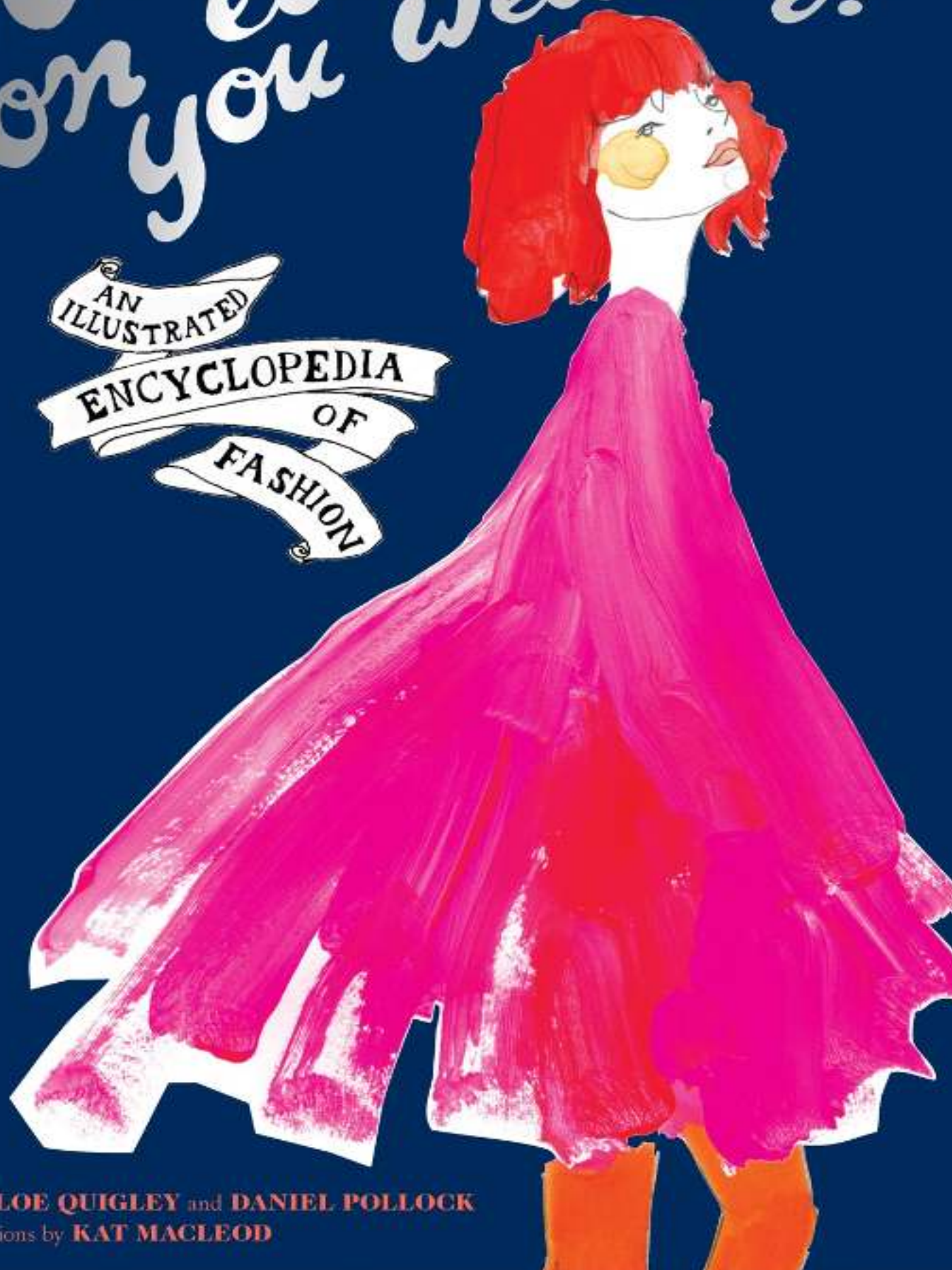


What earth are you wearing?

AN
ILLUSTRATED
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
FASHION



By **CHLOE QUIGLEY** and **DANIEL POLLOCK**
Illustrations by **KAT MACLEOD**

What On Earth Are You Wearing?

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By CHLOE QUIGLEY
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Dear Michi,

I am trying to get a break in the fashion industry, but I keep putting my foot in it, muddling my galloons with my galoshes, my mules with my muffs. Is there some kind of book or something that I can get to help me bluff my way in? Like those cheat notes we had in school maybe?

Failing that, do you have any positions vacant?

Foot in the Door
Fitzroy, Australia

Dear Foot in the Door,

Please don't feel bad—these are common mistakes. I mean, what girl doesn't get her muff muddled sometimes? I know you may find this hard to believe, but I was once ignorant of the—fashion-isms required to get by in this— industry. In fact, I found the words used around me so confusing that I started making notes just to get by. After a while I had enough cheat notes to fill a book.—I was going to photocopy— them for you but then I had a great idea—why not fill a book? So here it is, a Michipedia of all my wisdom. I hope it helps.

Yours with encouragement,

Michi

P.S. As if I'd give a job to someone who mixes mules and muffs; what do you take me for, an idiot?

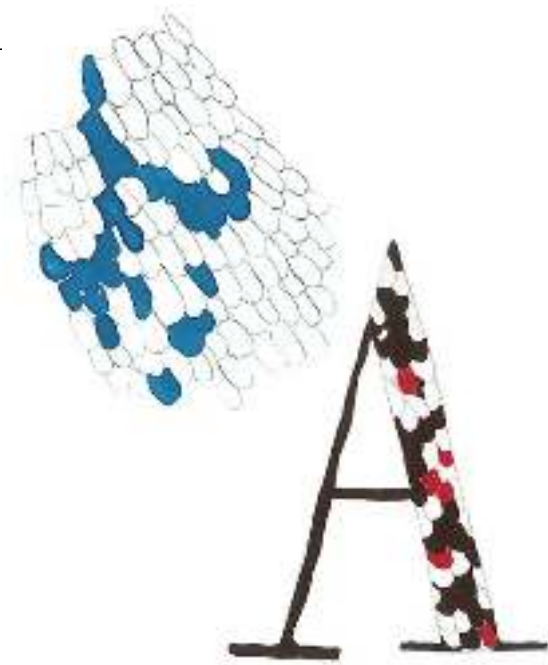


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About the Author

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A

ANIMAL PRINT

Fabric print that turns any fifty-something bar-hopping Botox-loving single woman into an animal. Most animal-print wearers are not that fussy about the animal, as long as the result is horizontally satisfactory.



ACID WASH REFLUX DISEASE

First discovered in the early to mid-'80s, Acid Wash Reflux Disease (AWRD) affects nearly one in every four people. The disease is mainly caused when an acid-wash item re-enters a person's life after years in remission. Symptoms include a burning sensation in the stomach, particularly when faced with an acid-wash jacket or jeans. Even old photos or being exposed to revived '80s fashion tragedies can cause immense discomfort. Most at risk are those born in the '70s who experienced acid wash the first time around. Even if a person has never worn acid wash before, it doesn't mean they're in the clear. Medical experts suggest if you've ever been to a Whitesnake or Bon Jovi concert, you should get tested immediately.



APPLIQUÉ

Lace, beading, sequins, rhinestones, you know, all that decorative stuff. Take some of these, add more, go on and on, and appliqué is what you have.

ALOHA SHIRT

The shirt favoured by American tourists that greets you loudly as it enters the room. ‘Aloha!’

ANORAK

A lesbian parka.



APRON DRESS

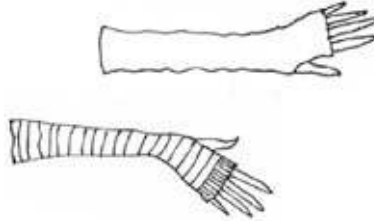
Some call it a pinafore, others call it a way to keep a wife at a sink.

APPAREL

The pretentious word industry folk use for clothes.

ARM WARMERS

Leg warmers worn by punks and Goths too subversive to dress like a sissy dancer.



ADJUSTABLE BACK

The ability to tuck back fat into the top of your togs.

ARMANI

The difference between Katie Holmes and Katie Holmes-Cruise.

ATTRACTIVE

A prerequisite for joining the fashion industry and the very reason why I am merely a bystander.

ACADEMIC DRESS

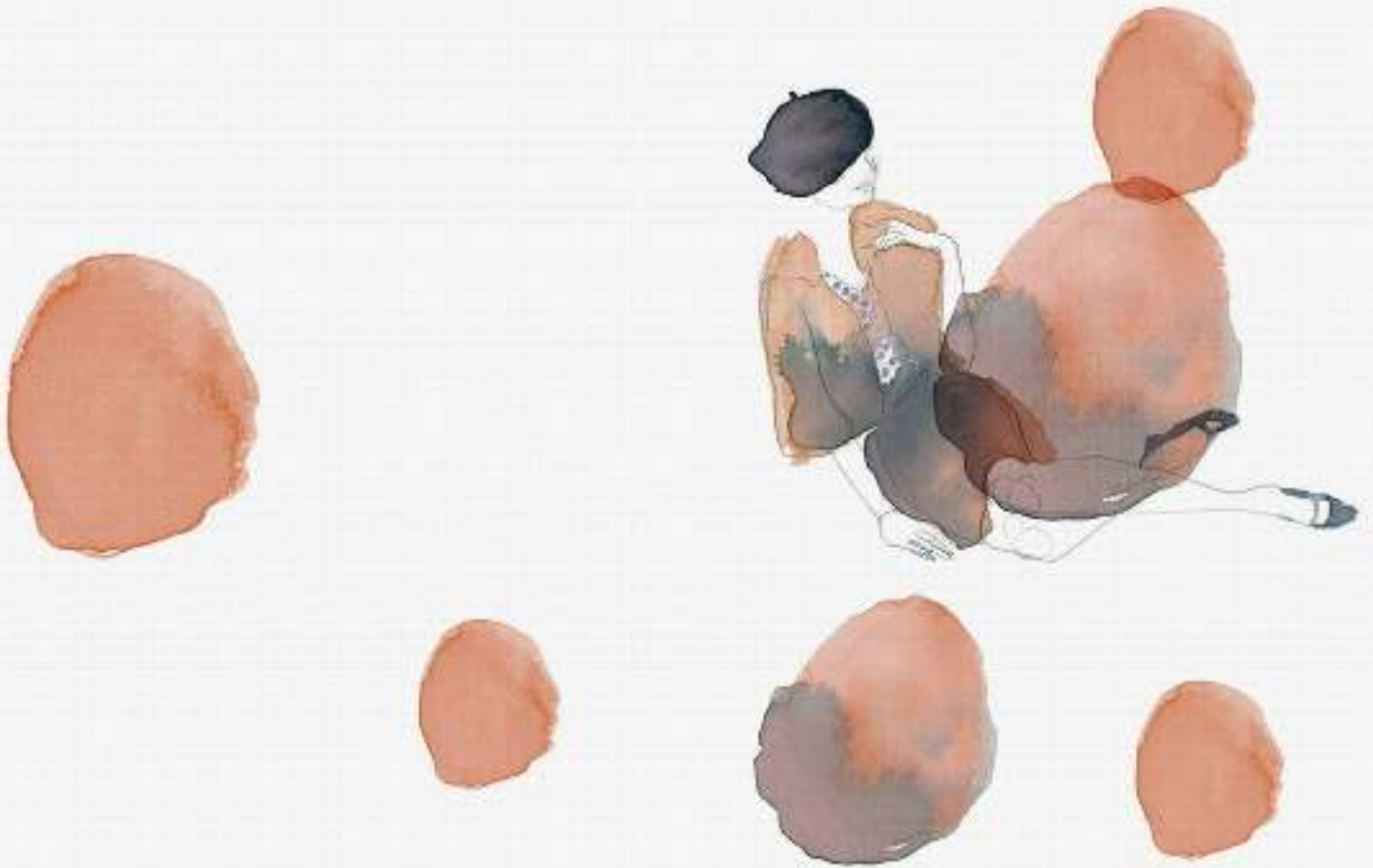
A really, really smart gown that has a better vocabulary than you do.



B

BERET

The beret originated in France around the same time baldness and oily hair were invented. And just like many other French words, it comes from the Latin word *birretum*, which literally means ‘just because you have a stupid floppy cap on your head we all know you’re bald.’ Recent studies show that 89% of non-French people would rather wake up with a spider on their head than a beret.



BLOOMERS

A modest undergarment intended to preserve the decency of Victorian women in the 1850s. Now sold to horny businessmen in vending machines in Japan.

BOLERO

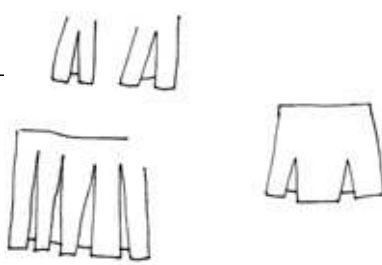
A short jacket for people without torsos.

BOTOX

See me in a few years.

BOX PLEAT

A neatly folded vagina.

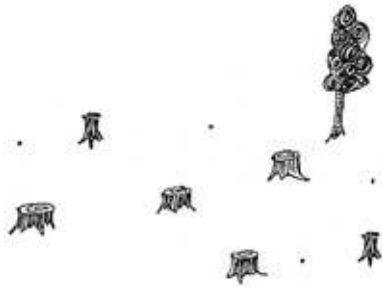


BAD HAIR DAY

First day at the beach after a long wax-free winter. Unless of course mohair bikinis are suddenly fashionable.

BRAZILIAN

Mass rainforest clearing.



BALENCIAGA

Described by Christian Dior as ‘the master of us all.’ Described by me as ‘the master of my credit card.’

BELT

Waist creator.

BENETTON

Controversial ads, boring clothes.

BIAS CUT

A technique used by designers to ensure mere mortals can’t wear their clothes. ‘This jumpsuit only comes in size 0; that’s a bit bias.’



BOY-LEG KNICKERS

Something designed for boys yet worn by girls due to comfort and ample hip coverage. The trend for cross-gender undergarments is not so readily discussed when referring to men in girls' undies. I wonder why?

BARNEYS

Where good people go when they die.



BIKINI SHOPPING

Fun for some, torture for most. Also known as S&M.

B-CUP

A smaller-than-average vessel from which bees drink.



C

CHICKEN FILLETS

The breast friends of an A-cup.





CACHAREL

The clothing equivalent of a lover.

CHIC

Pronounced sheik, also someone I once wrote a letter to asking for money.

CHANEL

Old money.

CASHMERE

A type of wool made from cash.

COORDINATE

Boring.

COCAINE

Nose makeup. 'I'm just going to the bathroom to powder my nose.'

CRASS

See *Box Pleat*.

COUTURE

Something you can't afford, and even if you could, you probably wouldn't have anywhere to wear it.

COAT

Big jacket.

C-CUP

Short for Compromise cup. 'I'd like to go up to a D, but I guess I'll take these Cs instead.'

CRIMINAL

Double denim, mustard, corduroy skirts, skorts, skousers, overalls, scrunchies, polo shirts with collars up, Lycra shorts in public, tracksuit pants in public, suits with running shoes.

CHEAP

Pronounced aap.

CALVIN KLEIN

Big in underpants and softcore porn.

Dear Michi,

I recently returned from Hong Kong on a shopping trip with my friends. We had a great time, but my experience was left a little marred after I discovered the Chanel bag I purchased was a fake. When I went back to confront the guy on the street who sold it to me, he said it was a genuine 'Channel.' I tried telling him Chanel doesn't have two ns, but he said it did. Either I can't spell, or this guy knows something I don't. Please help.

Hoodwinked,
Hampstead Heath,
London, UK

Dear Hoodwinked,

I'm sorry to tell you this, but the man on the street was telling the truth. Born in the early '70s to humble factory workers Louis Veeton and Donna Kebab, Cocoa Channel quickly made a name for herself in the fast-fashion industry— sewing upside-down crocodiles on polo shirts at her uncle's Lacroix factory. After a number of successful apprenticeships with Klowey and Versachi, Cocoa then went on to develop the iconic car trunk retail system, which can still be seen today on high streets and back alleys around the world. In the early '90s, Cocoa launched the iconic Channel brand. Often mistaken for the popular Parisian fashion house— Chanel, the Channel label can be identified by the famous interlocking double horseshoe logo, which can be seen on everything from bags to jackets as well as Cocoa's hugely successful— Channel No. 6 perfume.

Commiserations,

Michi

nichi x x





CORSET

Before considering a corset, Google the name Cathie Jung. Without giving too much away, Cathie wears a corset, and her waist is about the same size as a regular jar of mayonnaise. Just saying.



Christian Dior
I Drain Ostrich
Rad Ironic Shit
Radio Rich Nits

D

DEBT

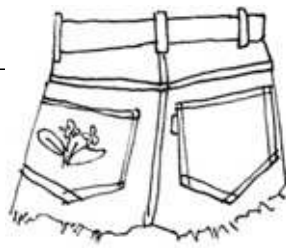
‘Nice wardrobe.’

DÉCOLLETAGE

Said Captain Peacock to Mrs. Slocombe: ‘Do you have a pen, Mrs. Slocombe?’ ‘Certainly, Captain Peacock, I’ll just retrieve it from my décolletage.’

DAISY DUKES

Really short denim shorts. ‘Gee, those Daisy Dukes are tiny; it looks like they’re going right up her crack like denim dental floss.’



DEMI TOE

A toe that bears an uncanny resemblance to Ashton Kutcher's wife. 'Ouch, I just stubbed my Demi... I think she's broken.'

DOC MARTENS

Not really a doctor.



DOLCE & GABBANA

The only two guys in the world who can get away with a golden mosaic shower.

DONNA KARAN

Double front-name designer. Will answer to Donna or Karan. Or Ms. Karan. Or DK. But not Kazza.

DOTTED SWISS

- 1) Sheer cotton fabric embellished with woven, flocked, or embroidered raised dots.
 - 2) Swiss teen going through puberty.
-

DRESS

Are you sure this book's for you?

DWAYNE PIPE

Midwest stylist who created the overalls and toothpick-in-mouth look.

DPJES VAN NOTEN

Usually anything involving a 'van' is dodgy. This is the one exception to that rule.



DEZIGNER

Abiding by the international dezign code of 'more is more,' the dezigner will use everything at his or her disposal to catch your eye. More colors, more textures, more beads, more puffy paint, more everything. The most common type of dezigner is the 'in-house fashion dezigner,' someone who owns a bedazzler and works predominantly from their kitchen table. See www.etsy.com for more.

DESERT BOOTS

Cute boots from my childhood made from suede. Not to be confused with *dessert boots*, which

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