

# THE Kit

BEAUTY &  
FASHION

THE LUXURY ISSUE

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Skin care infused with 24-karat gold leaf? A \$330 fragrance? Wait-listed lipstick? David Graham explores the evolution and appeal of high-end beauty  
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Age youthfully.

NEW

*Super Restorative  
Day*

*Replenishes. Illuminates. Lifts.*

You can look as young as you feel. Clarins new Super Restorative Day cream is now enriched with harungana extract, a powerful organic plant ingredient that targets maturing skin's specific needs. By intensively replenishing skin at every level<sup>1</sup>, Super Restorative Day cream helps ensure skin looks firmer, smoother and healthier. Love the age you are.

<sup>1</sup> Tests ex vivo and in vitro.

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CLARINS

## radar

The people, places and things in the world of style that got us talking



### SHOP: SAKS @ HUDSON'S BAY

Toronto welcomes U.S. luxury retailer Saks Fifth Avenue, which will open its first Canadian store at the Hudson's Bay Queen Street location in fall 2015. The Eaton Centre, also at Yonge St. and Queen St., will be home to Canada's first Nordstrom, opening in fall 2016.



### COVET: BALENCIAGA BEAUTIES

Red-carpet eye candy comes to Toronto with Holt Renfrew's Balenciaga showcase at its Bloor St. W. store. Twelve gowns in styles worn by celebrities such as Jessica Chastain and Cate Blanchett will be on display and available for special order from Feb. 10 to 16.



### SEE: KAREN WALKER'S REAL MODELS

Designer Karen Walker chose yet more unlikely models for her latest eyewear campaign in a partnership with the United Nations' Ethical Fashion project. The Kenyan craftspeople Walker shows wearing her sunnies also made the pouches each pair comes with.



### WANT: J.CREW + SUGAR PAPER

Sugar Paper, a Los Angeles stationery company, and J.Crew have released a paper collection, featuring invitations to wedding planners (\$8-\$69) in soft pinks, whites, greys and gold. Now you can announce your nuptials with style.

# GOLDEN TOUCH

Bling is back! In your skin care or accessorizing your outfits, gold adds instant glamour and feminine flair



**1. SPARKLING SKIN CARE** Infused with 24-karat gold leaf particles, this ultra-soothing facial lotion deeply hydrates for velvety-soft, radiant skin. Monteil Acti-Vita Gold ProCGen Softening Lotion, \$78, at Murale and murale.ca **2. BOLD BRACELET** This gold-hinged cuff makes a sartorial statement strong enough to stand on its own. Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection cuff, \$600, at caroletanenbaum.com **3. PRECIOUS PIN** Adorn a jacket, blazer or LBD with a glitzy dose of vintage charm. Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection brooch, \$1,200, at caroletanenbaum.com **4. GOLD DROPS** Play swept-up hair and a bare neckline to your full advantage with romantic chandelier earrings. Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection drop earrings, \$600, at caroletanenbaum.com **5. TIMELESS APPEAL** With its

sleek rectangular case and 18-karat gold bracelet, this sophisticated timepiece defines classic elegance. Longines Dolce Vita watch, \$10,500, at Raffi Jewellers, longines.com **6. SHIMMERING BASE** Create a luminous, smooth canvas with this 24-karat gold-fleck-enhanced cooling primer. Guerlain L'Or Radiance Concentrate with Pure Gold Make-up Base \$78, at Guerlain boutiques **7. PUT A RING ON IT** Draw attention to your mani with high-impact sterling silver and 24-karat gold. Gurhan circle ring, \$815, at Holt Renfrew **8. NO PLAIN CHAIN** This 18-karat gold-link necklace will add old-school pizzazz to any look. John Hardy necklace, \$7,875, at Holt Renfrew  
EDITOR: NATASHA BRUNO. PHOTOGRAPHY: ADRIAN ARMSTRONG

**ONLINE** FOR YOUR DAILY DOSE OF FASHION AND BEAUTY NEWS READ RADAR EVERY MORNING AT [THEKIT.CA](http://THEKIT.CA)



## ask jeanne

*I'm searching for cute beach wear for a vacation in March. What styles will keep me looking good down south, but also on trend once summer hits here?*  
—Hannah

**DEAR HANNAH:** Well, you're in luck on a couple of fronts. Besides the fact that you're going on a divine vacation after such a long, cold winter, your timing is impeccable for spring/summer shopping. The collections are hitting stores about now, so whatever you see will be spot on for the warmer months ahead.

In terms of prints, strong graphics are making waves, and a variety of florals, tribal motifs and paint swirls, splatters and brush strokes are cropping up. Art is in the air, and there's a great sense of joy and optimism in the designs we're seeing. The collections are hitting stores about now, so whatever you see will be spot on for the warmer months ahead. Stripes have become a classic and are back big time for spring and summer.

And ditto for polka dots. If ever there was a season to make bold statements, this is it! All you need is confidence and the courage to march to your own style drum.

*"There's a great sense of joy and optimism in the designs we're seeing."*

Contrast and diversity reign supreme these days on many fashion fronts. You may have a penchant for the folkloric feel that

labels like Valentino and Givenchy had fun with on the European spring runways. Or maybe haute glam is more your style, along the lines of the metallics dished out by Tom Ford and Versace. Then again, you can always walk on the wild side with animal prints like leopard or python—they've practically become wardrobe staples. Hot Canadian swimwear label Shan offers fabulous prints and great fabrics. Check out Shan's site ([shan.ca](http://shan.ca)) to see how beautifully these on-trend prints are translated to beach wear. Another great swimwear label, Gottex ([gottexmodels.com](http://gottexmodels.com)), also works wonders with this season's prints and colours, so make sure you check that site as well.

Pastels like lavender, sky blue, minty green, baby pink and soft yellow are coming back strong. There's an appetite for "brilliant blue," according to the Pantone colour mavens, and upbeat orange and coral red are still irresistible for the steamy months ahead. The good old combo of black and white continues to make a chic statement, no matter what the season. Remember, varied textures are driving fashion today and making many of this season's styles especially sensual and appealing.

Send questions to [askjeanne@thekit.ca](mailto:askjeanne@thekit.ca). Jeanne Beker is a contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of Fashion Television Channel. Follow on Twitter @Jeanne\_Beker



*spotted*

# HANDS-FREE HANDBAGS

They're equal parts pretty and practical so no wonder they're catching on. Cross-body bags are small enough to be convenient but pack style clout. Our picks are chic and versatile —VANESSA TAYLOR



**IN THE BUFF**  
The streamlined shape makes this bag incredibly functional, but it's this fabulous pale shade that makes it totally envy-inducing. **Balenciaga** bag, \$1,885, at Holt Renfrew



**GOING GREY**  
If you're looking to branch out from the basic black or brown bag, your next (safest) bet is this gorgeous grey hue. The neutral shade will work with your entire wardrobe—we promise. **Proenza Schouler** PS11 bag, \$1,950, at net-a-porter.com



**WHITE ON**  
Mackage revitalizes the classic ladylike silhouette by shrinking its size and adding a useful cross-body strap. The result? A smart alternative to a clutch. **Mackage** Rubie bag, \$295, mackage.com



**CRAFTY COOL**  
Swapping Chanel's signature quilted leather for linen complete with *trompe l'oeil* graffiti prints and industrial detailing makes this bag the ideal finishing touch to any sporty look. **Chanel** Trompe-L'oeil Boy bag, \$3,300, at Holt Renfrew and chanel.com



*one-minute miracle*

## POT OF GOLD

*As if the golden pot wasn't impressive enough, this hair pomade actually contains gold minerals. (Although quite how much is unknown.) Use it to make your hair glisten in a way that's less '90s shimmer, more red-carpet sparkle. Its rich formula is great for updos on all hair types, creating texture and shine in one, and infusing your hair with Oribe's signature addictive scent.*

—ALEX LAWS  
Oribe Gold Pomade, \$55, at beautymark.ca

**ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE OLYMPICS**

For our gold medal-beauty picks visit [thekit.ca](http://thekit.ca) throughout the Olympics

*outfit envy*

## Allison Williams

Layered in an edgy mix of modern separates, the *Girls* star looks super chic at Dior's haute couture show in Paris

—NATASHA BRUNO

**TIP**  
Create a flattering silhouette with a belted-tunic-over-pants combo. Just make sure the top skims over your hips and doesn't end at your widest part.

**TOP TOTE**

A ladylike structured handbag looks polished, and the embossed crest detailing gives an elegant design a playful twist.

**ORANGE CRUSH**

Two-tone orange-trimmed pumps up the style ante with a fiery shot of colour.

**COZY CARAMEL**

A posh camel coat is the perfect style-saving layer during transitional months. Sling over the shoulders and leave undone for laid-back appeal.

**TEXTURE EXPERT**

The metallic belt provides a striking contrast in texture to the laser-cut tunic and transforms a billowy shape into a flattering, feminine fit.

**HOT STEMS**

Leather leggings add a mod-rock vibe, and a little bunching creates a more casual, off-duty look. Plus, the rich burgundy hue acts as a neutral for an easy game of mix and match.



GIORGIO ARMANI  
SPRING 2014

web

Check out 10 of the world's most expensive beauty products  
[thekit.ca/high-end-beauty/](http://thekit.ca/high-end-beauty/)

# THE LURE of LUXE

In the beauty world's upper stratosphere of \$55 lipsticks and \$1,500 wrinkle-busting skin-care regimes, haute is hot and only getting hotter **BY** DAVID GRAHAM

For some women the pursuit of beauty comes with a religious dedication—dressing tables and vanities are decorative altars on which to display their most precious skin care, cosmetics and fragrances.

Often housed in decadent packaging to match their price tags, these luxurious products are rich by anyone's standards—the Rolls-Royce of face creams, the Rolex of eye colours, the Dom Pérignon of perfumes.

This is more than an emotion-driven market that seeks product loyalty. In the high end of the beauty industry, the makers and sellers seek absolute devotion. Not only must the stuff itself be the ultimate in terms of function, but it must look the part as well. These are ornaments in their own right, from bottles created with famous architects (for example, the U.K.'s Sybarite Architects designed Marni's 2002 fragrance bottle) to others that look like they were plucked from a jewellery shop at Paris's Place Vendôme (remember Guerlain's 199-diamond-encrusted 18-karat gold lipstick, aptly named KissKiss Gold and Diamonds?).

The lure? These status pieces—limited edition compacts, fragrance bottles—have an exclusivity about them that for some is irresistible. But, of course, a designer cream is also a relatively affordable way to enter into the couture consumer arena. And it's also getting easier to indulge. The boutique experience retains its cache, with Holt Renfrew's Beauty Hall in Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Centre doubling to 120,000 square feet in 2013 and Shoppers Drug Mart opening two stand-alone beauty boutiques in Toronto, with two more to open in Vancouver and Calgary later this year. And these efforts are being echoed online, with amazon.com's new Luxury Beauty Store carrying such brands as Burberry and Nars.

Wayne Peterson, divisional vice president for cosmetics at Holt Renfrew, is astounded by the tremendous success of what he calls "extreme luxury" and the fervour with which many women approach their often very expensive beauty regimes, which include skin care, makeup and fragrance. It's something that women of varying budgets manage to accommodate.

But Peterson is quick to caution that while colour cosmetics and fragrance may be subject to the vagaries of fashion, consumers of prestige beauty brands continually insist on results. Devotees of brands such as Sisley, La Prairie, Erno Laszlo and La Mer must see and feel that their skin has improved, he says. They are not seeking "hope in a jar," says Peterson, they want "help in a jar."

As Canada's population ages, big money is being spent on research and development by a mere handful of labs competing for the attention of these prized consumers. Women are drawn to the guarantee of better skin, and for that they will pay astronomical prices.

It's a testament to the pull of the products themselves, Peterson insists, that this exclusive category rarely employs glitzy celebrity endorsements as sales tools. Jennifer Lopez may lend her name to L'Oréal and Jennifer Aniston will push Aveeno, but the same relationship doesn't exist in this rarefied world. "Luxury brands are bigger than celebrities," says Peterson.

It's the packaging here that does the talking. And it speaks to the efficacy of the product and its exclusivity, too. For the launch of his cosmetics collection last fall, Tom Ford sought to bring back an era of "quality" packaging. This emphasis proved to be a wise move: Peterson says Holt Renfrew has a waiting list for some of the Tom Ford lip colours.

But at the pinnacle of the retail cosmetics floor is Giorgio Armani's Luminous Silk Foundation,

which after 10 years remains Holt Renfrew's best-selling foundation, says Peterson. (Its popularity doesn't end here: one is sold every 10 minutes worldwide!)

Hilary Wong-Rieger is a 29-year-old office manager for a non-profit in downtown Toronto and a self-professed "foundation junkie." She was intrigued by the effusive reviews she read in fashion magazines, so she purchased Luminous Silk Foundation along with two other products at Holt Renfrew, dropping a cool \$200. Staring at her receipt, Wong-Rieger laughed and muttered to herself, "What the hell just happened?"

"It's a part of the experience on the high-end cosmetics floors," she says. "You never ask how much." Peterson says it is not uncommon for women to drop between \$500 and \$1,500 on a skin-care package.

Because the creators of these luxury brands are aware of the ritual nature of skin care, they are constantly searching for products to expand a regimen—from cleansers (including application devices such as the Clarisonic for maximum results) and toners to super serum moisturizers and finishing balms. Peterson is especially excited about the La Mer Lifting and Firming Mask (\$260), arriving in stores at the end of February.

"There is no finish line here," says Peterson, who believes there is a prosperous future ahead for extreme beauty and that high end will just keep getting higher. He sees luxury skin care, colour cosmetics and fragrances on the same trajectory.

Peterson bows to the newly anointed high priest of beauty—Tom Ford—who has never been afraid to buck a trend. After two decades of fresh, light fragrances filling the market, Tom Ford launched Oud Wood eau de parfum, in November 2013, which rings in at \$330 (100 mL).

Shopping expert Paco Underhill, author of *What Women Want: The Science of Female Shopping*, says the trend toward luxe beauty has been building for decades.

*"There is no finish line here," says Peterson, who believes that high-end will just keep getting higher.*

"There was a time when no woman would consider leaving her home without putting on perfume," says Underhill. Then, he says, in the later part of the 20th century women were dissuaded from wearing perfume to work, so they began purchasing more prestigious fragrances—to be used sparingly, one spritz at a time—for special occasions.

This leap, says Underhill, is why women are willing to spend serious money on perfumes and by association myriad beauty products, from lipsticks and nail lacquers to mascaras and eye colours. There's the thinking that they will be used rarely, and carefully—or even in some cases not used at all. An art collector wouldn't blink at spending hundreds of dollars on something that made them happy to look at. And with limited edition palettes decorated by the likes of Guy Bourdin (Nars) to fragrance bottles covered with Andy Warhol illustrations (Bond No. 9), it doesn't seem quite such a stretch, does it?

These tubes of lipstick and pots of cream are totems that take pride of place on dressing tables and in bathrooms, explains Underhill. "They speak to her feelings of personal sensuality. They remind her of her femininity."

But they also remind her that she is part of a cultural movement, a member of a growing demographic of women who work hard for their money. "They're trophies to her accomplishments," he says.

David Graham is a freelance fashion writer.

## The Luxe List

If beauty is only skin deep, it makes sense that these containers are as luxe as the products they hold

—DEBORAH FULSANG

### 1. Tom Ford Lip Color

Don't you dare head to the washroom to apply this lip colour! Both the lid and the lipstick are stamped with the so-hot-it-hurts designer's monogram. As if that wasn't worth displaying, the heavy gold metal bullet's exterior looks black or shines a little amber, depending on the light. \$55 each, at Holt Renfrew



### 2. Chanel Sublimage Skin Care

Chanel's anti-aging Sublimage skin care boasts a devoted fan base, due in part, we're sure, to its unwaveringly minimal packaging, to which others continue to aspire. Glass jars give weight and a luxurious, old-glamour feel to lotions and creams, and then, of course, there are those famous interlocking Cs. From \$98 to \$460, at chanel.ca



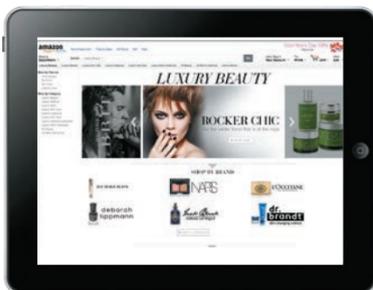
### 3. Armani Privé Collection Fragrances

Giorgio Armani's style is reflected in his boutique lineup of spritzes. Clean-lined matte-black vessels with exquisite sculptural stoppers look as good on a shelf as they feel in your hand. Armani Privé Rose d'Arabie, \$240 (100 mL), at Holt Renfrew and armanibeauty.com



### 4. Guerlain Orchidée Impériale White Foundation

A weighty glass orb with a light gold lid featuring a lapis-inspired cabochon detail on the top houses a high-tech foundation that's liquid gold. The gold brush applicator will also make you feel princess-like. \$215 (30 mL), at guerlain.com



# POUTS THAT POP

Romance needn't last just one night with these bright, kissable lipsticks! **BY** DEBORAH FULSANG

Bright, bold lips are part of the uniform here at The Kit. When there's no time for anything else, they give you quick polish and an instant confidence boost. A swipe of lipstick can be coy, quirky, cool or just very, very chic. To do bright right: prep your lips with a gentle scrub and a smidge of moisturizing balm before you dress them up. Then go for a fun hue—there's a different shade to suit every mood and moment.

1. M.A.C Huggable Lipcolour in Feeling Amorous?, \$24, at [maccosmetics.com](http://maccosmetics.com)
2. Nars Final Cut Satin Lip Pencil in Villa Lante, \$30, exclusively at Holt Renfrew
3. Shiseido Perfect Rouge in Tulip, \$30 at Hudson's Bay, Sears, Murale and select locations of Shoppers Drug Mart
4. Rimmel London Lasting Finish Colour Rush in The Redder, The Better, \$7, at Shoppers Drug Mart
5. Clinique Chubby Stick Intense Moisturizing Lip Colour Balm in Mightiest Maraschino, \$19, at Clinique counters and [clinique.com](http://clinique.com)
6. Guerlain Rouge Automatique Hydrating Long-Lasting Lip Colour in Insolence, \$51, at Guerlain counters and [guerlain.com](http://guerlain.com)
7. Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Berry Couture, \$10, at drugstores and [revlon.ca](http://revlon.ca)
8. L'Oréal Colour Riche Lipstick in Wisteria Rose, \$11, at Shoppers Drug Mart
9. Dior Rouge Dior Couture Colour Voluptuous Care in Trafalgar, \$36, at Dior counters and [thebay.com](http://thebay.com)
10. Elizabeth Arden Beautiful Color Moisturizing Lipstick in Smoky Plum, \$30, at Hudson's Bay and Shoppers Drug Mart
11. Yves Saint Laurent Pure Colour Satiny Radiance Lipstick in Rouge Neon, \$39, at Holt Renfrew and [sephora.ca](http://sephora.ca)
12. Bourjois Color Boost Glossy Finish Lipstick in Orange Punch, \$18, exclusively at Shoppers Drug Mart and beauty boutiques nationwide



## THE LOVE ISSUE

PACKED WITH FASHION AND BEAUTY LOOKS YOU'LL FALL FOR!

*February issue, out now:*

- NEW LUSCIOUS BIG HAIR LOOKS
- BEAUTIFUL BRIDAL TRENDS
- HOT HATS AND HAIRSTYLES THEY WORK WITH
- 100 REASONS TO BE HAPPY

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interview

# Samantha Steen

When she couldn't find a luxurious silk camisole, Samantha Steen set about making her own—and became a fashion entrepreneur with fans like Hillary Duff in the process!

**I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE FANCY.** I dressed up even when I was younger. I used to cut and sew my Barbies' clothing and mix and match outfits from other dolls. When most children were watching *Full House*, I was watching *Fashion Television*.

**I'M A PRETTY IMPULSIVE PERSON;** if I get excited by an idea there's no stopping me. It's good and bad. I literally just drop everything. I don't even think about the plan, I just think, "I'm going to find a way to do this and I'm going to do it now."

**I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING** I couldn't find, and it led me to start my own business. I needed a staple camisole, but they were impossibly difficult to track down, so I decided to make my own, and in a lot of colours!

**WHEN I WAS A CHILD** my mom used to make my clothing. It was the 1980s and—the poufs and the bedazzling and the bows—it was crazy.

**I WORE MY CAMISOLES** going out and girls continuously approached me, asking where I got them. I ended up handing out my business card and launched my company, Cami NYC, five months ago. It's already grown far beyond my expectations.

**HAVING WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH** on September 25 last year gave me a great push. Getting into *Women's Wear Daily* is a huge deal in any designer's career, especially when you're starting out. Then *dailycandy.com* picked up on the brand and from there things spiralled to magazines and fashion blogs.



*"I used to cut and sew my Barbies' clothing... When most children were watching Full House, I was watching Fashion Television."*

**I'M AT MY HAPPIEST** at this moment in time. Being self-employed is phenomenal. There's a sense of freedom where I can make my own decisions and I don't have anyone telling me that it isn't the right move.

**I'M WORKING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK,** so when I'm not, I like to go to dinner with friends, or going for brunch. In my downtime when I'm at home I'm always on my email or checking my phone, but meeting up with girlfriends is important for sanity.

**THE FIRST RETAILER I WORKED WITH WAS ELUXE,** and the stylist there set me up with Hillary Duff, who fell in love with the brand. Through her a lot of other celebs have reached out to me, so I'm hoping that they'll get photographed wearing a Cami camisole.

**I LOVE INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND.** It's funny because you'd think I'd be a Paris girl, but I did tons of hikes through the Swiss Alps, and you can literally put your water bottle into the waterfalls and drink. I love the naturalness and the food. I felt a connection there.

**WHEN I FIRST CAME TO NEW YORK** from Toronto, I knew one person, but since then, I've made some unbelievable connections. I've met some amazing people at Zac Posen, *WWD* and *style.com* who've mentored me. There's a buzz in New York City that you can't find anywhere else.

—AS TOLD TO BROOKE HALNAN. THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED.



## The Kit on Twitter

Get up-to-the-minute updates on the latest fashion and beauty launches and our style-related musings @thekit



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## The Kit on Instagram

Candid photo-shoot outtakes, in-office antics, events and more! Get your behind-the-scenes fix at [instagram.com/thekitca](http://instagram.com/thekitca)



**LOVELY LIPS**  
Trying to manifest warm weather with bright new spring glosses.



**PERFUME PAIRS**  
We could barely choose between the Elizabeth and James Nirvana scents!



**PRETTY PURSES**  
Perfect pouches, at the Indigo preview—there's a size for every need.



**WHAT A BEAUTY**  
We were obsessed with the makeup looks by Robert Weir on our March cover model.



**SPRING BRIGHTS**  
We drooled over these gorgeous candy-coloured pastels on set.



**TALKING TRENDS**  
Hard at work planning our Fashion Week FW14 stories.

## A CLICK AWAY FROM YOUR CLOSET

OUR FAVOURITE ITEMS FROM E-TAILERS WE LOVE

*The Trend: metallic shoes. With the 2014 Winter Olympics upon us, everyone is thinking in terms of gold, silver and bronze. Bring home a medal of your own, with these fabulous metallic shoes.*



**Studded Gladiator**  
Valentino Rockstud gold metallic flat gladiator sandal, \$895



**Silver Ballerina**  
Marc by Marc Jacobs cracked metallic logo plaque ballerina, \$248



**Golden Loafer**  
Charles Philip Shanghai Inna coated cotton and metallic pointy-toe skimmer, \$192

[thekit.ca/theseptember](http://thekit.ca/theseptember)

In collaboration with *The* **SEPTEMBER**

*The exclusive Bird Print Carryall by One Eleven Studio and Screech Owl Designs is perfect for daily travels and weekend adventures. The birds were hand-drawn and turned into a stunning digital print. Twenty per cent of sales will be donated to Free to Soar Inc., an organization helping children who have lost a parent.*



Bird Print Carryall, \$168

[thekit.ca/brika](http://thekit.ca/brika)

In collaboration with **BRIKA**

LACOSTE



NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN

**EAU DE LACOSTE SENSUELLE**

A LIGHT TOUCH OF SENSUALITY

EXCLUSIVELY AT **SHOPPERS**  
DRUG MART 