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“Reading these stories is better than shopping!”

Nicola Heywood-Thomas, Radio Wales

This week looms large in the fashion world’s calendar as on Wednesday 17th February Wales’ newest supermodel is to be revealed at Cardiff’s acclaimed Oxfam Boutique. Only this beautiful little number won’t be nearly six foot tall or a size 0 but will be just over 200 pages long. **Cut on the Bias** is an anthology of fictional short stories about women and the clothes they wear; what clothes mean to them; why women choose to wear what they do; how they consume fashion and the subtle and sophisticated shifts in self-perception that the act of dressing up can represent.

From Gok Wan to Trinny and Susannah, Mary Portas to Vivian Westward, many of us have an endless fascination with shopping, image and make-over shows. And **Cut on the Bias** is just such another ‘must have’ - the perfect Valentine’s gift for anyone who delights in the simple pleasures of disguise.

Cut on the Bias is not a one size fits all collection but a book constructed to provide something for every reader. One story asks what you wear to meet the mother who gave you up at birth; another tells of the death of a long dead, beloved brother; a third describes the wardrobe full of armour that a modern politician must learn to wear. Others are rites of passage – a wayside bomb in Afghanistan rips a soldier’s life apart; a young woman with Down’s syndrome decides to face the future with confidence and someone is even prepared to gamble all for *that* pair of ruby slippers. Dramatic



monologues, tales of the supernatural or witty exchanges of emails, what these stories have in common is they are all by exciting contemporary voices – and all are cut with colour and seamed with magic.

Cut on the Bias comes to town next week at a special presentation in the Capital. Hosted by the book's Aberystwyth based publisher, Honno Welsh Women's Press, many of the authors will be present to read extracts from their stories and to answer your questions. There will also be an opportunity to talk to Stephanie Tillotson, the editor of the anthology. So if you are interested in publishing, have always wanted to be a writer or just love a good yarn, why not join us at Oxfam Boutique on St Mary's Street, Cardiff at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17th February 2010. Everyone is welcome and free refreshments are provided.

For further details of this event or for review copies of **Cut on the Bias** contact Stephanie Tillotson, editor, on: stephanietillotson6@googlemail.com
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