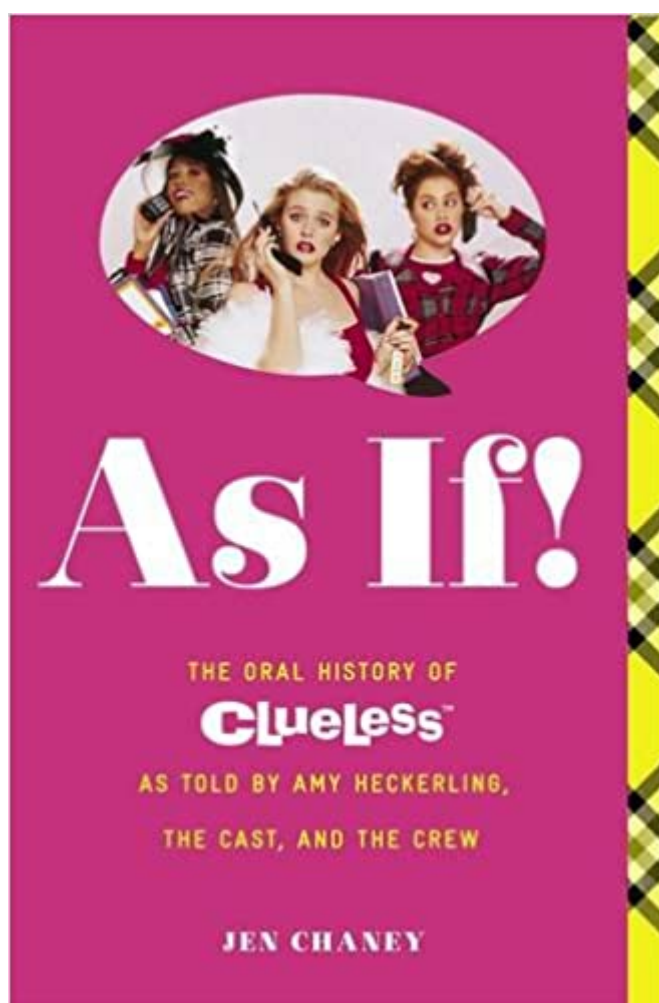


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# As If!: The Oral History Of Clueless As Told By Amy Heckerling And The Cast And Crew



## Synopsis

Will we ever get tired of *Clueless*? Ugh, as if! Acclaimed pop culture journalist Jen Chaney celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the classic film's release in the first book of its kind, weaving together original interviews with writer and director Amy Heckerling; key cast members, including Alicia Silverstone (Cher), Paul Rudd (Josh), Stacey Dash (Dionne), Donald Faison (Murray), Elisa Donovan (Amber), Wallace Shawn (Mr. Hall), Twink Caplan (Ms. Geist and associate producer); and other crucial *Clueless* players like costume designer Mona May, casting director Marcia Ross, director of photography Bill Pope, former Paramount chairwoman Sherry Lansing, and many more. Cast and crew also pay heartfelt tribute to the late Brittany Murphy, who lit up the screen as Cher's protégée, Tai. Chaney explores the influence of Jane Austen's *Emma* as the unlikely framework for Heckerling's script, the rigorous casting process (including the future stars who didn't make the cut), the functional yet fashion-forward wardrobe, the unique slang that drew from the past and coined new phrases for the future, the sun-drenched soundtrack that set the tone, and "above all" the massive amount of work, creativity, and craft that went into making *Clueless* look so effortlessly bright and glossy. As if! illuminates why plaid skirts and knee socks will never go out of style, and why *Clueless* remains one of the most beloved comedies of all time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It's one of those books we needed without realizing it: an oral history of the making of *Clueless*. . . .

A treat for fans." (People) "For its 20th birthday, the 90s classic *Clueless* gets a hilarious and comprehensive oral history." (Entertainment Weekly (Must List selection)) "Chaney's homage does not disappoint. . . . [She] weaves a glittery web, one that's hard to walk away from once you're drawn in. . . . For us middle-aged Gen X-ers and our adolescent offspring who still watch *Clueless* at sleepovers, *As If!* is a must. In fact, it's phat! Which is high praise, indeed." (Washington Post) "In *As If!*, everyone involved with the picture is interviewed, giving fans a window into how the movie became a classic." (New York Post) "[Chaney] seems to have gotten just about everyone involved in *Clueless* to talk to her about the making of the movie. . . . The behind-the-scenes memories will thrill those who loved the movie, and Chaney makes a good case for its enduring influence." (Boston Globe) "This book is a must-read for every girl who ever considered buying a white Jeep in honor of Cher Horowitz." (The Zoe Report) "Chaney expertly peppers juicy details about the film's making . . . with honest celebrity insights." (Flavorpill) "Packed with awesome behind-the-scenes shots, old-fashioned Polaroids, and every factoid you'll ever need to know, the book should be a bible for 'Clueless' trivia contestants and uber-fans everywhere." (Refinery29) "Chaney rounded up the cast, crew and other crucial *Clueless* players to spill behind-the-scenes secrets about the movie. All the juicy stories are in her new book." (Metro)

Jen Chaney has been a journalist for twenty years and has spent much of that time writing about movies, television, and popular culture. She currently writes reviews, feature stories, essays, and TV analyses for numerous publications, including *New York* magazine, *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *V*, and *Yahoo.com*. Chaney is a graduate of the College of William & Mary, and lives with her husband, son, and beagle just outside of Washington, DC.

Written in sections of interest with comments by virtually all of the players in the movie, this is a great summation of creating magic on film. It's always intended but rarely happens and in this case, it definitely did. Alicia Silverstone was so cute and perfect for this part. I remain amazed that she wasn't a star of Julia Roberts' level of fame. And of course my personal favorite Stacey Dash to this day remains absolutely stunning should also have had much greater fame. But lightning struck here by a great director and a wide eyed cast most getting their first taste of fame and no idea how this would make them famous for life. If you like/loved the movie, READ THIS BOOK! It's a great revisit and will have you smiling for days till you finish.

If you are a die-hard "Clueless" fan, this is totally your read! This goes into terminology used, where

it came from, what books the writer read that influenced the film (deep into Jane Austin), etc. I am only halfway through & I am definitely enjoying myself. I will have to pass this onto my best friend when I am finished with it :o)

It is the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen's book EMMA, on which the story of CLUELESS is based, and on the 25th anniversary of the movie, it is most interesting to see the connections through interviews and discussions with those involved in the making of CLUELESS. Austen fans, literary scholars, and film buffs alike would find this book entertaining. .

As a Clueless crazed child of the 90's I was very excited to read this book. Sadly the content does not match the premise. It feels like the author scraped this together in a few hours paying very little care or attention to flow, style or editing. The interviews read like they were written verbatim with scarce editing to make them readable (or interesting). Where it really struggles however is in the passages written by the author which are basically sound like the author is parroting some opinion she overheard in passing. The chapters relating to the costumes are particularly offensive with the author pretty much suggesting that Clueless invented ingenue style. Mona May's costume design may be flawless but it's not original and any full buff can see many inspirations appropriated for the movie. In the late 80's early 90's The Riot Girl movement had already adopted Mary Janes, Baby Doll dresses and bright pop colors as their uniform. WAY before that in the 60's was the La Nouvelle Vague movement and Twiggy vehicle The Boyfriend, it would be hard not to see inspirations reflected here. The author is supposedly a pop culture/movie writer and yet makes no critical allusion to other films. On further research it appears the work was cobbled together from a series of interviews the author conducted for a paid piece of journalism she was writing. It reads very much like that. Clueless is a masterwork of film and an oral history should have been treated with much more respect, attention and skill. I don't think it was worth the cover price. True fans of the movie who don't mind sloppy editing and bad writing will find some great quotes in here however.

What a delightful journey down memory lane. Jen Chaney has definitely brought the party back together and let us peek behind the curtain of a fun, influential and still loved iconic movie. Loved reading about my talented husband, the real Mr. Hall.

I really enjoyed reading this book! Clueless is one of my favorite movies & Dionne is my favorite movie character, so I was interested in reading all the interviews on how Heckerling created the

character, her fashion style, etc. This book does not disappoint!

I love the movie "Clueless." Even now I still use lines from the movie to illustrate points in my conversations. And with that, I had to totally read the book. It's a really good read especially if you're a fan of the movie.

I love this book! Clueless is one of my all time favorite movies - and I have been waiting for a book to come out that really does it justice! Chaney goes above and beyond. As If is highly entertaining, gratifying and remarkably well-written. A delight!

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