



How to Slay: Inspiration from the Queens and Kings of Black Style

Constance C.R. White

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An inspirational journey through black fashion in America from the twentieth century to the present, featuring the most celebrated icons of Black style and taste.

One of the few surveys of Black style and fashion ever published, *How to Slay* offers a lavishly illustrated overview of African American style through the twentieth century, focusing on the last thirty-five years. Through striking images of some of the most celebrated icons of Black style and taste, from Josephine Baker, Michelle Obama, Maya Angelou, and Miles Davis to Rihanna, Naomi Campbell, Kanye West, and Pharrell Williams, this book explores the cultural underpinnings of Black trends that have become so influential in mainstream popular culture and a bedrock of fashion vernacular today. A preponderance of Black musicians, who for decades have inspired trends and transformed global fashion, are featured and discussed, while a diverse array of topics are touched upon and examined--hats, hair, divas, the importance of attitude, the use of color, '60s style, the influence of Africa and the Caribbean, and the beauty of black skin.

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SomdahSaysSo says

This book was good. The pictures of beautiful black men and women throughout fashion history were fantastic. (For some reason the pictures on my e-reader were fuzzy). The author spoke of her mother being very fashion forward and her love of shoes. The story of her mother was one of the few personal stories she had in the book. It would have been great to have more. Constance White is a veteran writer on style so it would have been great to get some of her personal experiences as she took you through various phases of black history fashion. Information on who the author is would have been great to. I had no clue who she is and I even watched her interview on the Breakfast Club but I didn't come away with much. I know photos are the focus of the coffee table but it felt like this book missed a chance to connect with the reader.
