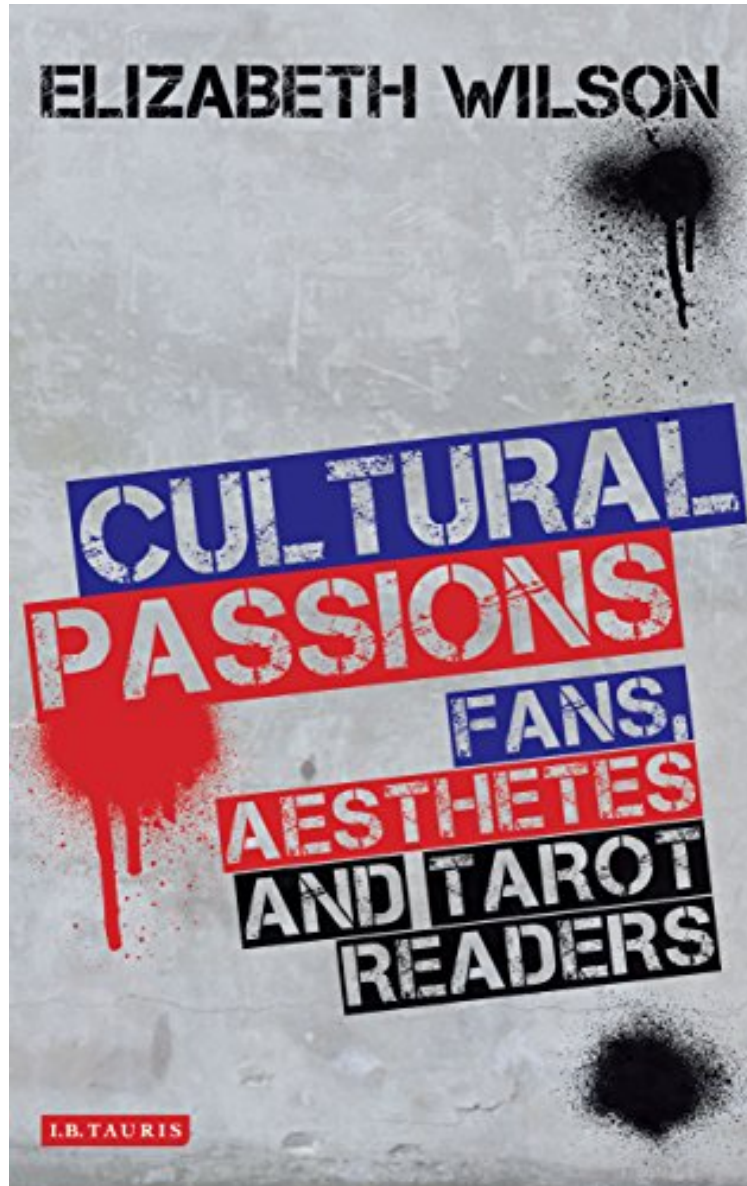


Cultural Passions: Fans, Aesthetes and Tarot Readers

Elizabeth Wilson

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Elizabeth Wilson : Cultural Passions: Fans, Aesthetes and Tarot Readers before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cultural Passions: Fans, Aesthetes and Tarot Readers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Couldn't put it down By DeedleDooA welcome addition to an already outstanding body of work by one of the world's most influential and insightful fashion theorists. Those who have read Wilson's indispensable "Adorned in Dreams" (and/or followed academic dialogues on fashion, gender, and fandom) will most readily appreciate this book. But even those who haven't should find a great deal to love in this

work, which serves as an illustration of the maxim -- recited by Wilson in the text -- that all scholarship is a form of autobiography.

Elizabeth Wilson is one of our most radical cultural critics. In *Cultural Passions* she transcends the division between 'high' and 'low' culture, exploring the emotional commitment people bring to the books, performances, objects and rituals in which they find meaning and challenging an enduring suspicion of the pleasure of the aesthetic. Ranging from Marcel Proust to tarot readings, from urban planning to interiors, Elizabeth Wilson investigates an underlying Puritanism in critical commentary on matters as wide ranging as Roger Federer and C S Lewis, Surrealism and fashion and the relationship of religion to fan culture. She questions why pleasure appears suspect, even as consumer society incites it and turns life into entertainment. She questions why there is such fear of elitism when at the same time the fans of mass culture are held in contempt. Subverting conventional views, her oblique point of view provides startling insights on both familiar and marginal cultural experiences.

About the Author Cultural critic and activist, Elizabeth Wilson is the author of *Adorned in Dreams: Fashion and Modernity* and *Bohemians: The Glamorous Outcasts* (both I.B.Tauris), as well as *Hallucinations* and *The Sphinx in the City*. She has also written a series of crime novels, *The Twilight Hour*, *War Damage* and *Dying for Peace*. She is currently Visiting Professor of Cultural Studies, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London and she lives in London.