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Beloved designer Lotta Jansdotter's smart, organic design has earned her international acclaim. Now she shares her recipe for a stylish home: take a whole lot of Scandinavian influence, mix in a dash of flea-market finds, and then top it all off with expressive handmade touches. The result? An entirely fresh approach to home dcor and contemporary living. In this lavishly illustrated book, Lotta shares her decorating secrets, design resources, entertaining tips, and family traditions. Tucked away at the back shes included stencil pages and perforated recipe cards featuring classic Swedish dishes. Equal parts inspiration and how-to, this charming book shows readers how to create a warm home with elements of simple Scandinavian-influenced style.

Lotta Jansdotter's Handmade Living: A Fresh Take on Scandinavian Style Details

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Author : Lotta Jansdotter

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From Reader Review Lotta Jansdotter's Handmade Living: A Fresh Take on Scandinavian Style for online ebook

Sarah says

The author, who grew up in Sweden and now lives in an apartment in Brooklyn with her husband and young son, shows us both her home and office and also shares some of her Scandinavian recipes. Her style differs from mine--I'm not a fan of stencils or homemade mobiles made from felt! although as a lover of paper I do like her recipe notebook with clippings and pictures and handwritten recipes. However, the simplicity and peacefulness of her apartment appeals to me; the rooms are attractive but also places in which to relax and really live--not showpieces. In the bedroom, for example, the walls are quite bare and the bed contains only enough pillows for sleeping plus a couple of big ones for support when reading. I dislike beds with mountains of pillows that have to be dismantled in order to get into bed and then reassembled the next morning.

I copied out the author's recipe for Jansson's Temptation (scalloped potatoes with anchovies) and plan to make it this weekend. The author provides pull-out recipe cards at the back of the book--a nice touch--but mine is a library copy so I had to leave them intact.

The author's cat Webster appears in a number of the photographs and adds a decorative note. He's a beauty!

Lana. says

As a DIY book, Lotta Jansdotter's Handmade Living: A Fresh Take on Scandinavian Style doesn't quite make the mark. But in other ways it is so much more. As the title indicates, this is a style book and Lifestyle book more than anything else. Recipes, personal anecdotes, and the occasional craft and design pattern, along side large and lovely photographs by Jenny Hallengren, make this an inspiring "biographicaphical scrapbook". Or as she calls it "a visit" into her home and work space.

From "At Home", "Entertaining", and "At Work", you too can decide what areas to infuse / transform with the designer's suggestions in decor (storage, and making use of small spaces), crafts, and recipes.

If like me your knowledge of Scandanavian style didn't go beyond Ikea catalogues - take a look and see just how bohemian, folk, and whismical can fit right along clean lines and bright colours. Even if I can't say for sure if this lifestyle is for me, I certainly feel there is something very beautiful here.

Chelsey McNeil says

Low on content. Mostly it's cute full-page photos and chatty text.

Some of the Scandinavian recipes sounded good!

Meg says

A beautiful and inspiring book that makes me want to make more (with textiles--sewing, etc), have a more organized home, and take a fresh look at my own home. It can be inspiring to see the homes and work spaces of designers, and Jansdotter's book does all of this with lovely photographs and little tips and ideas. I also want to try some of the recipes she shares, from Swedish meatballs to cinnamon rolls.

sleeps9hours says

Love her style, casual, fresh, and simple.

Blair says

I was expecting a lot more from this, as I love Lotta Jansdotter. The layout was beautiful and it was a nice book to flip while watching tv. I didn't feel like I learned anything new about her style though - this is all apparent through her design and sale items. I felt like it was very superficial in a way. It wasn't a deep conversation with her, more of a flit through her home. If you admire her design work, read it, but otherwise, not a whole lt of substance.

Erinn Batykefer says

I was really disappointed in this book. I've loved Lotta Jansdotter's textile designs since I worked in a boutique in college and first discovered them on a line of her handbags, and I was hoping this book would have some insight into her influences and (self-taught) design principles. It really doesn't. It's basically just a photo shoot of her wandering around her Brooklyn home and studio (which are nice, don't get me wrong), with inane passages about how she chooses to decorate. I almost put the book down when I came across a paragraph in which she describes how she stores trays and baskets and such on top of her fridge, since she has so little room in her kitchen. Seriously? How does that qualify as 'Scandinavian style'? If you're looking for simple, clean design inspiration, you're better off picking up the latest IKEA catalog.

Ligaya says

This book was as if a humble Scandinavian Martha Stewart had written it, drab color palette and all. Photography was nice, writing was often chatty, but encouraging. Not a DIY book, but a peek into how Lotta Jansdotter's personal life and work life LOOKS. Good for a quick flipping through, but not much substance.

Josiphine/Tessa says

Pretty, but forgettable.

Lexi Wright says

Gorgeous books like this reinforce that I spend way too much time consuming and not enough time creating.

Emer says

I really enjoyed this book, I liked that Lotta's ideas are simple and also cheap. It's nice to see decorating ideas for renters that are may not have a huge amount of money (like me!).

I think this book has some sounds ideas like using left over spaces for built-in shelving. The colours and textiles are beautiful. I really like the pages on flower arranging.

Lotta's cheerfulness and optimism come spring out of this book's pages. This is a lovely book to read.

Jess says

While I haven't heard of Lotta Jansdotter, she seems like a pretty together woman, or, at least, her house is. The book was fun to flip through. I especially liked the bit about coffee time (Fika) and her wall cutting board hanger. Haven't tried the recipes, but yes, there's herring (she's Swedish) and cinnamon rolls.

The photos are fun to look at, the text is OK. My main quibble is that she says she didn't feel that she needed to include instructions for some of her projects because they're so straightforward. Cop out. Many of you readers aren't fabric designers with mad improv sewing skills. Apart from the recipes, the instructions include are less than detailed.

All in all, fun to flip through and worth checking out from the library, if interested.

Jennie says

Fun to thumb through but I was hoping for more crafts, projects, and tips - instead, it was mainly just a tour of her beautiful home!

Abby says

Everything she does is cute. I love the simplicity and minimalism of her apartment. I don't think I want so many twee prints and fabrics in my home, but I like her interior aspirations of peace and minimalism. Japanese + Scandinavian influences = my favorite.

jess says

This book is not great for DIY advice and the recipes seem a little gnarly (because I don't have a well-developed appreciation for Scandinavian cuisine?), but it is a nice meander for people interested in Scandinavian-inspired life and style. Lotta Jansdotter is designer who has a gift for big, white walls, simple stencils and repeating designs. She offers advice on personalizing your space and using small spaces wisely. The photos are nice and Lotta is adorable in her totally Swedish-born New Yorker kind of way.
