

THE Kit

BEAUTY &
FASHION

BEAUTY IN A BEAT FASHION HEAD TO TOE

Think your blouse should have all the fun? Think again. With easy-to-wear brights and fearless prints, pants are enjoying their own 15 minutes

PIOT PANTS

BY VANESSA TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSEY DRENNAN

please see story, page 4

BCBG Max Azria jumpsuit, \$322, bcbg.com.
Gap belt, \$345, gapcanada.ca. Stuart Weitzman
sandals, \$395, stuartweitzman.ca. Kara Ross
jewellery, from \$115, ellehardware.com



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DAISYMARCUACOBS.COM

FRIDA AND SOPHIE PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUERGEN TELLER



ask jeanne

HAPPY HEELS

“Dear Jeanne, are there heels out there that you can actually walk more than a block in?”—Melanie, Calgary

I may be a freak of nature, but let me assure you, I have walked countless city blocks all over the world, some of them even cobblestoned, in extremely high heels—and I’ve lived to tell about it. Not all my jaunts were comfortable, but in my line of work, looking glamorous is an inconvenient obligation and foot discomfort an occupational hazard.

Now before I get podiatrists jumping down my throat, let me say that I am not advocating the wearing of high heels for everyone. Many people are simply not able to indulge in such footwear. Doctors will tell you that heels over two inches high are bad for you, and could lead to foot problems later in life. That said, we fashionistas live to luxuriate in our ivory towers, and we’re adamant about residing there in killer heels, at least part of the time. Happily, I’ve found shoes that won’t paralyze with pain, and should allow you to walk at least a block and a half.

A thicker heel provides more stability, helping distribute the weight more evenly. Platform soles are a godsend—they act as a kind of cushion. Wedge heels, of course, are always more comfortable. Shoe comfort has to do with a well designed last—the wood or plastic form that the shoe is built around. Canada’s own Ron White, who’s becoming very popular south of the border, offers many types of high-heeled shoes in his eclectic line that are actually comfortable to walk in. He even has a range that he’s dubbed “All Day Heels.” And while some of these babies might be a little much for the novice, those of us who’ve been around the fashion block swear by them. Toronto designer Abel Munoz has also made it his mission to deliver high-heeled shoes that are both comfortable and sexy.

Of course, walking in heels is an art in itself: these shoes can throw your posture off, so keep your shoulders relaxed, chin level with the floor, chest up and tummy flat. Then again, let’s be real: some of these shoes aren’t meant to get anyone much further than down the length of a catwalk, and sometimes models can’t even accomplish that. Still, heels can make us feel awfully sexy and strangely empowered.

While some cheap heels have indeed proved to be comfy, I find that a well-designed shoe,

which inevitably costs more, is usually more comfortable. Try to go for as much inside padding as possible. The soles of our feet lose volume as we age, and extra cushioning, especially for the balls of our feet, is welcome. Foot-care companies like Dr. Scholl’s and Tana also make great gel insoles that can help prevent some of the aches and pains. Foot shape is always a big factor. Some suggest going for round toes instead of pointy. However, I find pointy toes tend to work better with my narrow feet and long toes. When it comes to particular brands, everyone will have something different to say, depending on their personal foot type. For me, Gianvito Rossi makes a relatively comfortable high heel, and I’ve spent long stretches of time in his gorgeous shoes and boots. Others nod to Manolo Blahnik, Sergio Rossi and even Nicholas Kirkwood, though I’ve yet to find a pair of those glam shoes that I can tolerate.

You owe it to yourself to experiment with different sorts of heels. But if you’re one of those people who insists on comfort at all times, heels may not be for you. There’s an element of slight discomfort in high fashion sometimes, and unless you’re willing to bite the bullet a bit, stick with stylish flats. Few things are as unfashionable as a face that shows signs of torment. If you refuse to suck it up, your discomfort could chip away at your confidence, and that could make you look decidedly unchic. As the old adage goes, if you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.” Either that, or just demand to be driven everywhere.—Jeanne

Send your questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Follow @Jeanne_Beker on Twitter.

Jeanne is contributing style editor to the Toronto Star and Fashion Television Channel host.



one-minute miracle

GLAMAZON GLOW

BY DEBORAH FULSANG

A sun-kissed look is a surefire way to boost your mood. Inspiration-wise, few do glow as well as Victoria’s Secret—of course those svelte Victoria’s Secret Angel bodies show off a faux tan to optimum effect. The brand’s make-a-body-beautiful cred motivated our trial of their new Beach Sexy Bronzing Shimmer Powder and Tinted Self-Tan Body Spray. For instant gilding worthy of the lingerie catwalk, try the Tinted Body Lotion with Shimmer for instant results, too. You’ll look just-back-from-vacation refreshed. From \$14, victoriassecret.com



WHAT WE WANT THIS WEEK

TOP THE KIT LIST 7

ACCESSORIES KIT

BRIGHT WATCH

As you save for a Cartier tank watch, you can have fun with a few Rainbow timekeepers. Intermix faces and bands for a two-tone effect. \$25 each, rainbowwatch.com



CLOTHING KIT

TIMELESS PRINT

Not feeling the neon floral trend? Opt for a classic polka-dot print in this feminine trench coat. While some wacky patterns date quickly, this one has no expiry date. Pink Tartan cotton-blend trench, \$695, at select The Bay locations



HAIR KIT

SOFT CURLS

Want curls you can brush out for an ethereal look without the pouf? Sally Hershberger’s newest solution for unruly waves does just that. Curvaceous Elasto-Curl Treatment, \$13, at Shoppers Drug Mart



SHOE KIT

SEXY SANDALS

Not a flip-flop or espadrille kind of girl? Opt for a sandal with a little more sex appeal. Leather, snakeskin and a hefty heel will do the trick. Zara leather sandals with snakeskin straps, \$100, at Zara



FACE KIT

SPOT REMOVER

L’Oréal Paris Youth Code Dark Spot Correcting & Illuminating SPF 30 Day Cream takes your complexion seriously. It fine-tunes skin’s own repair process, hydrates and protects. \$30, lorealparis.ca



BODY KIT

MINI SCENTS

Chanel’s new trio of refillable, purse-size Chance spritzes suit your on-the-go schedule. EDT, \$84 (3 x 20 ml), at Chanel counters



HANDBAG KIT

FESTIVAL FANNY

Be the coolest music festival-goer with an ‘80s throwback that says you’re not afraid to party, no hands. Ecote stud, \$34, and fringe fanny pack, \$44, at Urban Outfitters stores

on the cover

THE STATEMENT TROUSER

This season, the trouser is getting its turn in the spotlight. Regardless of your age, this timeless piece will instantly add a modern update to your wardrobe. Ranging from bright shades to fearless bold prints for the adventurous—there’s bound to be one look to help you make your style statement **BY** VANESSA TAYLOR



BRIGHT SIDE

The ultimate day-to-night option, this tailored trouser has a clean silhouette (with no side pockets to add bulk) and ankle-length crop that is more stylish than a mid-calf capri. By sticking to one colour, even a bold one, the result is streamlined and age-appropriate.

TRY J.Crew silk camisole, \$484, jcrew.com. Banana Republic The Mad Men Collection rayon-cotton cigarette pants, \$124, bananarepublic.ca. Le Château heels, \$80, lechateau.com. Hermès Kelly bag, \$7,500, select Hermès boutiques. Kara Ross gold-plated brass cuff, \$225, ellehardware.com, thebay.com



GRAPHIC STUFF

Love your legs? Flaunt them in look-at-me prints. Choose styles that play up your features with strategically placed stripes and patterns. Keep the outfit from looking too junior by opting for simple shapes up top, like solid blouses or summer-weight knits.

TRY BCBG Max Azria polyester Jacques trousers, \$274, bcbg.com. Jacob modal-polyester cropped crew-neck blazer, \$79, jacob.ca. Kara Ross gold-plated brass Hexagon earrings, \$175, ellehardware.com, thebay.com. Jacob polyester contrast collar blouse, \$59, jacob.ca. J.Crew viscose Lia sandals, \$276, jcrew.com



Salvatore Ferragamo Spring 2012

ONE FOR ALL

Swap the cocktail dress for a printed jumpsuit for your next girls’ night out. Painted-on styles are not your friend (even with a phenomenal 20-something figure), keep the look polished by sticking to jumpsuits in flowing, loose fabrics that don’t exposed too much skin.



YOU SHOULD
CERI MARSH

LEARN TO GIVE A TOAST

Your best friend is getting married. She’s picked a great guy you don’t mind sharing her with and you don’t hate the bridesmaid’s dress she’s chosen for you. So, getting up and saying a few words about the lovely couple should be a breeze, right?

Well, yes, if you call sweat stains on your satin, dizziness and nausea breezy, then sure.

Fear of public speaking is frequently ranked by North Americans as their number-one phobia. Worse than spiders? Worse than running into an ex at the grocery store on laundry day?

OK, people. With wedding season nearly upon us, it’s likely that many of us will be asked to get up in front of our loved ones and give a short speech. You can be a part of making the event a memorable one, or you can be part of the “Can you believe it?” post-mortem at the next day’s brunch. Well, I suppose that makes it memorable, too. But really, you should learn to give a toast.

When I asked some friends to recall bad toasts, I heard some doozies including descriptions of the groom’s porn collection, threats from fathers of the bride and sad predictions for the couple’s future sex life. I think we can all go ahead and guess how many of these anecdotes involve an open bar. Of course the stories are funny to hear about but you can only imagine the mortification and disappointment of the couple getting married.

Louise Dennys, the famously elegant VP at Random House Canada and executive publisher of The Knopf Canada, is well known for her way with a speech.

She recommends remembering who your toast is about—the guest of honour, not you—if you’re feeling anxious.

Not that it stops even her from getting jitters. “I’m always nervous every time I speak publicly. You’re doing it for someone else and I’m nervous that I won’t do them justice. I speak slowly to get over my nerves. My friends know that the more slowly I’m speaking the more nervous I am. But you owe it to the person you’re toasting and the listeners to be as articulate as you can.”

Oh, yes, the others! You might be thinking about your friend the bride, when you sit down to write your speech and that’s all very well, but the toast will also be heard by a room full of guests. Dennys says, “It’s not a personal toast to one person across a table, you’re involving everyone.”

Alison McGill, editor-in-chief at *Wedding Bells* magazine, thinks you can’t forget the alcohol factor. “Limit the tipples. Don’t use liquid courage, it doesn’t work.”

You may think a drink will help you relax, but it may also make you forget your notes. Which you must make in advance. No matter how close you are with the person you’re toasting—never wing it.

If you’re giving a toast at a wedding, it’s most likely because you’ve been asked to by the bride or groom, which means they trust you. Don’t let them down: take the job seriously and prepare in advance.

“I love a mix of humour and heart warming,” says McGill. But above all, be brief. “Five minutes is the maximum. It’s longer than you think.”

HER STYLE



CITY TORONTO
NAME SARAH MOORE
AGE 24
WHERE BEVERLEY ST. AND QUEEN ST. W.
OCCUPATION Sales clerk at Second In Command clothing store
WHAT IS SHE WEARING? Ray Ban sunglasses, Agent 99 jacket, Evil Twin blouse, City Beach necklace, Jay Jay’s jeans and an Obsessed leather handbag
INSPIRATION “I love the combination of vintage and edgy looks—and a bit of rock n’ roll. I find inspiration for my style from The Sartorialist. I look at his site almost every day.”

BY THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: GILLIAN MAPP, GILLIANMAPPONLINE.COM

NEWS



LINDA EVANGELISTA FOR CHANEL

Chanel's new Summer 2012 eyewear campaign features supermodel Linda Evangelista and was shot by head honcho Karl Lagerfeld himself. Evangelista's classic glamour and killer cheekbones set off the strong shapes of the collection's sexy frames. The sunnies have a swinging '60s vibe with bold, primary colours and retro rounded shapes, while the optical range is a little more refined in tortoiseshell with contrasting coloured tips and matching logo.



MEET THE NEXT CARRIE

A *Sex and the City* prequel series is in the works and TV network The CW has found their Carrie. Eighteen-year-old AnnaSophia Robb doesn't look much like Sarah Jessica Parker but she's already on set wearing '80s sequins and big SJP-inspired curls. The new series is based on SATC author Candace Bushnell's books *The Carrie Diaries*, about the main character's life as a teen.

POSH BOB

Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham had her super long locks chopped into a chic long bob, joining celebs like Cameron Diaz, Olivia Wilde and Myley Cyrus. Love the look? We've got tips on how to get it. Go to TheKit.ca/beauty/hair/celebrity-hairstyle-for-spring-the-bob/



JESSIE J. WIGS OUT

British pop star Jessie J. is known for her bold style and often wild hairstyles. Her secret? Wigs. She has said that she doesn't have time to glue in extensions and that her hair is damaged enough as it is. "I don't want my hair falling out so I wear wigs," she told *Glamour* magazine.

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HANDBAG KIT
GLYNNIS MAPP

FASHION

JET SET

Say bon voyage with the best carry-on luggage in tow

Your take-it-with-you essential on your next vacation? An expensive-looking carry-on handbag that looks and feels like luxury. And this season's choices just got a whole lot chicer: fashion designer Mary Katrantzou teamed up with French handbag brand Longchamp this spring to create artful *trompe-l'œil* carry-on handbags, a dreamy collection of colourful art-y purses with hot-air balloons, floating orchids and 3D mansion interiors that are practically ready-to-wear masterpieces. Tommy Ton's latest collaboration collection bags with Club Monaco are also roomy enough to take with you on your next flight. Both backpack and messenger bag look polished and are practical enough wherever your destination. Et bon vol!



Hermès Calèche Express canvas and leather luggage, \$8,000, hermes.com

Coach Hampton's striped canvas and leather weekend tote, \$428, coach.com



Michael Michael Kors leather Jet Set Saffiano tote in Sun, \$295, at Michael Kors boutiques, 866-733-5677



Hilary Duff



Miranda Kerr

Roots Banff leather weekender bag, \$368, roots.com



FACE KIT
JANINE FALCON

BEAUTY

OIL RICHES

Get a gorgeous glow with the help of multitasking, nutrient-rich face oils

For years oil had a bad rap when it came to skincare, but the right oils can do wonders. They help dry skin hang onto moisture, balance problem complexions, soothe and protect sensitive skin, reduce the appearance of lines and generally bestow you with a healthy glow. Time to reconsider.



TOP INGREDIENTS

Patyka Huile Absolue Face & Body Serum boosts skin circulation, brightness, hydration and tone with St. John's Wort, vegetable squalane, wheat germ oil and antioxidant-packed rose hip and red mandarin oils. \$74, Murale

MORE BALANCE

Combo/oily skin can make friends with oil, too. Clarins Lotus Face Treatment Oil balances problem skin with rosemary, chamomile, geranium and lotus extract. \$50, clarins.ca

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Model Citizen Josie Maran Argan Oil is one of three featuring labels by Maran, Petra Nemcova or Angela Lindvall; 10% of proceeds go to the model-artist's charity of choice. \$58 each, Sephora



BIG BRIGHTENER

Decléor Aromessence White Brightening Concentrate helps fade hyperpigmentation and restore clarity with vitamin C plus antioxidant-rich peony, saxifrage and tamarisk flower. \$83, The Bay



ALMOND BOOST

Almond oil nourishes sensitive skin with antioxidants including vitamins A and E. Weleda Almond Soothing Facial Oil also has plum kernel oil and blackthorn flower extract. \$28, weleda.ca



NIGHT NUTRIENTS

Peptides work with argan, rose, sunflower, geranium and carrot seed oils as well as brown seaweed in Dermalogica Age Smart Overnight Repair Serum, which is designed to firm, brighten and protect skin—and target age related skin dryness. \$88, dermalogica.ca



this week's TOP TRENDS

WHITE JEANS

Finding a great fit in crisp white denim is tricky. Choose straight or bootcut for a curvy figure: "The key is finding a style with a side seam that comes slightly to the front of the leg," says Eric Wazana, president of Second Denim. "This gives the illusion of a longer, leaner silhouette."



Second Denim cotton-Lycra high-rise bootcut jeans, \$110, secondclothing.com

MATCH SET



M.A.C Cosmetics takes the fledgling matchy-matchy trend global with its new Fashion Sets, featuring lipstick and lipgloss and nail lacquer in literally the world's favourite—and cult-favourite—seven shades. For instance, Spice was a best-seller in more than 20 countries, including Canada; and Girl About Town: it was a huge hit with the fuchsia-lip crowd (you know who you are).

Available May 3, \$17 to \$19 per item, maccosmetics.com

THE KIT GIRL

WHAT IS SHE WEARING?

Vintage Courrèges jacket, Saint James Breton shirt, vintage rhinestone necklace, Tibetan turquoise mala bracelets, Nudie jeans

NAME
CATHERINE DEAN
CITY TORONTO
OCCUPATION
PHOTO EDITOR,
CURATOR AND STUDENT
DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE
“Classic, intelligent,
refined and understated.”



You may have seen Catherine Dean before. The independent curator and landscape architecture student has graced the pages of almost every best-dressed list that matters in Toronto.

Dean, originally from Montreal, enjoys the finer points of life and design. With her background in art history, the aesthete has worked as a magazine photo editor for 10 years, most recently at *Toronto Life*.

But, her day job wasn't enough to satisfy her busy mind and art-y eye, so Dean found work as an independent curator when she could find the time. “The art world has the added bonus of providing lots of style inspiration,” she says of her moonlighting.

Behind the source of Dean's expert fashion sense is an eagle eye trained to notice the details. She zeroes in on those subtleties most people overlook, but that truly tip the balance in establishing an ensemble as simply OK and trend-relevant to one that's fabulous and trend-setting.

Dean's appetite for design continues: she recently returned to school and is completing her Masters in landscape architecture at University of Toronto. No doubt it won't be long before we'll be seeing her stylistic statements, en plein air!

modern mod

Catherine Dean mixes high and low, art and fashion

BY STEFANIA YARHI

BEAUTY SECRET

Bare Minerals original SPF 15 Foundation in Fair, \$26, Sephora



TOP ACCESSORY

Lanvin Happy Medium leather shoulder bag, \$2,090, net-a-porter.com. Lanvin handbags also available at Holt Renfrew.



SHOE MUST

Pierre Hardy Elaphe snakeskin and leather sandals, \$1,470, net-a-porter.com. Pierre Hardy footwear also available at The Room at The Bay.



FAVOURITE DESIGNER

Balenciaga Fall 2012



FAVOURITE SHOP

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TEMPORARY LIP TATTOOS

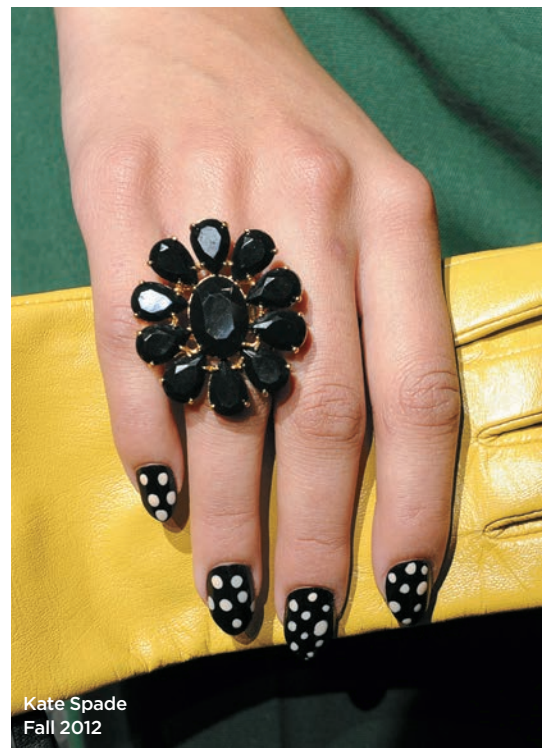
Bright, long-wear lipstick not bold enough for you? How about animal-print, polka dot or glitter-printed lips? Blogger Connie introduces us to Violent Lips. Check out TheKit.ca/beauty/face/violent-lips-temporary-lip-tattoos/



Bottega Veneta Spring 2012

CROPPED JACKETS FOR EVERY BODY

Clothing Kit editor Vanessa Taylor teaches us how to wear spring's trendiest outerwear no matter your shape or size. Visit TheKit.ca/fashion/clothing/you-need-a-cropped-jacket/



Kate Spade Fall 2012

NAIL ART VIDEO

Seen on Kate Spade's Fall 2012 runway, get ahead of the nail art trend. Add adorable polka dots to your nails with these simple step-by-step tips. Head to TheKit.ca/videos/how-to-apply-perfect-polka-dot-nail-designs/



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