

FASHIONISTA

by Jan Peterson Ewen

(As if taking a fashion magazine from someone) What's this? A fashion magazine? *(She chuckles.)* Lord knows it's not mine. Do I look like I'd subscribe to a fashion magazine? No, I gave up being trendy years ago. I'm more the *Field and Stream* type now. *(She refers to herself.)* Besides, it's just a matter of time until this look is in again. I can wait. Comfort is my style these days. You see, I have a theory that the clothes I wear shouldn't hurt. They should not cause pain of any sort - and that includes my shoes. *(She flips through a few pages of the magazine.)* I mean, look at the shoes in this magazine. They're not even shaped like the human foot. There's no way you can walk normally in these things. I love watching women in clumsy, awkward shoes trying to act as if walking is comfortable and effortless. Who do they think they're fooling? It's like the story of *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Nobody wants to say anything about how ridiculous they look trying to walk around like that. *(She flips a couple more pages.)* And look at this outfit. How do you clean something like that? Maybe you only wear it once then throw it away. I won't buy anything that requires dry-cleaning anymore. I'm strictly a wash and wear kind of person. If I can't throw it in the washing machine it has no place in my life. Okay, okay - I know it's possible to go overboard with this whole comfort thing. It's a slippery slope. You start out favoring elastic waist-bands and end up living everyday in sweat pants. *(She is transported to her happy place.)* Ah! Sweat pants! Whoever invented sweatpants should get the Nobel Peace Prize. Pure heaven. *(She snaps out of it.)* But not appropriate for every situation - I will admit that much. Many have tried but I do think the line should be drawn somewhere. So I say "no sweatpants at weddings and funerals". That's just uncouth. I have one nice outfit in my closet that can work for both - just in case. What else does a person need? *(She holds out the magazine.)* Here, do you want this back? It's obviously not mine and, well, frankly, you look as if you could use a little fashion help.