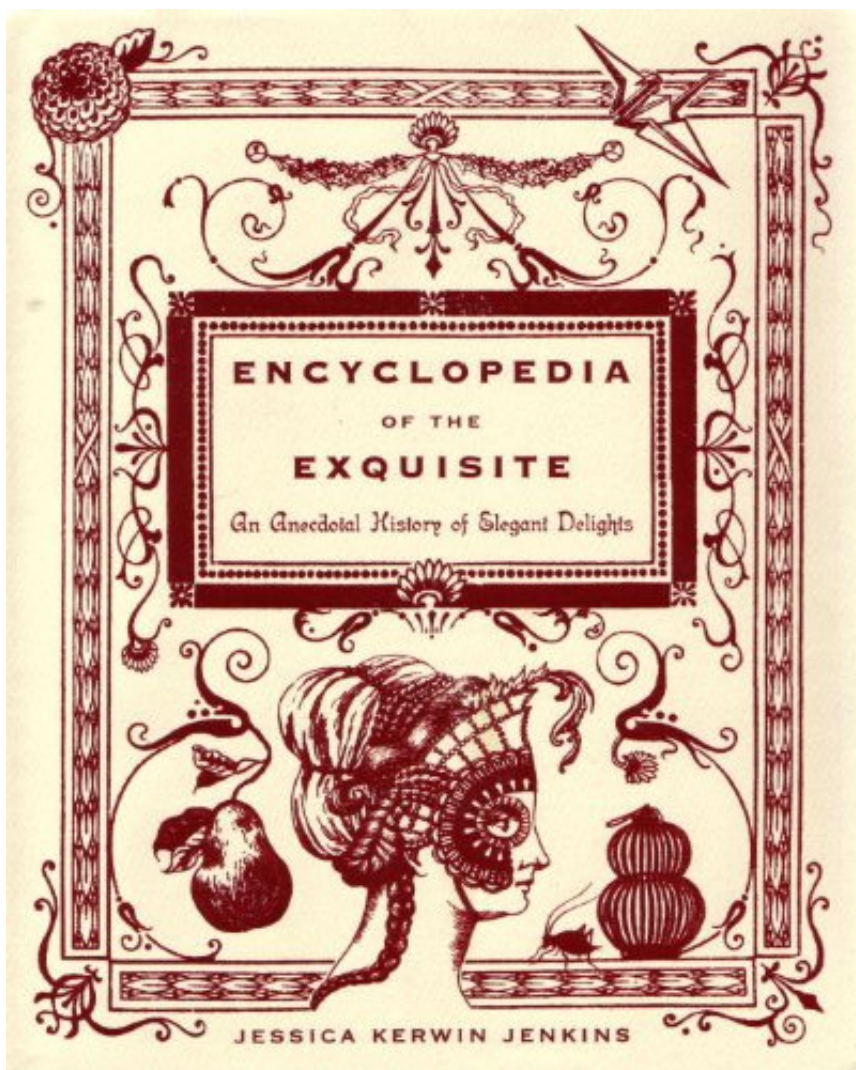


Encyclopedia of the Exquisite: An Anecdotal History of Elegant Delights

by

Jessica Kerwin Jenkins



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Synopsis

Encyclopedia of the Exquisite is a lifestyle guide for the Francophile and the Anglomaniac, the gourmet and the style maven, the armchair traveler and the art lover. It's an homage to the esoteric world of glamour that doesn't require much spending but makes us feel rich. Taking a cue from the exotic encyclopedias of the sixteenth century, which brimmed with mysterious artifacts, Jessica Kerwin Jenkins's Encyclopedia of the Exquisite focuses on the elegant, the rare, the commonplace, and the delightful. A compendium of style, it merges whimsy and practicality, traipsing through the fine arts and the worlds of fashion, food, travel, home, garden, and beauty. Each entry features several engaging anecdotes, illuminating the curious past of each enduring source of beauty. Subjects covered include the explosive history of champagne; the art of lounging on a divan; the emergence of "frillies," the first lacy, racy lingerie; the ancient uses of sweetsmelling saffron; the wild riot incited by the appearance of London's first top hat; Julia Child's tip for cooking the perfect omelet; the polarizing practice of wearing red lipstick during World War II; Louis XIV's fondness for the luscious Bartlett pear; the Indian origin of badminton; Parliament's 1650 attempt to suppress Europe's beauty mark fad; the evolution of the Japanese kimono; the pilgrimage of Central Park's Egyptian obelisk; and the fanciful thrill of dining alfresco. Cleverly illustrated, Encyclopedia of the Exquisite is an ode to life's plenty, from the extravagant to the eccentric. It is a celebration of luxury that doesn't necessarily require money. **BONUS MATERIAL:** This ebook edition includes an excerpt from Jessica Kerwin Jenkins's *All the Time in the World*.

What people say about this book

R.A. Martin, "A GEM. Seldom does One find such a slight book filled with plump delights like sugar plums, as this. I guess as they say, the best things come in small packages. I gave this as gift to my brother years ago and he continually dropped juicy little bits into my psyche. Finally I had to get my own copy, which now on the Kindle Fire, (since I leave abroad and cannot really afford the luxury of hardcover books) the drawings and visuals are right there too enhancing the text. Christmas is over, but this makes a fabulous gift any time of the year. RA Martin (Abracadabra Tarot)"

S. Tolleson Rinehart, "each entry a small, choice bit of chocolate for the mind. I join all the other reviewers in my praise of this completely charming book. I think any smart, curious woman will love it, just as she will love the author's motivation, imagination, curation, and wit. Smart, curious men will surely like it too; I detect a tiny bit of gender role socialization in the choice of entries, but nothing of the bluntly stupid "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" kind. For entries about which I, too, know a little something, I am lost in admiration at Kerwin Jenkins' ability to reduce accurately researched history to the mot both bon and juste. If I find myself nodding in agreement about the subjects with which I am familiar, I find myself equally willing to trust her to tell me all about new things (who knew that the first Bartlett pear was called Le Bon Chretien?) While I have had the book, I've delighted in dipping in it just letting it fall open, and reading the entry I first see. Lately, I've started reading it systematically from A to Z, and that is just charming. Each entry is brief; a quick look is enough to give one a burst of whimsy like a little mental chocolate. The book is wondrously informative, lightly witty and always generous in its treatment of its subjects. Kudos, too, to the publisher, Nan A. Talese, for giving the book such a wonderful physical appearance! Savoring the fine font and creamy, deckle edged pages is an atavistic pleasure in these electronic days and a grand example of why human beings still want and need real books. I think this book would make the most delightful birthday or Christmas gift for any literate person with both taste, and a taste for indulging in the wonder of our world!"

Angela Wells, "My sister requested this book. My sister asked for this book for Christmas and lost it when she opened it. She was very happy, I hope she actually reads it"

Maria Aguilar Gallardo, "simply delightful!!!!. I received this book as a birthday present from my father!!! And it's simply delightful! Reading it could compare to taste a good glass of wine . Jessica Kerwin said " I've often found myself defending frivolity when in serious minded company" . And That's what I feel too! I always find myself a Little bit strange because I do not used to prefer too much Outdoor activities. I always ask myself how can I love Painters from the 18 and 19 century , gaze their paints full of colors that resemble to nature, but prefer a dinner or a Lunch in a New York city rooftop instead of some alfresco activities . When I read this book about the history of Alfresco, I Smile at myself because outdoors /indoors activities

follow a history culture pattern according to time, architecture and technology that shapes our habits . What Counts at all no matter time and space is the exquisite spirit to enjoy every simple moment of life! thank you Jessica Kerwin For this book. It's like a Collection of pearls!!!!"

Cenguild, "Five Stars. Excellent. Good delivery time and exactly as described , thank you."

Z, "Worth it!. I love this book! It's a very nice read. It's relaxing and interesting. The cover is absolutely beautiful, as are the illustrations inside. Some parts do read like an actual encyclopadia so I had to take a few breaks. But most entries are interesting and worth a read."

Niclas Grabowski, "Besser exquisite als exklusiv. Selten passt ein Photo einer Autorin (man findet es auf der hinteren Innenseite des Schutzumschlages) so gut zu einem Buch wie in diesem Fall. Eine aparte, elegante und offenbar alterlose Frau schaut hier ganz unprärentiös in die Kamera, natürlich in Schwarzweiß, und sie trägt ein offenbar recht einfaches Kleid was aber diesen gewissen, etwas britischen Stil hat, ohne dabei unbezahlbar zu wirken. So sehen gebildete Genussmenschen aus. Und damit wären wir dann auch bei den Inhalten des Buches. Die Autorin spart sich nämlich die übliche Markenschlacht, das Namedropping, die Rekordpreise oder Miniverfügbarkeiten, mit denen man meint, schöne Dinge in der heutigen Zeit sonst so vermarkten zu müssen. Eigentlich hätte das alles nämlich nahe gelegen. Die Autorin schreibt nämlich für Vogue, was davor auch schon mal Herausgeber von Frauenzeitschriften, und die leben ja bekanntlich davon, dass sie das mit dem Markenwahnsinn bis zum Exzess betreiben. Hier dagegen geht es um die Frage, ob man ein wirklich gutes Omelett am besten aus komplett verquirlten oder nur sachte vermengten Eiern herstellt wobei letzteres den Charm hat, dass Weiß und Gelb eben unterscheidbar bleiben, und die Konsistenz eben auch besser ist. Nicht dass ich das jetzt selbst schon versucht hätte. Aber allein das Streben nach der optimalen Form für so etwas eigentlich ganz Einfaches muss geradezu meine Sympathie finden. Der wahre Luxus liegt eben nicht in der Preisgestaltung oder dem Aufwand, mit dem etwas geschaffen wird. Es liegt vielmehr in der Liebe, die man in ein Objekt investiert. Mit einer solchen Liebe ist dann auch dieses Buch gestaltet. Keine Photos, dafür ein paar schöne Zeichnungen, natürlich nur in ganz seichten Pastelltönen. Schutzumschlag und Cover dahinter nehmen Motive aus dem Fin de Siecle auf. Die Themen sind eher ein wenig abseitig, sie sind in Frauenzeitschriften jedenfalls nur selten zu finden. Gut recherchiert worden ist hier in vielen der Texte, so findet sich zum Thema Obsidian nicht nur die übliche Story über die Verwendung des Materials bei den Azteken, sondern auch noch eine schöne Geschichte um den frühneuzeitlichen Magier John Dee. Und statt über moderne Modells zu schreiben, findet sich hier ein Text über die Modelle, die den Künstlern im Jazz Age Modell standen, und die solch entzückende Namen wie Kiki de Montparnasse trugen. Und selbst wenn mir das Baden in Milch nur eine mäßig gute Idee erscheint, hier liest sich der Text darüber dennoch phantastisch, zumahl dieser gleich fast zweitausend Jahre der Menschheitsgeschichte umfasst. Vielleicht ist

das kein Buch, welches man am Stück lesen muss. Liest man aber immer mal wieder einen der Artikel so zwischendurch, so rückt es ein paar Kleinigkeiten im Leben wieder gerade.”

Judith, “Exquisito. Un libro muy bonito, con una edición muy cuidada. El interior tiene ilustraciones a dos tintas. Un buen regalo para personas interesadas en el tema, que daría para un libro mucho más largo. Me ha gustado mucho la extensa bibliografía citada al final, que anima a seguir investigando temas pintorescos.”

Alessandro, “regalo. E' stato un regalo per la mia fidanzata dopo che ha creato una lista dei desideri interminabile. Ne è stata soddisfatta. Non chiedetemi, però, che trama abbia. Io e la letteratura siamo opposti che non si attraggono. :)”

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