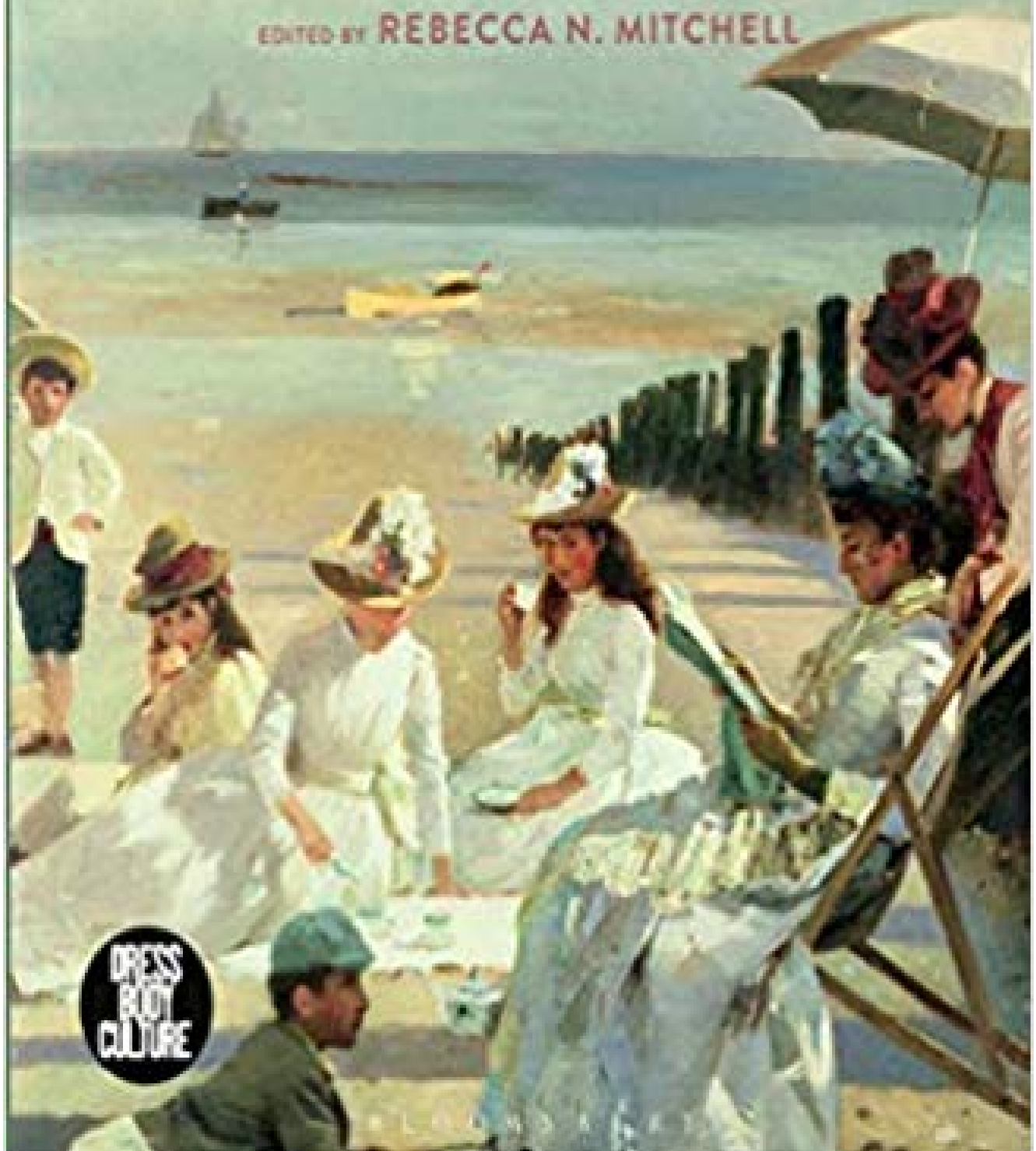


A CRITICAL SOURCEBOOK

FASHIONING THE VICTORIANS

EDITED BY REBECCA N. MITCHELL



Rebecca Mitchell

Fashioning the Victorians (Dress, Body, Culture)



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Offering a unique anthology of principal texts, this sourcebook opens a windowpane on the composing that formed and mirrored Victorian style, taking all of us from corsets to crinolines, dandies to decadent 'New Women'. A user-friendly collection that provides a good grounding in the fashion background of the nineteenth century, it includes for the very first time sources that trace the evolution of gown and the interpersonal, cultural and political discourses that influenced it. Exploring both menswear and womenswear, and key topics such as for example corsetry, dress reform and mourning, Mitchell extends her evaluation into interdisciplinary areas including gender studies and literature, and guides the reader with a timeline, glossary and further readings. Each section opens with an introduction that examines the major trends in Victorian clothing – and the material, financial, scientific and cultural forces traveling those developments – situating the texts in the pressing social anxieties and pleasures of the time. Featuring seminal writings simply by authors and commentators such as Oscar Wilde, Thorstein Veblen and Sarah Stickney Ellis, plus satirical cartoons, illustrations and fashion plates from key sources such as Punch magazine, it combines major texts and illustrations with accessible explanatory notes to provide a wide-ranging summary of the period for both students and researchers.



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