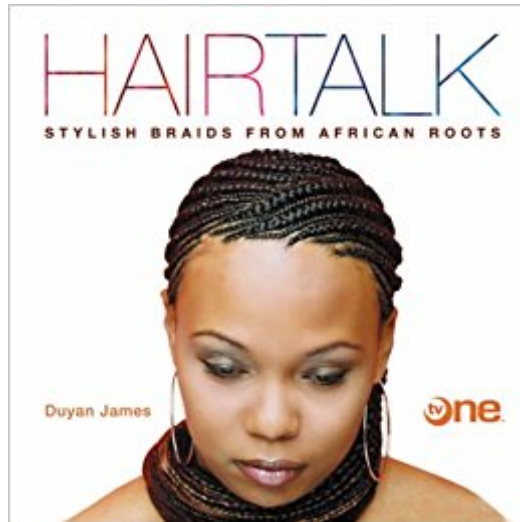




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Hairtalk: Stylish Braids From African Roots



Synopsis

A braider is more than just a shop where you get your hair done: it is a spiritual space, a meeting place, and a cross-cultural intersection, and the site where the past and present are woven together and traditions come alive. Dyan James, a Liberian native with a braider in Washington, DC, presents a colorful, fascinating, and gorgeously photographed guide to the art. Complete with stories, folklore, and traditional hair care secrets, *Hairtalk* provides a full sense of the history of the many braiding styles that have become a staple in American culture. Pore through 51 styles for adults and nine for children—including some with synthetic and natural extensions—and learn all of the basic braiding techniques. But most importantly, James and her 12 African braiders from all over the continent provide a compelling account of the tribal meanings and ritualistic uses of each unique look, expanding the value and significance of braiding beyond mere fashion.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

of twisting and braiding in different styles (including Kinky Twists, Senegalese Twists, Flat Twists and various styles you can create with each). The drawbacks of this book, however, are that there are not step-by-step color photo tutorials of how each style is recreated. But, it tells readers what hair to buy (if they choose to add extensions to their hair), what materials are needed, and the care of each style. This is more information than most hair care magazines give out. TV-One (an African American channel similar to Black Entertainment) helped to produce this book. I believe that it is better than most hair care magazines which give little information about how each style is created.

At first glance, I would have given this book five stars. On almost every page, there are large full

page color photos - unlike most of the books I've seen. There are lots of hairstyles included, unlike some books. I took away two stars because 1) the figures showing how to create the styles are drawings, not photos, and are hard to decipher and 2) the book is organized by synthetic, human, and natural hair instead of by hairstyle. So the hairstyle types repeat themselves for each hairtype for reasons beyond me. I would have liked to see all the microbraids, braids, twists, locks, nube nube, et cetera styles together instead of the human or the synthetic styles. There are no how-tos for the various styles, but the book states that the pictures are mainly for ideas. Had there been directions, I would have given this book five stars for its beautiful large photos. I still like this book best so far for the up-to-date (2007) styles and nice pictures.

I like the ideals in this book and I plan to ask my hair dresser to apply some of the hairstyles on my hair.

Lovely braid book. Models look very natural with not much make up - not needed. Good How To and also good for someone like me who was just searching styles to try. Beautiful variety of styles photographed from all angles.

Good book. It teaches you how to do styles as well as show how they should look.

Got this for my friend who does a lot of African braiding styles for others. She loves all the illustrations and directions.

Love this book but unfortunately, I gave two away because the two hair dressers that I had loved the books. I now need to buy another one, and I will

Good book

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