

The Official How to be *G o t h i c* Handbook

This handbook is separated into sections of things one must own, or at least like to be gothic. There are also lists of things one may not like or own. If you own any of that stuff, throw it out, or hide it away from your friends. If you like that stuff, change.

And remember, you may be gothic and not even know it. If you fall into these categories, you are gothic and should immediately acquire the correct wardrobe.

1) Authors:

Authors You Must Like and Be Able to Discuss Over Coffee:

Nancy Baker
Anne Rice
Sartre
Nietzsche (sp?)
Edgar Allen Poe
H.P. Lovecraft
Marquis De Sade
Anais Nin
Charles Dickens
Lewis Carrol
Goethe
Sylvia Plath
Lord Byron
Percy Shelley
John Keats
Emily Dickenson

Authors Who's Names Will Make Everyone Glare at You Through the Steam Rising Off of Their Coffee:

Dean Koontz
Stephen King
Carl Hiassen
Fabio
Rush Limbaugh
Danielle Steele

2) Bands:

This is the absolute most important section before dress. Not only must you like these bands, but you must be prepared to offer a complex excuse as to why you like these bands when your underground acquaintances challenge you, saying that they are "derivative rip-offs of [insert underground band from the 70's here]."

Bands You Must Like Whether You Do or Not:

Bauhaus
Big Black
Joy Division
Nine Inch Nails (anything with Trent Reznor in it)
Christian Death (The Roz years only)
Dead Can Dance
Sleep Chamber

The Cure
The Smiths
Siouxsie and the Banshees
Sisters of Mercy
Skinny Puppy
Diamanda Galas
Jesus and Mary Chain

Bands You May Like Without Getting Ostracized by your Friends:

Charlatans U.K.
New Order
Ministry
Modern English
Tom Waits
Depeche Mode
Specimen
David Bowie
Canister
Pink Floyd
Violent Femmes

Bands People Will Take From Your CD Rack and Hurl Off Your Porch During Parties:

They Might Be Giants
Phish
King Missile
Mariah Carey
Bad Manners
Green Day
Weird Al Yankovich
Megadeth
Type O Negative
Kriss Kross
Snoop Doggy Dogg
Creedence Clearwater Revival
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Winger
The Grateful Dead

3) Clothes are very important to true goths. Adjust your wardrobe accordingly

Clothes to Wear:

Black
Lace
Velvet
Boots
Big Hair (with funny colors)
Black Nail Polish
eyeliner designs
Crosses
Ankhs
Black lipstick
Fangs

Clothes not to Wear:

Pink
Under-Roos (except for Batman and the Crow)
Boy or Girl Scout uniform (unless going to a fetish night)
Birkenstocks
Adidas
Tie-Dye
Mickey Mouse Boxers
Denim
Bow Ties (unless dressed as The Phantom of the Opera for Halloween)
Suspenders
Argyle
Plaid
Bell Bottoms
Harley T-Shirts

5) Food

Food you Can Order in Public:

Anything with Blood in It
Raw Meat
Sushi
Brains
Really good Burritos

Food You Must Hide at the Back of Your Pantry:

Carnation Instant Breakfast
Sprouts
Macaroni and Cheese
Tofu
Crispy Bacon
McDonald's Happy Meals
Pizza
Peas
Ice Cream Sundae's

6) Drinks

Drinks you May Order in Public:

Coke (in the blood red can)
Brain Hemorrhage
Coffee - Black
Red Wine
Snakebite
Absinthe
Bloody Mary
Ether

Drinks you May Order When Sitting At the Bar Alone:

White Wine
Pepsi
Sex on the Beach
Light Beer
Diet Soda (Let's Face it. Diet Soda makes you look like a pussy.)

7) Careers. You've got to afford your bondage gear somehow:

Jobs for Goths:

Mortician
Undertaker
Funeral Director
Abortion Doctor
Bouncer at an appropriate club
Hermit
Psychotic Loner
Heroine Dealer
Poet
Musician of the correct type
Insurance Assessor
Undead

Jobs Goths Probably Shouldn't Have:

Scout Master
Fast Food Service
Children's Storyteller
TV Painter (Fluffy Little Clouds)
Televangelist
Aerobics Instructor
Olympic Gold Medalist
Professional Lego Model Builder
MTV Dancer
CIA Assassin
Helicopter Pilot
VH1 Veejay
Morning Weatherman
Pro Football Player

8) Drugs:

Drugs to Seek:

Prozac
Lithium
Ritalin
Heroin
Mescaline
Barbiturates
Levisin
Valium
Robitussen
NyQuil
Speed
Alcohol
Ephedrine
Quaaludes

Drugs to Avoid:

DayQuil
Rogaine
LSD
Tylenol
Chewable Vitamins
Crack
Pot
Vivarin
XTC
Clearasil
Preparation H
Nitrus Oxide

9) Names. The Proper name can make or break you.

Gothic Names:

Lord
Lady
Mistress
Bat-anything
Vamp-anything
Any name with z's or x's in it.
Anything based on a band.
Anything with the word Master in it except for Scout Master
Latin Genus names for Insects spelled incorrectly

Not Gothic Names:

Bunny
Biff
Buffy
Harold.

10) Movies:

Movies You Must See to Be Gothic:

The Hunger
Harold and Maude
Everything Bela Lugosi Ever did, including Bride of the Atom, and Plan Nine From Outer Space.
Bite
Leather Sex

Movies you must bitch about having wasted 7.50 on:

Caddyshack
Police Academy
Ski School
Debbie Does Dallas
Deep Throat

11) TV:

Television Shows you must have seen at least once:

Forever Knight
USA Up All Night
Kindred: The Embraced

Television shows you must deny ever having watched:

MST3K
Beavis and Butthead
MTV Jams
MTV's The Grind

Authors of this long awaited text on How to be Gothic include Forest Lee, Jennifer Kosloski, Brett Pasinella, John Spelman, and Brendan Sheehan. Forest Lee is acting editor of the How to be Gothic handbook, and will take all suggestions and corrections under advisement. The Official How to be Gothic handbook was copyrighted by the above persons sometime during 1995. Please keep in mind that this is an official text, and you must comply with all included advisements and rules to be officially gothic.

That concludes the Guide. Happy gothing!

