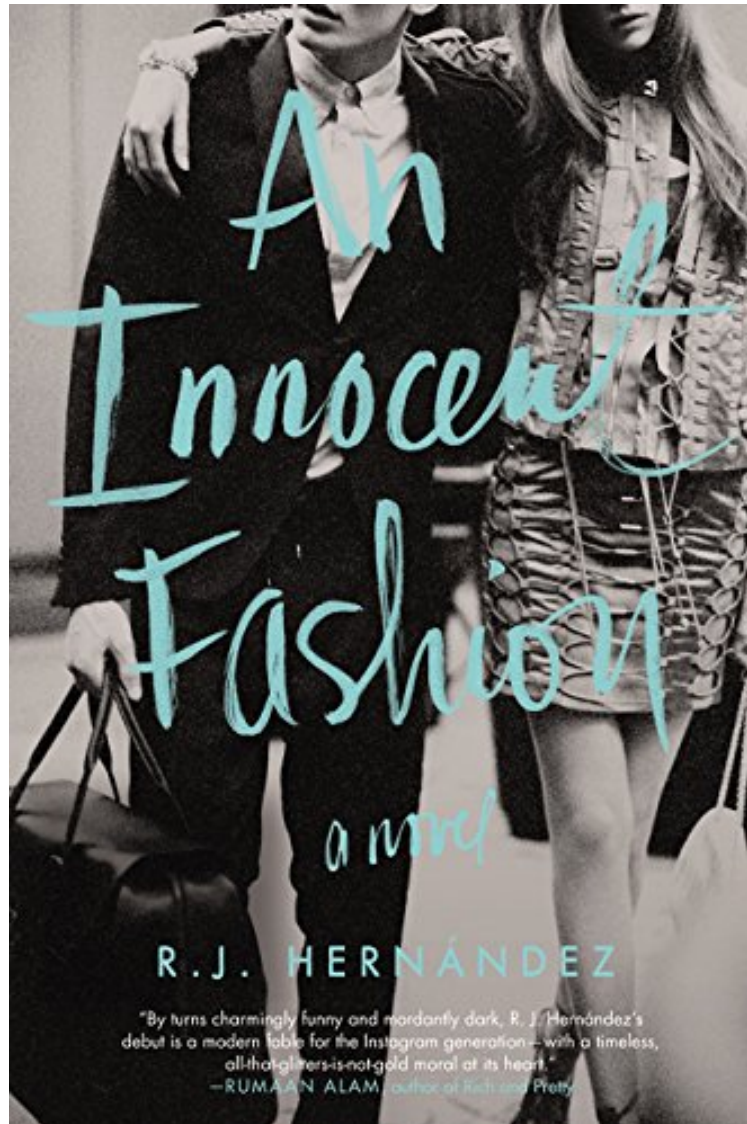


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An Innocent Fashion: A Novel

R.J. Hernández

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#224874 in Books Hernaandez R J 2016-07-05 2016-07-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .86 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 006242954X384 pagesAn Innocent Fashion | File size: 36.Mb

R.J. Hernández : An Innocent Fashion: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Innocent Fashion: A Novel:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Elegant writing and cringe-inducing realismBy JaelynnThis wonderful first novel (which Kirkus correctly called "mordantly funny and emotionally ruthless") is a tour de force that combines elegant writing with cringe-inducing realism and a page-turning plot. Hernandez's characters are complex and human — often, infuriatingly so — and, as "Ethan," the book's narrator gradually becomes aware that his beloved world of high fashion is driven by jealousy, banality, indifference, and ego, we become gradually aware of the

emotional peril he's in. In the end, Ethan's journey raises more questions than it answers: Can life be based on a single, fixed dream? Is our identity mutable, or not? What does it mean to want something "better?" And when do we get to read R.J. Hernandez's second novel???? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative and enjoyable By S. Soloff A quick read, very enjoyable if you have always longed to work in the world of fashion. As in any enterprise this world is filled with genius, hype, illusions/delusions, and, a small army of people who draw, stitch, answer phones, buy and sell and eventually bring to life what we see in fashion shows, magazines, movies, and sooner or later in the stores. The author either was there or was a fly on the wall and tells his story, by turns, in an engaging, funny, sad, gossipy way. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. I loved this book By Customer I loved this book. The first line made me laugh out loud and it was a sealed deal from there. The author has a gift for metaphor and the writing is rich, florid and camp in the very best way. The wealth of references to big-R Romantic classics in literature and cinema ("Dorian was Tadzio while the rest of us were Aschenbachs." - !!!) is delightful to comb through and never feels unearned, as the skill of the prose in *An Innocent Fashion* often approaches that of the sacred cows from which the author clearly draws inspiration. In R.J. Hernandez' hands, themes of immense privilege become universal and something so mundane as a meeting with a middle-manager at a fashion magazine becomes as thrilling as any life or death situation. He invites us out on a glamorous romp through New York City and suddenly we're surprised to find ourselves being asked the only real question: why is anybody alive at all? Absolutely recommend.

"Writing in a fervently literary style that flirts openly with the traditions of Salinger, Plath, and Fitzgerald, Hernández is a diamond-sharp satirist and a bracingly fresh chronicler of the heartbreak of trying to grow up. Honest and absurd, funny and tragic, wild and lovely, this novel describes modern coming-of-age with poetic precision." *The Devil Wears Prada meets The Bell Jar in this story of a wide-eyed Ivy League grad who discovers that his dream of "making it" at leading New York City fashion magazine Régine may well be his undoing. Elián San Jamar knew from childhood that he was destined for a better life than the one his working-class multiracial parents share in Texas—a life inspired by Régine's pages. A full ride to Yale opens the door to a more glamorous world, and he quickly befriends Madeline and Dorian, both scions of incredible wealth and privilege. With their help, he reinvents himself, and after four decadent years he graduates as Ethan St. James. But reality hits hard when Ethan arrives at Régine and is relegated to the lowest rung of the ladder. Mordantly funny and emotionally ruthless, *An Innocent Fashion* is the saga of a true millennial—naïve, idealistic, struggling with his identity and sexuality—trying to survive in an industry, and in a city, notorious for attracting new graduates only to chew them up and spit them out. Oscillating between melodrama and whip-smart sarcasm, pretentiousness and heartbreaking vulnerability, increasingly disillusioned with Régine and Madeline and Dorian, Ethan begins to unravel. As the narratives of his conflicted childhood, cloistered collegiate experience, and existential crisis braid together, this deeply moving coming-of-age novel for the twenty-first century spirals toward a devastating realization: You can follow your dreams, but what happens if your dreams are just not enough? *Kirkus Reviews (starred)

"Wry...literary.... His characters are vivid enough to stand alone.... Victims of their affected apathy and subject, beneath their veneer of disinterested sophistication, to the same immemorial terrors and heartbreaks, Madeline, Dorian and Ethan are eminently believable." (Washington Post) "Writing in a fervently literary style that flirts openly with the traditions of Salinger, Plath, and Fitzgerald, Hernández is a diamond-sharp satirist.... Honest and absurd, funny and tragic, wild and lovely, this novel describes modern coming-of-age with poetic precision." (Kirkus s (starred)) "Hernández's writing is beautiful, and the story offers a searing take on privilege, glamour, and the socialite scene. Charming and very astute." (Travel + Leisure) "By turns mordantly dark and charmingly funny, R. J. Hernández's debut is a modern fable with a timeless heart." (Rumaan Alam, author of *Rich and Pretty*) "Hernández's coming-of-age story... [an] unapologetic view into the underbelly of fashion media, chronicles its protagonist's experience trying to fit into a world where a person's social background is scrutinized just as much as his skills and intellect." (People Magazine online) "Delivers a mixture of satire, fashion, postcollege depression and confusion, all delicately rolled into a turquoise binding with lyrically gifted accents." (TimeOut New York, "The best and most erotic LGBT books to read this summer") "Lose yourself in the world of a fictional fashion magazine . . . Hernández creates a hybrid coming-of-age story mixed with a fashion industry tale that's fast-paced and full of drama." (Elle.com, "19 Summer Books That Everyone Will Be Talking About") "Like *The Devil Wears Prada*, but better. The new novel takes on the fashion magazine world with fresh perspective." (Racked.com) "The Devil Wears Prada for millenials.... Explores the magazine industry through a different lens than past insider tomes.... With a sure hand, Hernández leads his readers into an overlapping world of Ivy-League pedigree and corporate hustle." (VanityFair.com) "Compelling.... Entertaining.... Hernández's dark view of innocence makes him a novelist to watch." (Telegraph) "A tussle of identity politics set against a background of fashion." (Guardian) "A story about dreams, and how the one that saves you today can just as easily crush you tomorrow." (Rookie) "Triumphant.... A gripping journey through the halls of high fashion told through a voice seldom used on today's shelves: that of great American Classics." (Out Magazine online) "Hernandez's debut ambitiously combines the socialites of *The Great*

Gatsby, an Oscar Wildean sexual fluidity, and cutthroat fashionistas reminiscent of *The Devil Wears Prada*.... Vivid and relatable.” (Booklist)“Approaches a typical portrayal of the high-brow worlds of academia and fashion only to break them open, exposing the racist and classist stigmas that govern them.... Darkly entertaining, emotionally exhausting, and overall, well worth reading.” (Edge Media Network)“Using the fast-paced, flamboyant fashion industry as a backdrop to highlight personal and social struggles, Hernandez’s darkly humorous novel outlines the familiar millennial conflict of sacrificing our values for success.... Incredible.” (Bullett Magazine)“An Innocent Fashion is reflective of our contemporary New York City—rollicking, indulgent and full of beauty one minute, and despairing, haunting, and full of grit the next. And above all—one of a kind, and the best of its kind.” (Christine Reilly, Sunday’s on the Phone to Monday)“Just when you think you’ve read enough about the rising American generation, the smartest debut comes along and proves you wrong. Hernandez slow-cooks Ivy League privilege, high fashion orthodoxy, ambition, and the agony of not belonging, teasing you between hysteria and resignation. A feast.” (Ioannis Pappos, author of *Hotel Living* (finalist for Lambda Literary and Edward White Debut Fiction awards))“Full of flashy fiascos and dark humour, *An Innocent Fashion* was one of the sharpest and most fascinating books I’ve read in a while.” (The Daily Star)From the Back CoverElián San Jamar knew from childhood that he was destined for a better life than the one his working-class multiracial parents share in Texas—a life inspired by Régine’s pages. A full ride to Yale opens the door to a more glamorous world, and he quickly befriends Madeline and Dorian, both scions of incredible wealth and privilege. With their help, he reinvents himself, and after four decadent years he graduates as Ethan St. James. But reality hits hard when Ethan arrives at Régine and is relegated to the lowest rung of the ladder.Mordantly funny and emotionally ruthless, *An Innocent Fashion* is the saga of a true millennial—naïve, idealistic, struggling with his identity and sexuality—trying to survive in an industry, and in a city, notorious for attracting new graduates only to chew them up and spit them out. Oscillating between melodrama and whip-smart sarcasm, pretentiousness and heartbreaking vulnerability, increasingly disillusioned with Régine and Madeline and Dorian, Ethan begins to unravel.As the narratives of his conflicted childhood, cloistered collegiate experience, and existential crisis braid together, this deeply moving coming-of-age novel for the twenty-first century spirals toward a devastating realization: You can follow your dreams, but what happens if your dreams are just not enough?About the AuthorR.J. HERNÁNDEZ is a writer living in New York City. He was raised in Miami by Cuban-American parents and graduated from Yale University in 2011. This is his first novel.