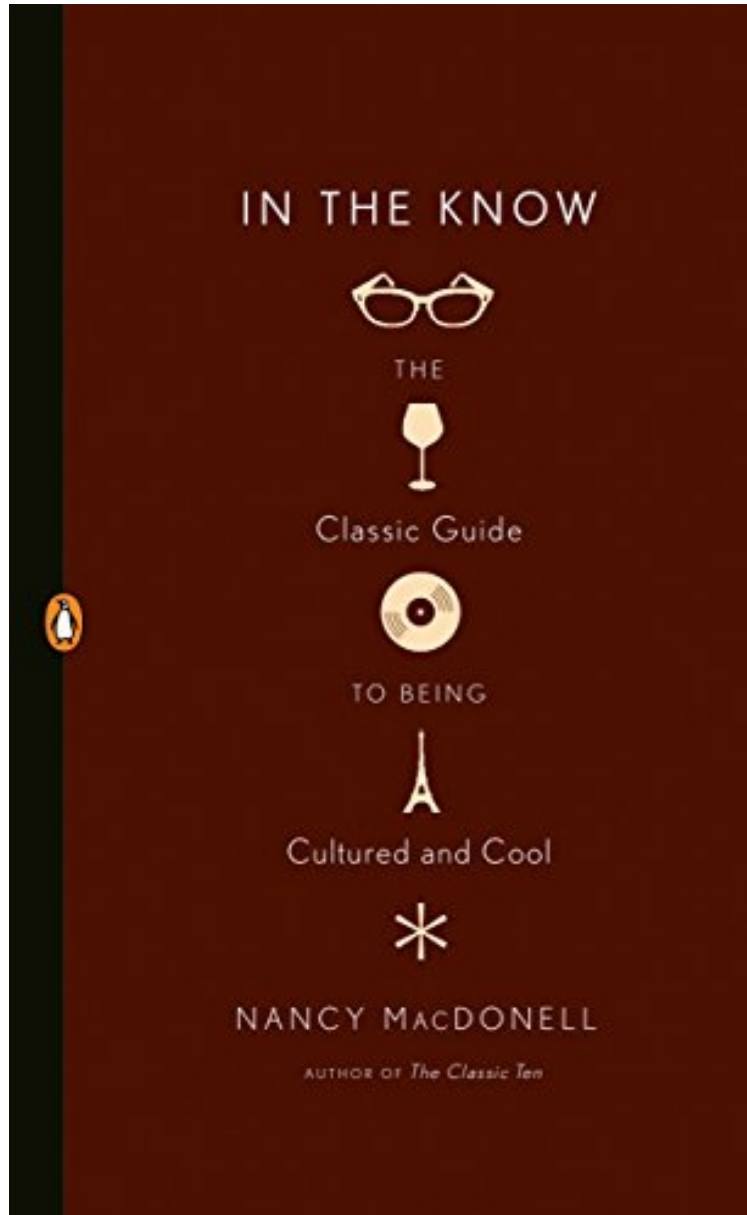


(Free) In the Know: The Classic Guide to Being Cultured and Cool

In the Know: The Classic Guide to Being Cultured and Cool

Nancy MacDonell

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Nancy MacDonell : In the Know: The Classic Guide to Being Cultured and Cool before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Know: The Classic Guide to Being Cultured and Cool:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Cool yes, but for an older crowdBy JustbookingThis is an interesting if somewhat quirky book to read in your spare time, a sort of Cliff Notes version of the "classics" that resonate for an

older crowd (age 35+), either because they were cool years ago or because they finally have the money to buy them. The truly "cultural and cool" will see this as a sea of cultural knowledge with an inch of depth. For the rest of us, it's simply a handy guide to learn a little about a lot, without spending too much. The top ten lists cover a wide variety of topics, including books, music, furniture, wine, art, and places to travel. A brief description of their importance or uniqueness is included, which may inspire you to search them out. However, some choices are so iconic that if you wish to get one, you'll be paying really big bucks for them. But then again, many won't even bother. Will flaunting an Hermes Birkin or a quilted Chanel handbag really make you cool? Would you be willing to pay hundreds of dollars for a rare art book by Slim Aarons just to see pictures of attractive people doing attractive things in attractive places 30 odd years ago? The lists are not all-inclusive and there are glaring omissions at times. For example, Jackie O is nowhere to be found in the chapter about "5 Women Designers Love to Reference" which oddly enough highlights Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor (granted, she did get an exhibit at the Met in 2002, along with her husband). Audrey Hepburn is brushed off as not worthy "of the select group of women whose style (designers) pay homage to." In all fairness, the author has knowingly left out anything too obvious or anything too recent, either because it's too early to tell how it will age or because it doesn't need further explanation. Will reading this book make you look like an insider? Hardly. But with glossaries, pictures and pronunciation guides, at least it will keep you from looking foolish. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good reading By Prima chica Interesting book to read for light reading. Once in awhile it's nice to have a book that tells it as it is on what is proper and acceptable in today's society. More or less a 'brushed up' course in culture etiquette. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. You can be cultured and cool without knowing anything in this book By Sarah I wanted to like this book, but just didn't. Be warned that the selection chosen by this writer is very narrow and definitely not what any cultured and cool folk I know would consider cultured and cool. As one who once walked out of a Phil Glass production halfway through because I just couldn't stand it, I certainly wouldn't make the grade. I think you have to be a certain sort of person - one who shares the author's narrow taste - to enjoy this book. Don't buy it if you are expecting an interesting selection unless you think culture didn't start until the twentieth century.

There are still a few things money can't buy. Love is one, cool is another. But while love can be left to fate, cool doesn't need to be. Though it may seem like something you're born with, cool is actually a code, and you're holding the key to the code in your hands. It's all a matter of getting the right facts straight: Why is Jackson Pollock important? What handbag will get you upgraded at the airport? Who is Jacques Derrida and why does he matter? Covering everything from fashion and design to art and philosophy—all in entertaining, fact-filled bites—Nancy MacDonell has assembled the ultimate cheat sheet. In the Know is nothing less than a one-volume guide to navigating life with style and flair.

About the Author Nancy MacDonell's work has appeared in Elle, T (The New York Times, style and fashion magazine), British Vogue, NYLON, and other publications.