Life In Color: The Visual Therapy Guide To The Perfect Palette--for Fashion, Beauty, And You!

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At long last, a fresh take on color! Jesse and Joe, stylists to the stars and fashion consultants on The Oprah Winfrey Show reveal their secrets for finding personalized palettes for each individual woman's coloring. No longer will redheads be relegated to earthtones. No longer will women of color assume they look good only in bright colors. Instead, Jesse and Joe offer 20 highly personalized colortypes to choose from. Using quizzes, questionnaires, hundreds of photos, color swatches, before-and-after shots, and photos of celebrity style icons, they make it easy for any woman to determine her best colors, brighten her look, and leave a lasting impression.

**Synopsis**

I know practically nothing about color. I love fashion and style and own several books regarding these topics, but very few of them address color, and if they do at all it's in passing. For someone with as rudimentary knowledge as I have, Life in Color has been a great help in understanding what suits me and why. The color type quiz is fun and easy, and the four types, Sun, Moon, Earth and Star, are pretty and inspiring; much more so than seasons if you ask me! The palettes are varied, and I particularly enjoy how the authors also went on to describe various iconic styletypes and hair and makeup options and how to blend them with your palette. It's true that when they feature before and after pictures of women wearing the wrong colors versus wearing the correct ones that the "before" pictures are always without makeup and boring poses, while the "after" ones are done with flattering makeup and dynamic poses. However, this is true of every book I've ever seen that has
before and after features, and as far as I'm able to tell the lighting hasn't been changed at all, which is really the most crucial element in photography. And the women still look pretty in the "before" ones, if you ask me. I'm certain they've been photoshopped, but it's only the cynic in me, not because it's overt. For all of the women the "right" colors certainly do look better on them than the "wrong" colors, with or without makeup and editing, and that's the real point. However this book does have its flaws. Personally, I'm a little confused about their color typing. One of the authors classes himself as a Star (cool tones) when he looks warm toned to me. They claim that it's because the undertones have nothing to do with ethnicity, but then perhaps I'm bad at reading undertones.

This book starts out with a brief description of the science behind color. However, unless you're an art student with a background on color theory, this section will probably feel too brief and unclear to you. Next, a quiz is supposed to help you determine which ColorType you fall under: Sun, Moon, Earth or Star. It's supposed to help you determine whether your skin tone is warm or cool. However, I found the quiz confusing and ended up falling into 3 categories...when you're only supposed to fall into one. Luckily, I know my skin tone is warm, so that leaves me being either a Sun or an Earth, however, they were both so similar, I'm still not sure I got mine right. The ColorTypes Moon and Star felt very similar, too. Once you discover your ColorType, you'll be presented with colors that complement your skin tone. Some I already knew look good on me, but others surprised me, so I'm curious if they indeed complement me. I disagree with the authors, though, that black is universally flattering. When I wear black, my face looks washed out. Next, you're shown models wearing the wrong and right colors for their ColorType. However, this is very misleading since, in the before photos, the models aren't wearing makeup, they're sitting under harsh lighting, and they're not smiling. In their after photos, they're wearing makeup, they're sitting under flattering lighting and they're smiling (some are even laughing). So, of course, the after photos look better. ..though on page 54, I actually thought the before model looked better. The section following ColorTyping is StyleTyping. Here you take another quiz to decide which of the following styles you fall under: Chic, Bohemian, Avante-Garde, Classic, or Whimsical.

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