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The sweet nothings and insanely luxe gifts our editors are wishing for and giving this year





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euphoria Calvin Klein

euphoria Calvin Klein

what we want this week MERALD.

If wearing red feels too obvious, wear this gem of a shade with gold accents. It's festive with a twist (and Pantone's colour of the year for 2013!)







Who can pull off the new printed jeans everyone is wearing? *Is there a right or wrong way* to wear them?—Alexandra

DEAR ALEXANDRA:

It's astounding how printed jeans have revitalized the denim market. After all, how many pairs does a girl need? With so many wonderful colours and prints to choose from, there is something out there for every taste and body type.

So, to answer your first question, I believe everyone can pull off this hot new trend. It comes down to choosing the right print and fit. If you have a bright, bold personality, go with your gut and choose what you love. But if you're self-conscious, you might want to stay away from zanier patterns. Those with thicker or shorter legs might prefer subtler, smaller scale or faded prints, since something bold would not be slimming. I particularly love some of the popular snakeskin and animal prints I've seen.

Fit is key, and printed denim looks betterand sexier-when it's tight, with either skinnycut legs or a boot cut. Booties are perfect, but rocking a stiletto or platform pump is also very cool. Even ballet flats work well, especially with a cropped pant.

For a casual look, you can team these jeans with a pair of Converse sneakers.

On top, there are a variety of ways you can go, from a simple T-shirt or sweatshirt to a feminine, floaty blouse or longer tunic, to a tailored or architectural jacket for a sharp, dressy approach.

You might want to colour co-ordinate, unless you're into the wild new "clash" approach to dressing. Mixing prints and patterns is on the rise, though it's not for everyone. Some floral patterns on jeans are especially appealing, but I'd say most florals are probably better suited for next spring's wardrobe.

I do have one rule: Just because something is trending does not mean you should feel obliged to subscribe to it. If printed jeans don't appeal to you, don't buy them. Try a pair of waxed jeans with a leather look instead. Coloured jeans have great appeal, even if you're not into



the bold shades or glitzy metallics. Jeans in deep plum, green, burgundy or chocolate brown would be a fabulous addition to any wardrobe, and you'd likely get more use out of these than a bold print you may tire of quickly.

While I encourage women to walk on the wild side every so often, there's something to be said for practicality, especially if you're on a budget. One thing's for certain: The days of boring old blue jeans are over.

1. GREEN WITH ENVY

This vampy colour is only a few shades shy of black. Estée Lauder Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Viper, \$25, at Holt Renfrew, esteelauder.ca

2. THE CHAMELEON

This shimmering moss green has hints of gold and turquoise. Butter London Nail Lacquer in Jack the Lad, \$17, at Holt Renfrew, The Bay, butterlondon.ca

-VANESSA TAYLOR/PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADRIAN ARMSTRONG

3. GO DOTTY

day on its own or layered with a few

more for after dark. Swarovski Resin

Emerald Bangle, \$110, swarovski.ca

4. BEJEWELLED BEAUTIES

This timeless staple gets heavily

embellished just in time for party

season. H&M leather gloves, \$70,

This Lucite cuff is simple enough for

5. THE MULTI-TASKER The scale says evening, but this ring's simple design means it transitions easily from weekend to big night out. So Pretty Rough Emerald and Gold Cocktail Ring, \$172, sopretty.ca

6. STATEMENT SPARKLER

The mega-shine of crystal lets this cocktail ring hold its own. Swarovski Hyacinth Ring, \$260, swarovski.ca

DL 196

Spring 201

Send questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca.

Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the Toronto Star and host of Fashion **Television Channel** Follow her on Twitter @Jeanne_Beker.



hm.com/ca

0FF

THE FASHION CYCLE

British custom bike specialists Brick Lane Bikes have teamed up with fast-fashion giant H&M to produce a small collection of cycling wear for men. The 11 pieces are made of organic cotton, recycled cotton and recycled polyester and are functional enough to be worn on the bike and stylish enough to be worn off. The collection lands in 180 stores in March 2013. Here's hoping a womenswear collection is in the works. -Nadine Anglin

NATURALLY HIP

Buy the eco-goddesses on your holiday list organic and natural beauty and skincare products from one convenient, central source without ever leaving your home: Hip Apotheca. The one-year-old Richmond, B.C.-based e-tailer stocks both indie and big brands, including U.K.-based creator of lip, face and body balm Figs and Rogue. Visit: hipapotheca.com – N.A

GWYNETH LOVES LOLË

Montreal-based clothing line Lolë is a favourite of actress and yoga fan Gwyneth Paltrow-and she said so on her blog goop.com. The womenswear brand offers stylish, functional activewear designed by Canadian Andy Thê-Anh (who closed his eponymous brand in 2010). Paltrow's favourite? The Emily Jacket. At \$150, the flattering down jacket rolls into a handy pouch. "We love Gwyneth," Nathalie Binda, vice-president of marketing at Lolë said. Since, Lolë's website traffic has skyrocketed. -Janelle Wilson



Kate Middleton sure gave us something to talk about this season, eh? First there was the new subtle yet sexy haircut. Then there was her turn on an English football field in a Reiss coat and knee-high boots. And now, she is pregnant with the heir to the future king or queen of England. We'll be royally watching. Visit thekit.ca/kate-middleton -N.A.









This season's blue liner, mascara and shadow are utterly new -DEBORAH FULSANG



ROYAL BLUES

A high-tech formula—liquid, powder and gel all-in-one-amplifies the effect of the colour pigments making this eyeshadow a great beauty buy. Estée Lauder Vivid Shine Eyeshadow in Fire Sapphire, \$28, esteelauder.ca

TROPICAL BLUES Like light and bright? Go for a turquoise

liner to express your love of the beauty blues. This slim, easy-to-wield pencil self sharpens with a simple twist. Too good! Essence Long Lasting eye pencil in 09 Cool Down, \$2.49, shoppersdrugmart.com



BIG BLUES

Add this supersized pencil to your makeup bag: Experiment with graphic lines or blend for shadowy effects. Bonus: the creamy, high-pigment pencil delivers long wear and is water-, heat- and humidity-resistant. Sephora Collection Jumbo Liner 12hr Wear Waterproof in 27 Electric Blue Matte, \$15, sephora.ca



BABY BLUES

This silky, azure-hued mascara goes on smoothly thanks to its perfumefree, panthenol and vegetable wax formula. Layer this one to boost volume and length. **Gosh** Amazing Length'n Build Mascara, \$12, at Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix.

THE BODY-TYPE CHALLENGE

NL UIK



The secret to great lashes? "Curl them," says Toronto-based makeup artist Grace Lee. "It opens up your eyes and makes all the difference." The trick: Take your time. "Hold for 10 seconds," she says, "then mascara will hold the curl." Try: A lash curler gives you professional-looking results. Lancôme Le Curler uses silicone pads to help produce precision curl without creases.

-DEBORAH FULSANG

Lancôme Le Curler, \$25 at select pharmacies, lancome.ca

CARLET FEVER

Considered one of the few universally flattering colours, it's no wonder these celebs flock to this hue when they're looking for a no-fail dress for there next red carpet moment



embellishment are great. This deep-V highlights her décolleté while still elongating her torso. Stick to hemlines at or just-above your knee to avoid shortening your leg line.

the front. The gathered seam showcases her killer curves but doesn't cling to any specific area. With this hit of cleavage, we also love the longer hemline and 3/4sleeve to balance it out.

like a belt or peplum. The soft

volume at the midsection also

gives the illusion of curves

(even if you don't have them!).



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THE FIX

WINTER SKIN SAVER

When your skin's natural moisture barrier isn't enough: Try a ceramide fix—your thirsty skin will thank you

BY JANINE FALCON

Chocolate! Coffee! Diet Red Bull! Water! When you're in need of an edible pick-me-up these are the items we grab to make us feel better. As temperatures plummet, there's a less well-known wonder we should have in our everyday skincare products. Lipid molecules called ceramides.

"Ceramides are responsible for the suppleness, volume and structure of the skin," says Catherine Bellefeuille, executive trainer at Elizabeth Arden. (The brand placed ceramides into the beauty spotlight in 1990 with its single-dose capsules.)

Ceramides are a key part of the mortar that binds our skin cells together, says dermatologist Sandy Skotnicki, the medical director of The Bay Dermatology Centre in Toronto and spokesperson for KAO, a company that represents Jergens, Bioré, Curél. Naturally occurring fats in the top layer of the skin, ce-

We lose ceramides to harsh cleansers that strip skin and environmental aggressors like winter and aging, particularly after age 30. Some of us may not have enough ceramides in our skin's moisture barrier to begin with.

Manufactured ceramides (natural types are costly) can help pick up the slack. Easily absorbed by the skin, they work with other standard moisturizers such as glycerin to improve moisture levels. But whereas ingredients such as glycerin merely sit on top of the skin to seal moisture in, "adding ceramide fats or lipids to skincare can help reform the brick-and-mortar structure of the moisture barrier so skin loses less moisture," Skotnicki says. In therapeutic formulas (such as prescription Epiceram, a drugstore-available brand called Cerave and Curel Advanced Ceramide Therapy) that contain a high concentration of ceramide lipids, the idea is to address the underlying problem.

"Ceramides are responsible for the suppleness, volume and structure of the skin" Catherine Bellefeuille, Elizatbeth Arden

ramides make up 40 per cent to 50 per cent of all lipids or fats in the body and are integral to the skin's ability to retain water and maintain a healthy moisture barrier.

Now take note: "healthy moisture barrier" isn't just fancy beauty-speak and it's not just about having fewer wrinkles. When it comes to overall health, our moisture barrier performs two crucial functions: It allows skin to absorb nourishing ingredients and keep them in; and it prevents skin from absorbing things it shouldn't-the ickies that can lead to infection.

Although dry, itchy skin may seem like a standard cold-weather annoyance, it's actually a more serious issue that indicates the skin's moisture barrier is compromised. If it's not fixed and skin gets so dry it cracks, that barrier can't function. (Now, pause for a moment to think about everything your hands touch in one day)

Ceramides play a role in haircare, too: heat styling and chemical processing such as colouring or relaxing dry hair out and take a toll on your natural ceramides. Products such as L'Oréal Paris Hair Expertise

Total Repair, which contains ceramide-R, aim to reinforce damaged hair cuticles by replacing lost natural ceramides: maintaining your hair's moisture balance and keeping it supple, shiny and healthy-looking.

You can also find ceramides in some lipstick, cream blush and mascara formulas. In cosmetics, they're another way to help maintain hydration in generally healthy lips, skin and lashes.

For most of us, ceramides are a hydrationboosting option in our pretend-it's-not-winter strategy.

But their ability to improve the structure of a compromised moisture barrier makes ceramides particularly good for anyone who deals with extreme dryness-ceramide-enriched creams, especially at a therapeutic level, could be a solid dry-skin solution.

Janine Falcon is head geek at imabeautygeek.com

Web 3 tips for combating winter-weary lips: kit2it.com/smooth-lips





1. Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Premiere Intense Moisture and Renewal Activation Cream SPF 30, \$110, at all Elizabeth Arden counters 2. Curel Advanced Ceramide Therapy Hand & Cuticle Therapy, \$4, drugstores 3 & 7. L'Oréal Paris Hair Expertise Total Repair Replenishing Detangling Care, \$7 and Hair Expertise Total Repair Instant Miracle hair mask, \$7, drugstores. 4. L'Oréal Paris Double Extend Mascara, \$10, drugstores 5. Yves Rocher Inositol Végétal Recovery Moisturizer Night for 1st Lines, \$39, yvesrocher.ca 6. Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Cream Blush, \$30, at The Bay, Sears, Shoppers Drug Mart



FROCK STEADY

Whatever style you choose, a holiday dress should always be fabulous. Here, celebrities show us how to wear six dazzling styles **MINGRIE** WILLIAMS







HIGH-IMPACT LBD Anne Hathaway's black dress isn't little and that's precisely why it's so stunning. No mini

skirt could compete with this dress's chic geometric neckline and below-the-knee length. HOW TO WEAR IT: This hemline looks best on people blessed to be 5'5" or taller with an athletic build or hourglass figure. Heels are essential: Try simple pumps for a ladylike finishing touch.



SEXY/SOFT With a soft colour and

bondage-inspired folds, Allison Williams' dress proves you can show off both your sexy and sweet sides. HOW TO WEAR IT: With eye-catching detail on top, a waistband that sits above the belly button and a slightly flared skirt, this style suits pearshaped figures perfectly. Accessories reinforce the uptown-downtown message; pair dainty drop earrings with seriously strappy heels.

Jessica Alba

SWEET SLEEVES If keeping your arms under

If keeping your arms under wraps is essential, don't cross sex appeal off your wish list. Sheer, bejeweled sleeves, like Jessica Alba's, are a beautiful balance between revealing and concealing. HOW TO WEAR IT: Look for lace sleeves. Follow Alba's lead with accessories, too. A belt defines the waistline and is the final punctuation this dress demands.



THE TOP TRENDS

Satin and sequins and a peplum, oh my! It could be a dress disaster, but Emma Stone's fantastic frock hits several high notes. HOW TO WEAR IT: If you have a small chest, a corset-style top is perfect. The peplum both creates curves and camouflages a stomach. Colour and proportion are key: Jewel tones, a small frill and knee-length skirt keep the look polished. With such a glittery dress, dial down the jewellery.

Alicia Keys

PERFECT PANEL During this season of indulgence, a panel dress is your figure-flattering friend. Whether it features cut-outs, like Alicia Keys' sheath, or colourblocked horizontal panels, this dress slims hips and thighs, and trims a tummy no matter how many trips you've made to the dessert table this holiday. HOW TO WEAR IT: Panel dresses speak for themselves, using clean lines to pack visual punch, so don't go overboard on accessories.



ON THE COVER **)B.IECTS OF DESIRE**

What we're giving (and what we really hope to get) this holiday the wish lists and shopping lists of the Kit's super shoppers



Salina Vanderhorn Assistant Art Director @salinajane



what I want

"These are me in shoe form. Not to mention the outfit possibilities are endless!"

Christian Louboutin Diplonana 120 scale-effect leather ankle boots \$1,595 net-a-porter.com

what I'll give

"Great to wear with any little black dress, add it to your ensemble and go! Office to evening, in a snap."

Joe Fresh statement necklace, \$14, joefresh.com

what I'll give

"It's the best texturizing

balances a dry shampoo with hairspray for a just-

tousled look. Trust me,

Oribe Dry Texturizing Spray travel

you'll be hooked.'

size, \$20 each, donato.ca

Vanessa Taylor Fashion Editor @vanessa_tweets



Deborah Fulsang Beauty Editor @deborahfulsang



Stevie Gorrie Art Director pinterest.com/steviegorrie



"I've been lusting for this luxe cuff for vears. It's the perfect balance of trendy and timeless.

Hermès leather and palladium Collier de Chien, \$1,275, hermes.com



what I want

"It's an heirloom in the making: I've long coveted Cartier's classic Tank. Even as our smartphones render the watch a fashion accessory, this is a beautiful piece that my daughter will inherit and love to wear.' Cartier Tank Française stainless steel watch, \$4,100, cartier.com



what I'll give

"How to please a beauty and fragrance-loving best friend? With this completely indulgent 18-tester-bottle treat from one of French perfumery's best noses. Frederic Malle Complete Coffrets collection, \$320, at Holt Renfrew

what I want "I never splurge on statement jewellery. I love that this is gorgeous but still playful."

Kenneth Jay Lane 18k goldplated cubic zirconia frog necklace, \$275, net-a-porter.com

what I'll give

"My boyfriend's briefcase is at least five years old, beat-up and shabby. Time for a sophisticated case to match nicely with his sharp work wardrobe." Gucci leather briefcase, \$1,590, mrporter.com





what I want

"A must for me this year is an iPad with a fashionable case so that I can tote it from the office and to next season's runways in style.



what I'll give

"This bath and body multitasker will have the office girls scrubbed, smelling good enough to eat and prepped for holiday baking via a sweet cookie recipe."



Some

Want more gift ideas Read the rest of our staff picks and find out what our experts are giving and getting this year.

isit thekit.ca/wish-list





Glynnis Mapp Associate Éditor 🕒 @glynnismapp

Apple 64GB iPad with Retina display and Cellular, \$829, apple. ca. Lanvin Printed iPad cover, \$135, net-a-porter.com

Philosophy Christmas Cookie shampoo, shower gel and bubble bath, \$21, exclusively at The Bay



Nadine Anglin Online Editor 🕒 @nsharona



"Every girl should own a Marc Jacobs purse. This one reminds me of Chanel's iconic 2.55, but with more edge. Thanks Marc!"

Marc Jacobs Baroque Single Large Quilted Leather Shoulder Bag, \$895, net-a-porter.com



what I'll give

"If I really wanted to get in good with one of The Kit editors I'd get this chic and practical gift. Bonus: it's pre-personalized."

Estee Lauder Zodiac Compact, \$80, esteelauder.ca, thebay.com, select Estée Lauder Counters in The Bay and Holt Renfrew





Caroline Bishop Creative Director @carebishop8

what I want

"I have a beautiful wedding band on my left ring finger—now, I want some sparkle on my right. This one's best feature is its open-scroll design.

Tiffany Enchant platinum and diamond Scroll Band Ring \$10,500, tiffany.ca



what I'll give

"This would is perfect for my mom, who loves books and likes fragrances but never buys them for herself. A perfect two-in-one gift."

Mémoire Liquide Amour Liquide Women eau de parfum spray, \$95, at Murale



Christine Loureiro Editor-in-Chief CLoureiroTO

what I want

"A turnlock, multiple compartments, a can't-miss-me colour: this wallet is practical and feminine, perfect for me.'

Miu Miu leather wallet, \$550, net-a-porter.com



what I'll give

"My cousin Katherine is in university and has loved playing with makeup since she was a girl. Space is at a premium in dorms, so a set of 18 mini polishes means she has a great selection of colours in a box no bigger than a textbook.

Quo by Orly 18-piece mini nail polish gift set, \$40, Shoppers Drug Mart.



OVES TO



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HOLIDAY HAIR FROM







web

oesn't it always seem that power chick duos come as a blonde-andbrunette package? Case in point: Christie Smythe and Andrea Lenczner. They are the brains behind the luxe (and Canadian!) womenswear line Smythe. They are the perfect yin to the other's yang. It's amazing how different yet complementary they are to one another: Andrea's home is very minimal, modern and futuristic, while Christie's is more contemporary, cozy and homey. But for two girls with opposite aesthetics in interiors, they seem to fuse their visions together perfectly when it comes to the clothing. In fact, they happen to share a shoe size, which comes in handy when they're making tough shoe purchases. And isn't that really what matters?

M THE COVETEUR

CLOCKWISE: Christie Smythe and Andrea Lenczner pose for The Coveteur camera; a closet filled with Smythe's latest chic blazers, Givenchy pumps atop a stack of fashoin reads.

more of style from Smythe at thecoveteur.com/christie_smythe_andrea_lenczner

THE KIT ON nstagrar

Visit us at instagram.com/the_kit and go behind the scenes of The Kit. See our candid pictures from photo shoots, events and more.



Our associate editor (left) show's off her DIY mani live on The Marilyn Denis Show!





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SCENTS SHE'LL ADORE



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EXCLUSIVE! Prada Candy Holiday Set, \$98 Prada Candy Eau de Parfum Spray (50ml), Prada Candy Lotion (75ml) and Prada Candy Eau de Parfum Deluxe Miniature (7ml).



Dior J'adore Holiday Set, \$97 J'adore Eau de Parfum Spray and Beautifying Body Milk (50ml each), in a Limited Edition satin pouch inspired by the bows in Dior couture designs.



Vera Wang Princess Set, \$82 Eau de Toilette Spray (50ml), Eau de Parfum (4ml), Satiny Body Lotion (75ml), Foamy Body Polish (75ml).



Givenchy Hot Couture Holiday Set, \$80 Eau de Toilette Spray (50ml), Silk Body Veil (75ml) and Travel Roll-on (7.5 ml).



Marc Jacobs Daisy Set, \$82 Eau de Toilette (50ml), Body Lotion (75ml), Shower Gel (75ml).

HANDSOME SCENTS









Givenchy Play For Him Set, \$88 Eau de Toilette (100ml), After Shave Gel (75ml), Hair & Body Energizing Shower Gel (75ml).

Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio Set, \$102 Eau de Toilette (50ml), All Over Body Shampoo (75ml) and Giorgio Armani Pouch.

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EXCLUSIVE! Ed Hardy Skulls & Roses Set For Him, \$85 Eau de Toilette (100ml), Eau de Toilette mini (7.5ml), Hair and Body Wash (90ml), After Shave Balm (90ml).

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