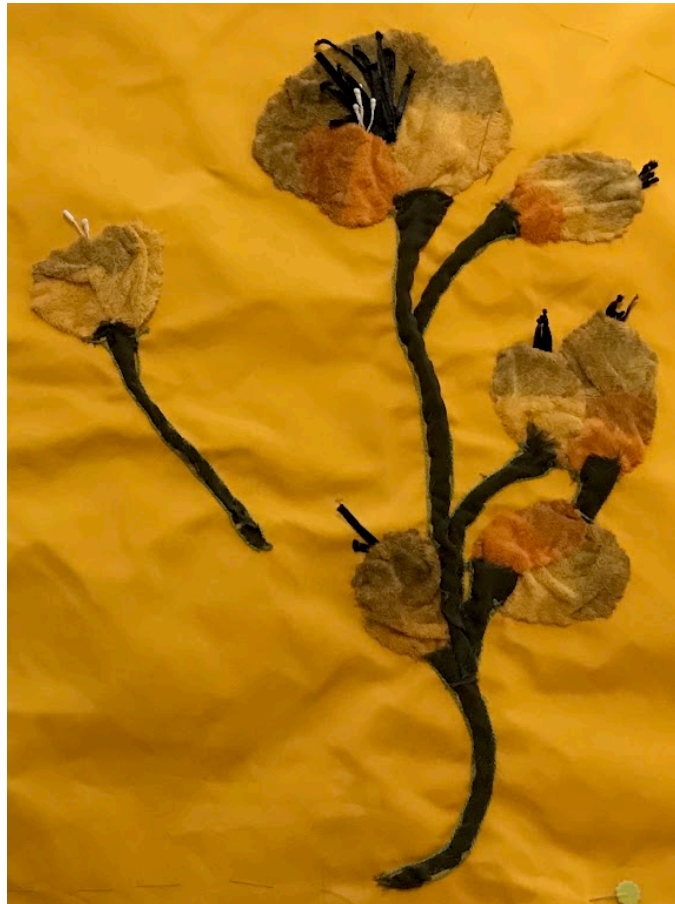




# *Edith Cushing*

## *Crimson Peak*



Maker: Lydia Barnes  
Redwood City, CA

Category: Historical Dress

Source: Crimson Peak 2015 film - designer Kate Hawley



# Costume Analysis

This dress is worn by the main character, Edith Cushing.

## Personal goal

- Try to keep screen accurate, but fill in the blanks with historical accuracy.

## Time period

- Probably **1894-95**.
- The costuming for almost all of the women in the movie *clearly* indicate this due to the very specific sleeve poofs and silhouettes of the time.

## Quality

- Edith is a very fashionable and wealthy American heiress.
- Materials and construction should be high quality.

## Design

- Typical popular fashion of the time, day dress.
- Would wear doing everyday activities, not just a fancy event dress.
- Lower silhouette is pretty simple, she doesn't appear to be wearing any kind of bumpad or skirt support other than a basic petticoat.



Source Pictures









© Kate Hawley



# Construction Process: Dress

## Materials

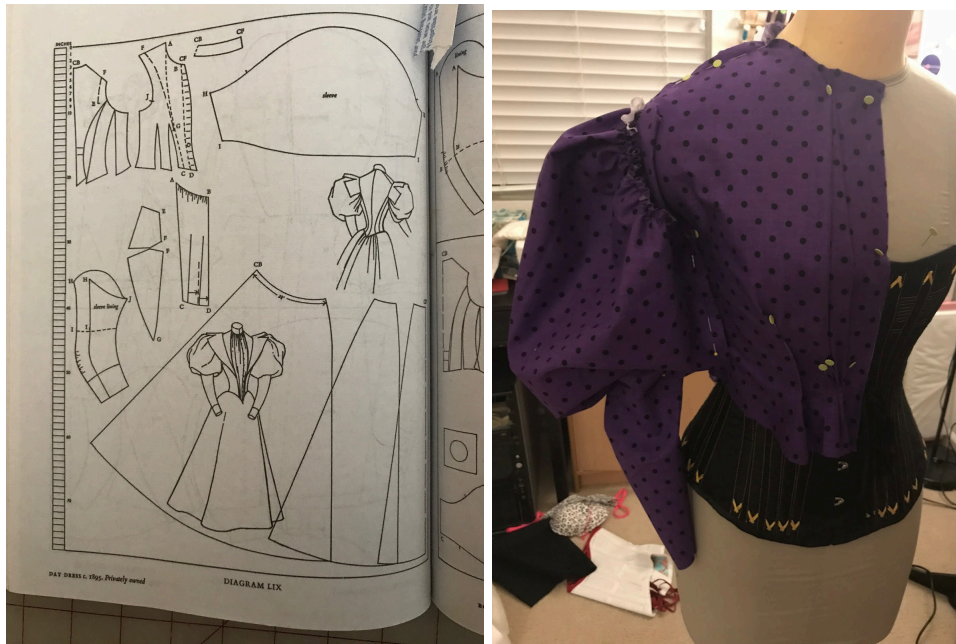
- I chose **Silk Duchess Satin**. It is mostly silk, part synthetic, but good quality. I wanted 100% silk but I could not find the right color. I lucked out when I found this color at Mood fabrics. Was expensive but not too ridiculous.
- 100% **silk moire taffeta** antique black ribbon
- The interlining is a matching 100% **cotton**. The bodice lining is leftover corset lining.
- The flowers are **cotton velvet**. The stems are **babysilk** (synthetic).





## Patterning

I used a pattern diagram for a 1895 dress from The Cut of Women's Clothes. I used it mainly for the sleeves and skirt.



## Bodice

- The bodice I had to drape with mock fabric, since it's a very custom pleat design. The front opening has a placket and closes with hand sewn hook and eyes.
- It is interlined with cotton. I added separate fashion lining as well. It is good to have because the outer fabric is pleated. I tacked them down on the inside, but they would be prone to coming apart if not careful. Having the sturdy lining lets me put the bodice on without pulling the pleats apart, aka it takes the stress away from the outer fabric.





I also added boning to 6 of the seams to keep the bodice sturdy.



## Skirt

- Hers does not have the seams in the front or back, so I made it with only 2 seams and 2 darts, and the rest of the volume taken in with pleats. I also added a short train in the back.
- As with all parts of the dress, I hand sewed down the seam allowances to keep it neat.
- It is interlined with cotton. I sewed in a wide facing for the skirt hem.
- The back closure is hidden inside a pleat and has a placket, since in the movie you can see there is no back seam.





## Belt

- I made the belt as a separate piece, but tacked it at a few points so it stays put.
- It has light boning on the front closure.





## Sleeves

- The sleeve bottom is a 2 part sleeve, with placket and hook and eye closure. As with the bodice, the buttons are only decorative. I made them out of the yellow silk with a button kit.
- I made sleeve supports so that the sleeve would stay poofy. It is loosely tacked in and floats in the outer part of the sleeve.



(Inspiration)



(Mine)





## Flowers

- I created the flowers first on tulle, then transferred to the fashion fabric. I dabbed bleach on the velvet to get the color variances. I also dyed some orange. I used Jacquard Dye Na flow for the darker color.
- The black bits are knotted ribbon, and the white bits I pulled from fake flowers.





# Construction Process: Corset

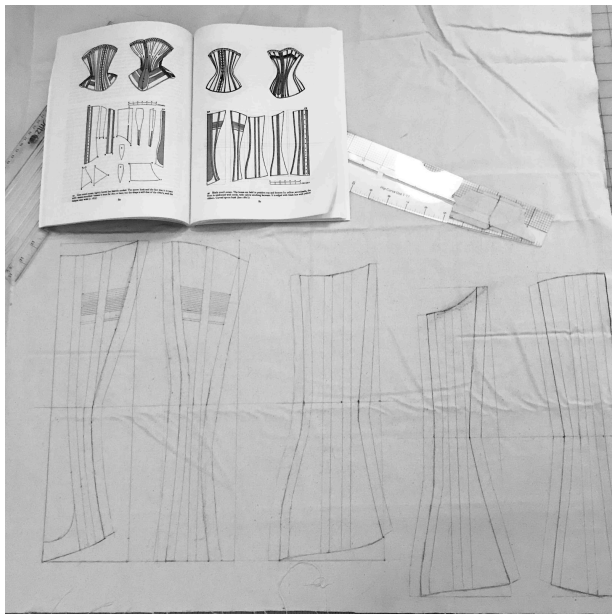
## Materials

- The corset fashion layer is black **silk dupioni**
- **Coutil** boning layer, and twill corset lining.
- Spoon busk.
- **Synthetic whalebone boning**, with steel for the back closures.
- Yellow **silk thread**, cotton embroidery thread for boning flossing.



## Patterning

I drafted a late 1880s corset pattern from *Corsets and Crinolines*. It is admittedly a few years off from the time period, but not unimaginable that she might wear it. I was so inspired by the design and from the black and yellow example I found, it just seems like it's perfect for Edith and this outfit.



(Inspiration)









## Undergarments

- I decided to rewear victorian undergarments I made for another costume. It's roughly the same time period and you don't really get to see hers in the film, so it makes sense to reuse them.
- The petticoat is from a skirt pattern in *The cut of Women's Clothes*.
- I draped the chemise myself.
- It is all made of thin cotton. I also found antique silk eyelet lace for the petticoat.



**1896**

© Copyright Ladies Treasury 2003



Construction photos.



Note that I won an award for the costume that I was wearing these undergarments with. It was not at an "Anime North, Costume-Con, or Worldcon" convention, but I still want to disclose- is up to the judges for consideration.



## Accessories

- I hobbled together her wedding ring with a gem and border that I cast from a mold. I then glued them to a ring base.
- The brooch is a button and an earring.



- The shoes are Tavistocks from American Duchess.





# Final Result







# Bibliography

## Books

Waugh, Norah. *The Cut of Women's Clothes: 1600-1930*. Routledge, 1968.  
Page 244, Diagram LIX. Day Dress, c. 1895

Waugh, Norah. *Corsets and Crinolines*. Routledge, 1991.  
Page 81, Figure 40. Black coutil corset, c. 1887

## Web Research

(For my sleeve research)

*Sleeve Shifts of the 1890s*

<https://historicalsewing.com/sleeve-shifts-of-the-1890s>

(For my inner bodice construction research)

*My Collection, Inside Out: 1890's Red Silk Bodice*

<https://thepragmaticcostumer.wordpress.com/2013/02/16/my-collection-inside-out-1890s-red-silk-bodice/>

(For my hook and eye research)

*Final Closures: Fasteners on Antique & Vintage Clothing*

<http://www.vintageconnection.net/FinalClosures.htm>

(For my corset boning research)

*Why Plastic is Better than Steel*

<https://wwwFOUNDATIONSrevealed.com/index-of-articles/corsetry/fabrics-materials/557-why-plastic-is-better-than-steel>

Hair style tutorial (not exact, but to give me direction to get the hair right)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUPijJ1g6l8>

## General Knowledge

*1890s in Western Fashion*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890s\\_in\\_Western\\_fashion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890s_in_Western_fashion)

*Kateri Schneider, 1895 Fashion History*

<https://silhouettescostumes.com/customer-projects/projects/1895-reporter/kateri-schneider-1895-fashion-history/>