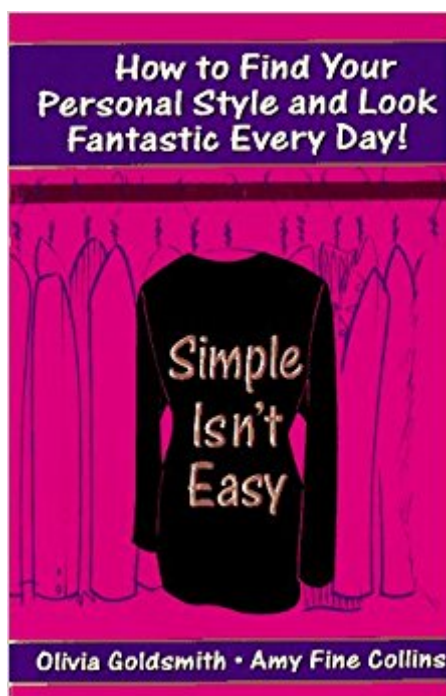


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# Simple Isn't Easy: How To Find Your Personal Style And Look Fantastic Every Day!



## Synopsis

A humorous and practical guide offers tips on how to clean out the closet, find personal "signature styles" that make stylish dressing simple and effective, and save money while clothes shopping.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love this little book! The message is simple. Less is more! If you can pare down your wardrobe to figure flattering pieces that blend with the rest of your garments you will have an easy workable wardrobe. The authors suggest you shop your closet, not the stores. Which would you rather have a rack crammed full of mismatched clothes, or an orderly small selection of easy to find items that look GREAT on you! The authors give tips on how to pare down and make your clothes work for you! By following the suggestions given you will organize your closets, spend less money, and look better. They also give tips on caring for your clothes. The style of the book is easy and breezy. And its pocket-sized, easy to tote in your bag. I love the authors sense of humor too. It can be hard to simplify even for the authors. I read in Vogue that one of the authors Amy Fine Collins had an incredibly vast shoe collection. So "Simple Isn't Easy" for most of us! But reading and rereading this book can help!

A bit dated, but I still like it a lot!

I've read & perused many books on the subject of personal style & this is the best yet, despite being older. It avoids the "what you should wear" & gives you the "how to choose & direct your

purchases". I would highly recommend it.

I've read most of the books on building a wardrobe, and this packs more sense into less space than anything else on its subject. Along with the 80's books on the "capsule concept" (also no longer available) this gives a way for everyone to build a wardrobe that works. I hope they reprint it soon -- I'm wearing out my copy!

This book has really helped me focus on a simple yet effective wardrobe. It's great to be able to own fewer articles of clothing while looking better and feeling more confident all around. I've heard that there are plans to reprint this little gem which would be great - I'd love to give copies to all my friends!

This book was great! Well written, funny, and easy to read; I loved it. I think every woman should own a copy. It reinforced lessons my wise Mom had taught me and gave me some new ideas. Everyone should read it.

I really enjoyed this book. It gave me some insight into my style and now I am ready to reorganize my closet.

Simple isn't easy is a personal style book which advocates streamlined wardrobes and uniform dressing (wearing some variation of the same outfit every day). It is a very small paperback pocket book co-written by the late novelist Olivia Goldsmith and statuesque fashion editor Amy Fine Collins. By my reading, the voice of the book is overwhelmingly Goldsmith's (and overtly chatty and irritatingly goofy), and Collins comes across more as a consultant who provided Goldsmith with fashion advice and access to people in the fashion world. There are caricatures of the authors throughout the book which emphasize the fact that Collins is beautiful and impossibly stylish, and often depict Goldsmith as fat, slovenly and, in a particularly insulting example on p. 47, deluding herself into thinking she's more attractive than she is. Although they don't detract from the actual content of the book, I found the illustrations to be deeply troubling, especially paired with a short chapter paying lip-service to the idea that you can be stylish at any size, and knowing that Goldsmith died from complications due to liposuction not long after the book was published. Uniform dressing is a very disciplined way to style oneself, and probably too extreme for most people without some level of modification. Unfortunately, this book presents uniform dressing and an aggressively

(by North American standards) small wardrobe as the only reliable technique for being stylish, and provides no advice as to how to adapt the techniques if they don't work for you. Interestingly, there are anecdotes in the book about Collins having a massive and varied wardrobe, but for mere mortals like the rest of us uniform dressing is presented as the only way. And, admittedly, it is a pretty reliable technique for people who aren't born fashion mavens. To determine the proper uniform, a person must determine the absolute most flattering pieces which fit their personal style, and develop a base outfit some variation of which they wear every day. The text indicates that Collins is skilled at using the principles she was taught in art school (re line, proportion, colour etc.) to determine what will be flattering on each person. So one might reasonably expect the book to break down these principles and provide some detailed advice on how to find your most flattering pieces. Unfortunately, the book falls very short in this regard. There are some vague suggestions (take pictures of yourself in all of your different clothes and decide what looks best), but when they reach the point where solid advice should be offered, they instead suggest that if you can't figure it out on your own you should hire a stylist and/or a personal shopper. That said, I'm not entirely sure it's a bad thing Collins didn't provide us with specific advice since she apparently decided that Goldsmith (who describes herself as pear shaped and overweight) should wear a uniform of tapered pants (really?) and oversized silk blouses paired with blazers or sweaters. There is some helpful advice in this book, but it isn't the be-all end-all most reviewers have claimed. All but the most hyper-disciplined people will find they need to heavily modify the approach in the book, but are provided no guidance in doing so. Most people will also need to seek significant amounts of info elsewhere to be able to apply the approach in the book to any degree. Ultimately, the book feels incomplete and thrown together, and padded out with cartoons, pop-psychology babble and unnecessary lists and quizzes until it hit the 200 page mark. It's also absolutely littered with quotes from prominent people in the fashion industry. The whole thing feels very name drop-y, but actually some of the most interesting insights in the book actually come from these quotes, most of which I've never seen anywhere else. Ultimately, this book has its uses, but it's not nearly so life changing as everyone else suggests, and certainly not worth paying the very high "out-of-print" prices copies often go for.

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