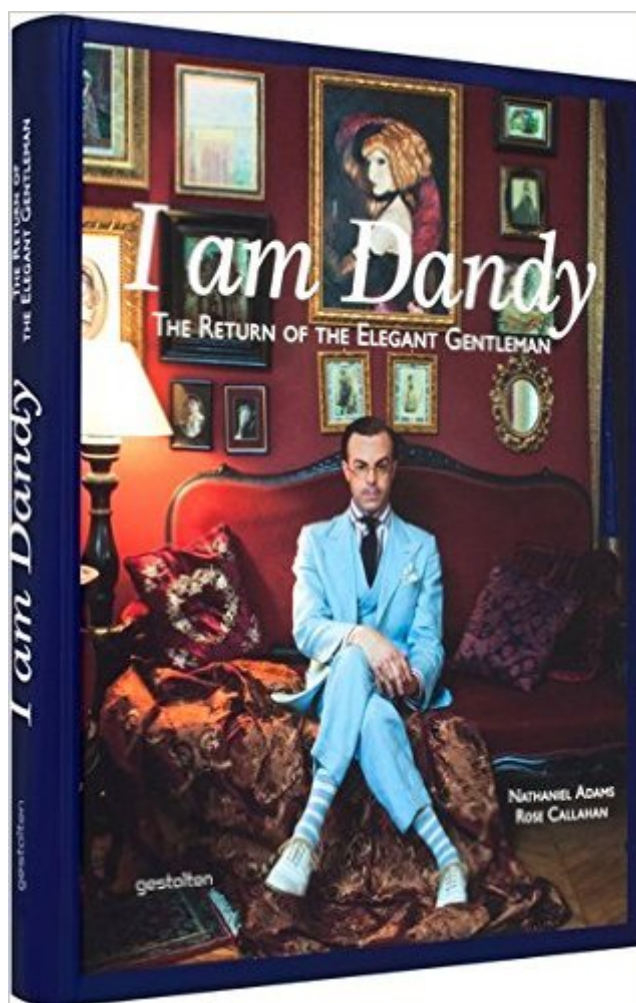


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# I Am Dandy: The Return Of The Elegant Gentleman



## Synopsis

The dandy is back! Gone are the days of arbitrary fashion, casual sportswear, and slick metrosexuals. Today, more men are discovering dandyism and giving it their own contemporary look. Even today, men who devote themselves to the finer things in life --especially when it comes to fashion --mostly arouse suspicion. Vanity is frowned upon and lavish grooming is generally deemed superficial or unmanly. Fortunately, a small but tenacious movement has been defying these social dictates for more than 200 years. Its adherents indulge in their love of quality clothing and accessories not only privately, but also very publicly. Photographer Rose Callahan and writer Nathaniel Adams have spent years exploring the fascinating phenomenon of dandyism. They visit contemporary dandies in their homes to document their impeccably designed lives in both words and images. Well-kempt to the tips of their beards and wearing three-piece suits with flawlessly folded pocket handkerchiefs and supple kid gloves, their protagonists revive the charm of the past and reveal that cultivated idleness can be incredibly hard work. These gallant beaux first came on the scene in eighteenth-century London and Paris, where they supported the livelihoods of many a local tailor. Today's dandies continue to propagate a look characterized by trimmed beards, pomade, velvet slippers, and even a touch of make-up as a shield to mask the darker sides of life. Yet in their carefully composed portraits, Callahan and Adams reveal the cracks in this façade. They describe the sacrifices that many fulltime dandies need to make while pursuing their personal aesthetic ideals. A refuge for eccentrics, dandyism has seen a revival in the Anglo-American realm over the last several years. For example, today's distinguished gentlemen can ride their vintage bikes around London during the tweed Run to show off their authentic outfits or attend the Jazz Age Lawn Party on New York City's Governor's Island to bring the era of the Great Gatsby back to life, if only for a few hours. Now, the phenomenon is again going more international. Known for their Dandy Portraits, the spiffy duo of Callahan and Adams approaches their topic --and their protagonists--with a keen, yet empathic eye. In this book, they successfully capture the styles, attitudes, and philosophies of contemporary dandyism in all its nuances.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I pre-ordered this book as soon as I heard about it! I am glad that it is largely pictorial and more on personality. Too many "dandy" guides focus on only cut and clothing. That said, this book is a compilation of vignettes of modern men purporting to be dandies. Some are more in the spirit of the 19th century dandy, frequenting Savile Row to buy their suits and interested in tailoring and traditional menswear. Others push the definition of the dandy to the extreme, bordering on camp and pop culture cosplay, a Japanese "English" portmanteau of "costume play." These dandies are theatrically eccentric. But are they dandies? This book goes to show that the definition of "dandyism" depends on the dandy in question. Some dandies consider their clothing as a part of self-presentation while others regard their clothing as part of playing dress-up, complete with posturing and artifice. The dandy is as much clothing as the lifestyle and attitude. It's fun to see each man in his own expression of dandyism which, even in its 19th century roots, is an expression of the individual. If one wants a scholarly history of the dandy, one can read Ellen Moers' classic inquiry from 1960 or the modern updated analysis by Nigel Rodgers from 2012. "I Am Dandy," has funny and pretty pictures.

Well produced and beautifully photographed, this book helps define the 'New Dandy' movement that has been spawned and supported by the various I-gent fora online. A wide range of approaches, from the relative conservatism of G. Bruce Boyer to more extreme ways of dressing. For those who love clothing, or anyone interested in popular culture..this one is a gem!

I AM DANDY: THE RETURN OF THE ELEGANT GENTLEMAN by Nathaniel Adams and photographer Rose Callahan is an exquisite hardcover coffee table book that profiles some of the most incredibly dressed men in the world. The book is made up of chapters devoted to a single man who is considered a "dandy" or one who dresses in the most elegant way -- some wearing nothing

but custom made suits, while others only wear vintage turn-of-the-century clothes -- as they describe their fashion style and what makes a man a "dandy," and why they started dressing like this. I like that there are men of all ages, races, nationalities, and locales featured in this book. The full color pictures show the clothes, and sometimes the interior of their homes and closets, and I found it fascinating to read about each one and why and how they started dressing this way. There are so many men in this book that some only get a two page spread, while others get more, but it's interesting to see how diverse these guys are. Although I've never heard of this resurgence in being a "dandy," I'm glad that there are men who are pushing the male fashion envelope further with these new interpretations of clothes; they see dressing as not just some item to cover up the body, but as a statement of how they feel about themselves and about life in general. Definitely buy if you enjoy men's fashion, style, or fascinating subjects and photography.

This was a present for my hubby after seeing it on Sunday Morning. He loved the book and had this to say, "The things that I liked about the book are the backgrounds of each "dandy" and that each person isn't the same dandy! Thanks for the information!" WELL worth the price:)

Like its subject, "I am Dandy: The return of the elegant gentleman" is both classic and timely, intriguing and, let's admit it, inspiring to those of us who are less, shall we say, refined. The book is also, appropriately, beautiful.

I adore this book. Every time I flip through it, I discover a new modern gentleman with intriguing style. More than fifty gentlemen are profiled, with each profile spreading across four to six pages. The profiles include multiple photos (colour and black and white) and interview quotes about their life's philosophies and stylistic inspiration. Some gentlemen you may recognise (such as Simon Doonan, Patrick McDonald and Nick Wooster), while others are less 'famous' but are equally dedicated to living their lives with panache. The men also range widely in age and aesthetic inspiration. You may not admire every man's personal presentation, but given the diversity of men profiled, you're likely to be inspired by many of them.

The photographs and copy are enlightening and entertaining--to say the least. Perhaps the best compliment one can pay to any work is that you don't want it to ever end. Consider that said. This is truly an amazing book and should be paramount on the shelves of every "clothes-wearing man, whose trade, office and existence consists in the wearing of clothes." (Also guys who like to dress

up). Buy this, make the authors wealthy, they deserve it.

A beautiful coffee table book. Each page is a delightful surprise, beginning with the (spoiler alert!) fuchsia inside-cover. I love that the book is divided by its dandy characters: Each section is a short-story unto itself, worlds with their own histories, supporting characters and inspirations. The photographs offer a glimpse into these worlds, the dandies in their own element--surrounded by details like housecoat pockets, buttons and bookshelves. This book is both wonderful to read and have on display. I have the added bonus of having this book signed by the photographer!

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