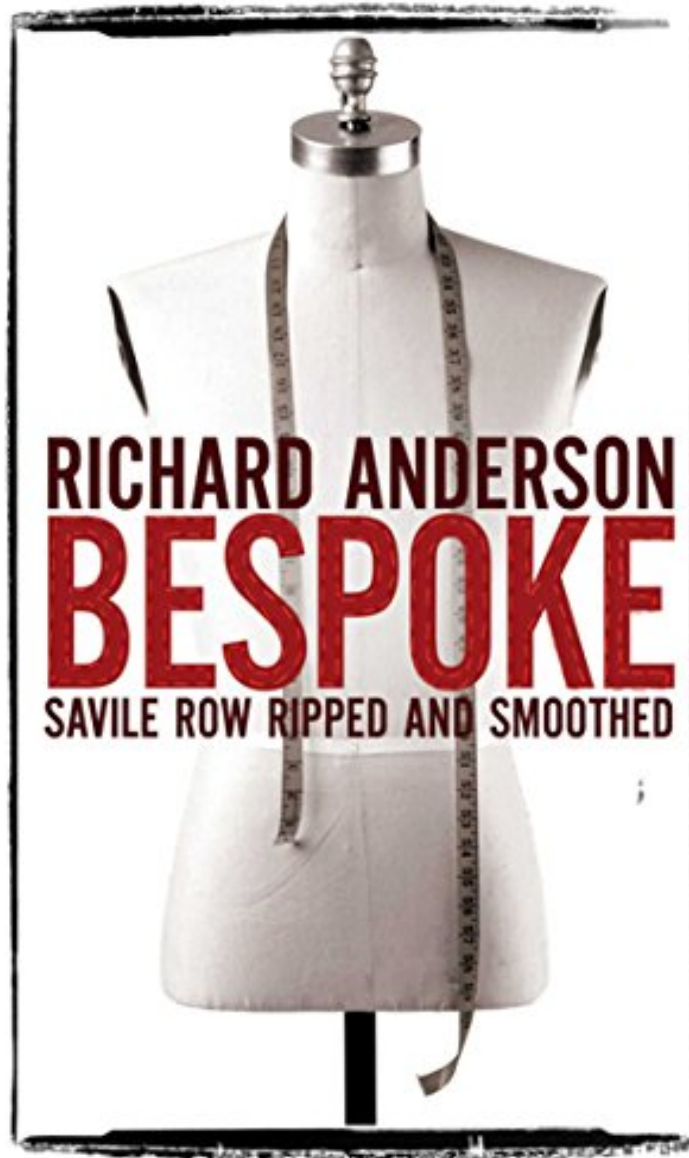


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Bespoke: Savile Row Ripped and Smoothed

Richard Anderson

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Richard Anderson : Bespoke: Savile Row Ripped and Smoothed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bespoke: Savile Row Ripped and Smoothed:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting...By V. Amin
The reason I enjoyed this book is because, for reasons unbeknownst to me, I've developed a recent fascination with Savile Row. I suppose that's because of their ultimate dedication to the art and technique of creating bespoke clothing. Furthermore, I've begun to distinguish quality in the materials and construction of the clothes I wear myself. What this means is, for the first time

in my life, I'm actually insane enough to like a book on clothing. Frankly, that's an important part of this review. If I had never heard of Savile Row, or cared about what goes into making a truly bespoke suit, or wondered about where cashmere comes from, or what super-130's wool actually is, it's possible this read would have been only mildly interesting, if not strange. That would be no flaw of Richard Anderson, who has written a wonderful and witty (though sometimes verbose) account of his years on the Row; it would just be an unfortunate consequence of reading about a very alien and exclusive world. That being said, this is the stuff Sean Connery wore in the first Bond films. They are (arguably) some of the finest suits anyone could buy, made by people who account for every "deformity," personality trait, and strange request a customer could have. You also get the sense that the author is more relatable than most of the other cutters and tailors on Savile Row. If none of this sounds interesting to you, I wouldn't bother with this book at all. Nothing wrong with that. But if this seems even remotely intriguing, and you don't mind delving in the adventures of charming and stuffy British people, go for it! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable read By Customer I currently go to school for fashion design. This book is a fascinating read on the history and life of Savile Row. There are a few humorous moments. However there is not a whole lot of tension, and the book just kinda ends. Not much of a climax or rise. Even Richard Anderson has a very inspirational life. It goes to show that no matter what decisions as younglings, we can make something pretty amazing happen. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting inside view By M. Skinner Fascinating window into men's tailoring. As a sewer, I enjoyed learning the technical side of the craft. I enjoyed reading about his personal success story.

This is the true-life story of a boy who quit school to become an apprentice on Savile Row, home to London's most venerable tailors, and wound up owning his own shop on the world-famous 'Golden Mile', where he hand-cuts exquisite suits for a clientele including royalty, politicians, literati, business tycoons, and media stars. On a bright, bitterly cold and snowy morning in January 1982, 17-year-old Richard Anderson made his way with his father to an interview at Savile Row's illustrious Henry Huntsman Sons. They were late, but Richard got the job, with its meagre salary of only pound;2,000 a year, and his life was changed forever. Huntsman was arguably the world's most prestigious tailoring house, and Richard's apprenticeship proved a humbling ordeal overseen by three titans of the trade: the formidably debonair Colin Hammick, fellow chain-smoker and grumpy eccentric Brian Hall, and Dick Lakey, the company's heroically overworked 'leg man'. Training under these men in the arcane art of making trousers and coats that could cost as much as pound;10,000 was an inspiring but also gruelling game, yet 'Young Richard' persisted for 17 more years of rigorous practice in perfectionism and prestige - to become, at 34, the youngest head cutter in Huntsman's 150-year history. Witty and told with great candour, *Bespoke* is a fascinating behind-the-scenes expose; of life on Savile Row from one of the world's most celebrated and successful tailors.