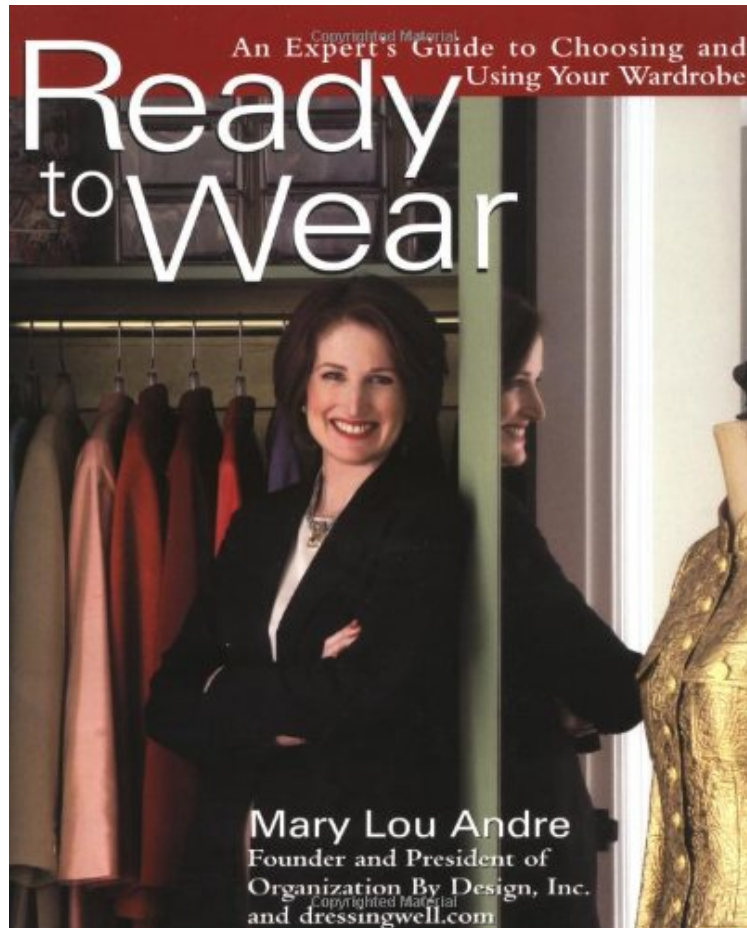


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# Ready To Wear: An Expert's Guide to Choosing and Using Your Wardrobe

Mary Lou Andre

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**Mary Lou Andre : Ready To Wear: An Expert's Guide to Choosing and Using Your Wardrobe** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ready To Wear: An Expert's Guide to Choosing and Using Your Wardrobe:

32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. A must have for women...By destiny morna I love this book..It has great information on organizing your closet, updating and refining your wardrobe, and making your closet filled with "ready to wear" outfits and separates. It was written by a professional wardrobe consultant and stylist. The great thing is that her tips can be tailored to each individual..be she a professional working women, stay at home mom or combination of the two. Her chapters on closet organization were the best..its easy to see how your closet can get crammed and filled with seldom used things..like your prom dresses, wedding dress, off season coats etc. She is correct when she says that you use only 20% of your wardrobe..and motivates you to get rid of the 80% that is

cluttering your closet. It made me want to revamp my whole closet!! Less helpful, were the chapters dealing with styling for your figure type. But that is hard to do in written form for most women. We need concrete examples...its better to just go to the store and try on bunches of stuff and see what works for your body shape. Also included in the book were worksheets and lists to help you write down your style and things you need. I didn't find these very useful but i certainly appreciate the idea. All in all, I found this book to be very helpful..i have already culled out many clothes in my wardrobe that don't work for me and I appreciate having extra space in my closet. Plus, I look forward to shopping trips where i can be more selective of what i choose. Great book!!8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Has some good ideas butBy A CustomerI was a little disappointed. Seems to be geared toward women with a lot more clothes than I even want to own. For example, she mentions she has 14 different pairs of black pants. I also didn't think she handled knowing what looked good on you very well. For example, when she talked about necklines, she referred to about 6 styles and described them, but none were anything I basically intend to wear (all a variation of turtleneck). I know what looked good on me when I was 20, but as I get older (but not old), I need a little help to strike a balance between downright foolish and frumpy. She did have some good ideas about getting organized to make what you have more accessible and useful and it is an interesting book, just not quite what I expected.9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Dressing Well - Great Info and Easy to ReadBy Dianne M. DanielsI loved this book - I found it via an search, because the author, Mary Lou Andre, was going to be speaking at the Rhode Island School of Design, and I wanted to read the book prior to hearing her live.I was not disappointed - I'm a fellow Image Consultant, and I really enjoyed the principles on simplifying your wardrobe. I am an avid shopper, and I could easily have an overcrowded (yet fashionable) closet. Mary Lou's easy manner (both in person and in her book) helped me to weed out some of the dozens of black items I own (do I really need 10 black skirts?), and to take a little risk with adding color and accessories to diversify without crowding.I really enjoyed this book, and will definately recommend it to my private and corporate clients. Not too technical, enough detail to keep you involved, and how-to's that you really can achieve on a realistic budget.Highly recommended - I'm officially a fan!

Most women feel like they can barely find their shoes in the morning-let alone pull together a stylish, snappy ensemble for the day. Mary Lou Andre is here to help. An expert in wardrobe management and fashion consulting, she shows her clients how to find their own style-and make the most of what's already in their closets. And in this illustrated guide, she explains her effective wardrobe organization system and simple style strategies to help every woman get out the door faster-looking better than ever.

From BooklistDressing well is more of a science than one might suspect, asserts wardrobe consultant Andre. Five strategies are at the heart of her philosophy, beginning with an assessment of lifestyle and proceeding to the development of a shopping focus. The emphasis is on clothes investment strategy: the building of a base wardrobe, assessing your clothes, understanding your own style, and then and only then, venturing out into the stores. Lest the subject seem too frivolous, she inserts personal anecdotes and "insider tips" that do help streamline wardrobe management. Some examples: if purse switching happens frequently, consider storing cosmetics, glasses, and other handbag paraphernalia in small, zippered pouches. The minimum number of shoes for work? Three--dress pumps, loafers, and ankle boots. This handy book functions as a refresher course for those who continually moan about having nothing to wear as well as a basic reference for new-to-business women workers. Barbara JacobsCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorMary Lou Andre is a nationally recognized wardrobe consultant and the founder and president of Organization By Design, Inc., a wardrobe-management and fashion-consulting firm. A frequent speaker at womens conferences, she has appeared on ABC World News, CBS This Morning, and CNN. Her writing appears in Womens Day, Marie Claire, Chicago Tribune, Parenting, and Esquire.