

CHIC  
**SIMPLE**  
*Guides*

A black velvet high-heeled shoe is positioned vertically, with its heel resting on a light-colored surface. A black textured clutch bag lies horizontally behind the shoe. A multi-strand pearl necklace, featuring several strands of light-colored pearls, is draped over the shoe and extends onto the surface in front of it.

# ACCESSORIES

KIM JOHNSON GROSS    JEFF STONE  
TEXT BY CHRISTA WORTHINGTON    PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES WOJCIK

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SIMPLE®

# ACCESSORIES

ALFRED A. KNOPF NEW YORK 1996



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PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC.**

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**KIM JOHNSON GROSS JEFF STONE**

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ILLUSTRATIONS AND FIRST AID ICON BY GREGORY NEMEC  
ICON ILLUSTRATIONS BY AMY JESSICA NEEDLE  
HANGER ICON BY ERIC HANSON**

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First Edition

# C O N T

**HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:** Understanding the important quality points of accessories is the basis of the Chic Simple philosophy of developing personal style. The fashion-savvy woman understands the significance and the appropriateness of what she's wearing. To make it simpler, we created the following system of icons, which flag contextual information in graphic shorthand. We've also provided another aid in the chapter opening: the basic wardrobe list in each section is yours for the checking. And on the pages labeled "simple lesson" we illustrate how various accessories can transform a given outfit.



**BASIC.** Survival gear, must-haves, or just the BASIC wardrobe building blocks, these are the essential items that will allow you a lifetime of pleasure and value when carefully selected. They're the kinds of things you borrow from your mother and somehow never return.



**BODY.** This icon indicates an item that is flattering to a certain BODY type but perhaps not to others. As in all broad generalizations, there will be exceptions to the rule—so read with one eye cocked at the mirror.



**COLOR.** This icon calls attention to a color issue—both when it's used to flexible, wardrobe-expanding advantage and when it's used to add sizzle.



**DRESS CODES.** Remember when you got sent home for wearing clogs or punk jewelry

to school (or work)? With the dress-down Friday becoming a weeklong phenomenon, DRESS CODES are now more about appropriateness—the what, when, where questions.



**PATTERNS.** In general, most of us would look better if we avoided PATTERNS. Chintz is tough to pull off; however, a judicious use of classic prints is another way of adding vitality to the basics.



**PROFILE.** Throughout the long journey of style there are certain individuals, companies, and even products that stand out as important design milestones.



**SIMPLE TRUTHS.** Wisdom and pieces of advice that help make life simpler. It's a fact: earrings shouldn't weigh more than your head, and other clarifications that will aid you in their simple consistency.



**TEXTURE.** Material or surface treatment can add to an accessory's visual and tactile impact. A neck scarf, sensible in knit, becomes a flirtatious layering in silk. A shimmering organza with everyday wool creates drama.



**VALUE.** When purchasing accessories, it is important to invest in VALUE. A handbag might cost \$500, but if it is of high quality and classic design, so that you can carry it five times a week all year long, it's actually costing you less than \$2 per use for that year.



**VERSATILITY.** How easily can an accessory mix and match with a variety of wardrobe fundamentals? This icon doesn't mean you can use it to dry the dog and polish the silverware, but with just a change of earrings you may be able to wear it to the office and on a blind date that night.

# E N T S

## 11 SIMPLE ADDITIONS

The true root of accessories is access, not excess—it's understanding how the simple power of one addition can exponentially expand a wardrobe.

## 33 ZONE ONE: GROUND FLOOR

The most basic and the first accessory—putting your best foot forward.

## 57 ZONE TWO: MIDDLEMARCH

The logical next step—halfway from here to there. An in-depth look into the depths of bags and the outer limits of belts.

## 81 ZONE THREE: AT ARM'S LENGTH

It's all in the wrist—from bracelets to gloves, to the ends of your fingertips, including the various ring fingers.

## 101 ZONE FOUR: HEADWAY

Finishing it all off—headgear (hats, bows, scrunchies), neck gear (scarves, necklaces), ear gear, and nose gear (eyeglasses?).

## 154 FIRST AID

What it is [ SHOP TALK ], how to know whether it's worth it, how to prolong its life, storage ideas, and a complete list of accessory [ WARDROBE ] basics.

## 162 WHERE

It's a big world out there, and somewhere, something perfect for you is for sale (hope that it's marked down). An international list for getting your stuff together.

"Our ability to accessorize is  
what separates us from  
the animals."

OLYMPIA DUKAKIS in *"Steel Magnolias"*



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Manufactured in the United States of America  
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Thank you to those who gave me my lifelong favorites:

#### KID

- red Keds
- red patent Mary Janes

#### TEEN

- a wooden-handled purse with a button attached, embroidered linen cover
- navy quilted bag with silk scarf tied to the shoulder strap
- gold bangle bracelets
- gold charm bracelet
- big, colorful plastic and papier-mâché jewelry
- arm bracelets that rested above the elbow
- chain-link belts
- hairpieces
- platform sandals
- liquid eyeliner
- Pappagallo shoes

#### COLLEGE

- clogs
- L.L. Bean moccasins
- L.L. Bean duffel
- espadrilles
- big straw shoulder bag
- little gold hoop earrings

#### POST-COLLEGE

- my mom's closet (Kenneth Jay Lane, Pucci, Gucci, and Hermès treasures)
- Arpège by Lanvin (thank you, Dad)

#### MARRIAGE

- engagement ring and wedding band (thank you, David)
- diamond studs
- pearl necklace (thank you, Mort & Toby)

#### CAREER

- Belgian loafers
- Birkenstock sandals
- Manolo Blahnik heels
- big black totes: summer and winter versions
- Timex watch
- Kazuko pin
- cheap black sunglasses with UV protection
- Cartier tank watch
- lipstick
- big gold hoop earrings
- black satin evening bag (major thrift shop find)

And what amazes me is that I still wear them all—except for my red Keds, which my youngest daughter now wears.

**K. J. G.**

Whatever.

**J. S.**

For Titi.

**C. W.**

“The more you know, the less you need.”

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SAYING

CHIC  
**SIMPLE**®

Chic Simple is a primer for living well but sensibly. It's for those who believe that quality of life comes not in accumulating things but in paring down to the essentials. Chic Simple enables readers to bring value and style into their lives with economy and simplicity.

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# S I M P L E   A D D I T I O N S



"Your mother never had a sense of style. Her dolls were always half naked and mine were perfectly groomed.... I gave her my prescription to dress for success.... Accessories are the key to fashion. Tessie honey, you can wear real junk...but with the right earrings, bracelet and scarf you will always be very 'too-too.' "

**GORGEOUS** in *"The Sisters Rosensweig,"*

*a play by Wendy Wasserstein*