

(Ebook free) My Life with Things: The Consumer Diaries

# My Life with Things: The Consumer Diaries

*Elizabeth Chin*

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**Elizabeth Chin : My Life with Things: The Consumer Diaries** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Life with Things: The Consumer Diaries:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. great book!By Mary Weismantelthe long-awaited dazzling indescribable auto-ethnography by anthropologist/performance artist/dancer Elizabeth Chin.

Unconventional and provocative, My Life with Things is Elizabeth Chin's meditation on her relationship with consumer goods and a critical statement on the politics and method of anthropology. Chin centers the book on diary entries that focus on everyday items—kitchen cabinet knobs, shoes, a piano—and uses them to intimately

examine the ways consumption resonates with personal and social meaning: from writing love haikus about her favorite nail polish and discussing the racial implications of her tooth cap, to revealing how she used shopping to cope with a miscarriage and contemplating how her young daughter came to think that she needed Lunesta. Throughout, Chin keeps Karl Marx and his family's relationship to their possessions in mind, drawing parallels between Marx's napkins, the production of late nineteenth-century table linens, and Chin's own vintage linen collection. Unflinchingly and refreshingly honest, Chin unlocks the complexities of her attachments to, reliance on, and complicated relationships with her things. In so doing, she prompts readers to reconsider their own consumption, as well as their assumptions about the possibilities for creative scholarship.

"In this highly anticipated volume Elizabeth Chin provides what is sure to be a classic text in consumption studies: a breakthrough auto-ethnography that exposes this mundane space as the highly affective, contradictory, and political space that it is. Smart, beautifully written and honest, *My Life With Things* is a singular achievement and an unprecedented work that will forever trouble how we think about consumption and the very craft of contemporary ethnography."