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THE KIT



MOTHER'S DAY STYLE SPECIAL

The new mom jeans, mother-approved beauty buys, supermodel parenting advice—this issue celebrates the most important women in our lives

PHOTO: PETER STIGTER



Q&A
NEW ERA
How has motherhood changed Kim Kardashian West?

BY KATHRYN HUDSON

Kim Kardashian West is obsessed with practicality, as it turns out. Now mother to North, 2, and Saint, 6 months, the woman famous for her selfies—perhaps the most frivolous of all pastimes—actually spends a lot of time thinking about the functionality of kids' clothing. "Unless you're a mom and you know that you have 0.2 seconds to change a kid, get their diaper on and have

them look cute—unless you experience it, I don't think you'll really know that functionality is important," she explains, adding that it's critical to use snaps and consider the placement of zippers. That's why she decided to launch the Kardashian Kids line, a collection of comfy and cute (or is it "kute"?) pieces now available exclusively at Hudson's Bay in Canada, with her sisters Kourtney and Khloe. We talked to the new designer about her daughter's style, how she wants her kids to think of her and how her husband, Kanye West, approaches Mother's Day.

Do you and Kanye have the same style when it comes to dressing your kids?
 "I pretty much dress our daughter, and I think he's starting to get super-excited to

start shopping for our son—it's still way too early, Saint is still in a stage where he wears onesies all the time. At this age, when they're so little, it's not really practical. Now that [North] is two and a half, she's definitely started to like colour and fun things. I personally used to dress her really gender-neutral, but it's important to have a good mix of things. She loves fashion and she likes to experiment."

What have you learned about yourself?
 "Patience, on another level that I can't even explain. So much of having kids is really to teach us lessons. Every day you learn something new about yourself."

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MOTHER'S DAY 2016
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MOST WANTED
SPRING SCORES

Beauty editor Rani Sheen's pick of the month's most gift-worthy beauty buys (for Mom ... or yourself)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL WEEKS

- 1. GET YOUR GREENS**
All kale, all the time: Let this deeply cleansing clay mask do its work while you eat your greens for optimal purifying results.
NIP + FAB KALE FIX CLAY MASK, \$16, SHOPPERS DRUG MART
NUXE PRODIGIEUX SHOWER OIL, \$16, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.COM
- 2. BLUE VELVET**
The silky texture of this marine shadow allows you to deposit saturated colour for a bold blue eye. Plus: The embossed flower never disappears.
CLINIQUE LID POP EYESHADOW IN SURF POP, \$22, CLINIQUE.CA
- 3. FIND YOUR LIGHT**
Strobing is already on the wane, but our appreciation for a pretty glow is not. Do it softly and subtly with this gleamy highlighter.
HOURLASS COSMETICS AMBIENT STROBE LIGHTING POWDER, \$48, SEPHORA.CA
- 4. POWDER RANGER**
Pulverized rose petals are an especially lovely feature of this extra-gentle powder exfoliator from Montreal. Just add water or cleanser.
CORPA FLORA ROCK'N ROSE ULTRA FINE EXFOLIATING FACIAL POWDER, \$28, CORPAFLORA.COM
- 5. GOLDEN GIRL**
Cleansing oil has made its way to the shower. This one shimmers with gold flecks, foams up a little and leaves behind a tropical floral scent.
PHILIP B. RUSSIAN AMBER IMPERIAL VOLUMIZING MOUSSE, \$42, MURALE
- 6. MARBLE FINISH**
The rich swirls of rose and mauve in this baked, marbled blush deliver a just-kissed flush that's especially pretty on darker skin.
COVERGIRL TRUBLEND BLUSH IN DEEP MAUVE, \$14, DRUGSTORES
- 7. GOLD STANDARD**
Created by Hollywood hair-treatment pro Philip B., this creamy foam smells spicy and boosts fine hair without leaving any dryness.
PHILIP B. RUSSIAN AMBER IMPERIAL VOLUMIZING MOUSSE, \$42, MURALE
- 8. OOH LA LA**
The Carven Parisienne is feeling sexier these days. Smell like her with this rich floral blend of Egyptian jasmine, tuberose and iris with juicy mandarin.
CARVEN L'ABSOLU EAU DE PARFUM, \$151 (100 ML), HOLT RENFREW
- 9. NAILED IT**
A Dior-branded dotting tool plus blush and Aegean aqua polishes equals adorable high-fashion nail art.
DIOR POLKA DOTS COLOUR & DOTS MANICURE KIT, \$38, THEBAY.COM

Q&A
A MODEL MOM

Bianca Balti teaches her daughters that looks aren't everything

BY KATHRYN HUDSON

Italian model Bianca Balti's career began at 21, when she took a job with Dolce & Gabbana to pay for a holiday. "We basically grew up together," she says of Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana. Their "family affair" hit a high last year when Balti, 32, walked their runway pregnant as part of the designers' celebration of motherhood. While Balti is perhaps best known as the piercing blue eyes in the ads for Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue, which turns 15 this year, she is also mom to Matilda, 9, and Mia, 1. We asked her how being a mother has shaped her career.



DOLCE & GABBANA LIGHT BLUE EAU DE TOILETTE, \$86 (50 ML), THEBAY.COM

"The fragrance really reflects Italian style: It's passionate, spontaneous and loud."

How did it feel to walk the runway pregnant? "When I came out and they started to clap, I wanted to cry. First, because I always wanted to cry when I was pregnant, and second, because there were so many people there who I'd known for so long. I saw a picture of me in a magazine and they'd written, '...Making the baby in her belly the youngest to walk the runway.' I put it in my baby's room, not because I'm obsessed—I don't hang pictures of myself—but it's something memorable, for me and for my baby."

How is it being a mother and a model? "The first time, I lost my baby weight immediately and started to work again. Daily life and travel became a little complicated, but I managed. The second pregnancy changed my relationship with my job because I was 30. I found it much harder to lose the baby weight. I had to work really hard to get back to work. Now, I

appreciate every day more. I bite my tongue before complaining."

How are you raising your daughters to be confident? "It's really difficult and I wish I had the key. My older daughter is so paranoid already about the way she looks. I can tell her a million times, 'It doesn't matter, the important thing is your heart,' which is true, but it's normal. You go through so many insecurities. I keep saying that it doesn't matter what other people think and that they are wonderful little women. I think my daughter is a little bit in competition with me. I can say, 'It doesn't matter how you look.' But I make money out of the way I look. It's very complicated."

How do you feel about the stereotype that motherhood isn't sexy? "It's so passé. I think that a real man should find a woman who has been a mother more attractive than a teenager."

COOL COLLAB
FINE ARTS

Fashion illustration meets face painting in an artful new makeup collection



"Somehow I feel that working for a beauty brand is more liberating and less structured than fashion."

"It felt like François invited me into this wonderful, make-believe weekend in the south of France. I tried to imagine the whole situation and capture special moments within it."

Konstantin Kakaniyas, an L.A.-based Greek artist, has become a fashion favourite for his couture-show comic strips and illustrations of the likes of Anna Wintour and Diane von Furstenberg. "I admire beautiful clothes and worship original style," says Kakaniyas. "I believe that fashion works so well as a mirror on the times we live in. To me, style is a means of self-expression—it is truly a form of art." This month, Kakaniyas branches out into beauty, sketching all over the packaging of a Nars Cosmetics collection inspired by the Côte d'Azur, a place close to François Nars's heart. Bright, witty and pretty—the perfect combination. —Rani Sheen

FROM TOP: **NARS DUAL-INTENSITY BLUSH IN SEXUAL CONTENT**, \$58, AND **DUAL-INTENSITY EYESHADOW IN TOPLESS**, \$38, SEPHORA.CA

Mother's Day Giveaway
To celebrate our One-Minute Miracle Mother's Day Special, we're giving away a **miracle kit valued at \$400+**, for one hour each weekday, from May 5 to May 11.

For a chance to win, sign up to The Kit for free, or follow us on social media. Each day, we'll let you know when the contest begins.



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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. OPEN TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS, 18 AND OLDER, EXCLUDING RESIDENTS OF QUEBEC. CONTEST LAUNCHES AT 12:00 AM, MAY 5, 2016 AND CLOSES AT 11:59 PM, MAY 11, 2016. ODDS OF WINNING DEPEND ON TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE ENTRIES RECEIVED. ENTRANTS MUST ANSWER ASKILL TESTING QUESTION. APPROXIMATE VALUE OF EACH PRIZE: \$400+. COMPLETE CONTEST RULES AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEKIT.CA/CONTESTS/OMM-MOTHERS-DAY-2016

PHOTOGRAPHY: BARWERD VAN DER PLAS (BALTI PORTRAIT); GETTY IMAGES (BALTI RUNWAY); ART DIRECTION: SONYA VAN HEYNINGEN (BEAUTY DESK)

SPOTLIGHT

Ultimate gift guide

No one deserves a thoughtful present more than Mom. Spread the love with our curated collection of gorgeous accessories and indulgent beauty treats

What The Kit team is asking for this Mother's Day



Editor-in-Chief
LAURA DECARUFEL

What I want: "My sweet Charlie has given me so much joy—he has also taken away so much sleep. (Babies. What can you do?) I'd like him to give me these Thierry Lasry sunglasses so that I can look chic on our 6 a.m. strolls around the neighbourhood."

THIERRY LASRY SUNGLASSES, \$515, JOSEPHSON.CA

What I'm giving my mom: "My mom, Julie, has an incredible collection of earrings—I think she'd love the elegant simplicity of this Elsa Peretti pair. They'd also look great with her new pixie cut."

TIFFANY & CO. ELSA PERETTI EARRINGS, \$3,150, TIFFANY.CA

How I celebrate: "Last year for my first Mother's Day, I slept in and woke up to breakfast in bed with my baby and my husband. Pure joy. I'd like a repeat, please."

Pastel pretty

1. HOMESENSE TERRARIUM, \$20, HOMESENSE **2. TOCCA EAU DE TOILETTE IN EMELIA, \$82, SEPHORA.CA.** **3. L'ORÉAL PARIS LA VIE EN ROSE BY COLOUR RICHE LIPSTICK IN JULIANNE'S PINK, \$11, DRUGSTORES** **4. BANANA REPUBLIC SHOES, \$148, BANANA REPUBLIC.** **5. RW&CO. DRESS, \$180, RW-CO.COM.** **6. ROSE & CO. PATISSERIE DE BAIN GIFT BOX OF 6 BATH FANCIES, \$36, ROOM2046.COM**

Garden roses make a charming, romantic bouquet. Tip: stick to one shade of blooms.

Minimalist chic

1. JUDITH & CHARLES JACKET, \$475, JUDITHANDCHARLES.COM **2. THEFACESHOP WHITE GINSENG COLLAGEN PEARL CAPSULE CREAM, \$75, THEFACESHOP.CA** **3. ILIA MOONDANCE RADIANCE TRANSLUCENT POWDER, \$40, CLEMENTINEFIELDS.CA** **4. JENNY BIRD NECKLACE, \$145, JENNY-BIRD.CA** **5. ALESSI VASE, \$147, ALESSI.COM** **6. MARC JACOBS CUCUMBER EAU DE TOILETTE, \$65 (100 ML), THEBAY.COM**

Wildflowers create an unexpected yet refined arrangement.

Succulents are a trendy gift option that will outlast any cut blooms.

1. PUPA MILANO LUMINYS BAKED ALL OVER ILLUMINATING BLUSH POWDER IN 03, \$29, REXALL **2. TORY BURCH DRESS, \$465, TORY BURCH, YORKDALE** **3. CAMBIE BLANKET, \$110, CAMBIEDESIGN.COM** **4. PANDORA BRACELET, \$55, PANDORA.NET** **5. TAMMY FENDER BULGARIAN LAVENDER BODY OIL, \$85, SAKSFIFTHAVENUE.COM** **6. OLIO E OSSO BALM IN BERRY, \$38, BIBELOTANDTOKEN.COM**



Assistant Art Director
KRISTY WRIGHT

What I want: "Since my daughter, Kadence, is almost two, my diaper bag days are nearing an end, so I'd love a new leather bag. This bucket bag is the perfect transition piece: It can still hold the necessities but is super chic."

SEE BY CHLOÉ BAG, \$527, NORDSTROM.COM

What I'm giving my mom: "Shopping with my mom, Debra, always meant lengthy stops in jewellery stores. She would point out all the pieces she loved, which made gift giving easy. Today, she still loves bling, so when I came across this cuff, I knew it would fit perfectly into her collection."

LEAH ALEXANDRA CUFF, \$150, LEAH-ALEXANDRA.COM

How I celebrate: "It would be nice to catch up on rest before heading to my sister's for a homemade brunch—complete with the best cheese bagels from Monastery Bakery & Delicatessen. Then we usually do a little shopping in downtown Oakville."

French glamour

Mix bold ranunculus for an impressive result.

1. ARQUISTE ART DECO VELVET CANDLE, \$95, ETIKET.CA **2. DOLCE & GABBANA DOLCE ROSA EXCELSA EAU DE PARFUM, \$109 (50 ML), THEBAY.COM** **3. LEE SAVAGE BAG, \$1,760, NET-A-PORTER.COM** **4. CALL IT SPRING SHOES, \$50, CALLITSPRING.COM** **5. LOVE STYLE/LIFE BY GARANCE DORE, \$39, INDIGO.CA** **6. YSL LA LAQUE COUTURE IN SAVAGE PINK, \$29, THEBAY.COM**



Executive Editor
KATHRYN HUDSON

What I want: "I would love Off White's super-special embroidered kicks. Realistically, though, I'll be dropping hints about the navy suede iteration of Adidas's wear-everywhere Stan Smiths."

ADIDAS SHOES, \$110, SSENSE.COM

What I'm giving my mom: "My mom, Helena, is a gifted textile artist who gave me an appreciation for fabrics, so I thought of her when I saw this whimsical robe by Finnish brand Marimekko."

MARIMEKKO BATHROBE, \$189, MARIMEKKO-VANCOUVER.COM

How I celebrate: "Last year was my first Mother's Day, and we celebrated by having family over—the more mothers the merrier. My husband made enough spaghetti and meatballs to feed us for this year's celebration too. But this year, I'm hoping to hit up Momofuku's special brunch menu in Toronto—complete with OTT bagels!—if my son, Oscar, can keep it together for over an hour in a resto."

WISH LIST Three successful women let us in on what they're hoping to receive this Mother's Day



Sonia Zarbatany
Owner of Zarby International, Vince Camuto Canada and Sanctuary Canada in Montreal

Mom to: Mia, 3, and stepsons Emanuel, 20, Eitan, 18, and Noah, 12

Hoping for: "Every year when summer approaches, I want a new pair of



MICHAEL KORS SUNGLASSES, \$190, MICHAELKORS.CA

sunglasses. They make me feel fresh and cool and excited about the warm weather."

Backup: "My favourite spa in Montreal is at Hotel Le St-James for a couples massage. The private room is nestled in the vault of a former bank."



Annabel Hawksworth
Founder of Hawksworth Communications in Vancouver

Mom to: Heston, 8

Hoping for: "I love these bracelets by Blue Ruby. They look great stacked or on their own, and the best thing is that 100 per cent of the proceeds goes to Cause We Care, a



BLUE RUBY CAUSE WE CARE BRACELETS, \$20-\$150, BLUERUBY, 604.266.2594

local charity that supports single mothers and their children in need in Vancouver."

Backup: "Brunch at my husband's new restaurant, Nightingale, in Vancouver's Coal Harbour and a post-brunch stroll by the ocean to round things off nicely."



Marcie Ien
Co-host of Canada AM in Toronto

Mom to: Blaize, 11, and Dash, 4

Hoping for: "I'm a bit of a shoe and purse fiend. So a nice new clutch or pair of shoes (hint: Mama needs a red pair of Converse) is always welcome! My kids are pretty



CONVERSE SHOES, \$80, LITTLEBURGUNDY.COM

fashion savvy! I run a lot by them."

Backup: "Head straight to the Stillwater Spa at the Park Hyatt Toronto. Gift cards make me extremely happy! Chocolate-infused doughnuts from the Rolling Pin are never a bad idea either!" —Veronica Saroli



Managing Editor
EDEN BOILEAU

What I want: "What does this adorable denim hat have in common with my jeans, besides being 100 per cent cotton? I can easily stuff it in the washing machine and my overnight bag before cottage trips!"

ZARA HAT, \$26, ZARA.CA

What I'm giving my mom: "My mother, Suzanne, has been on the hunt for a signature scent for years since growing tired of her same-old. When I had a sample of Jo Malone Red Roses recently, she flipped: 'Oh my God, what is that? I love it!' Points for me, this Mother's Day!"

JO MALONE LONDON RED ROSES COLOGNE, \$155 (100 ML), JOMALONE.CA

How I celebrate: "It's so original: brunch. But, hey, there's nothing my mother and I love more than chatting, eating and drinking in a restaurant; and we've already indoctrinated the third generation—my daughter, Lily, is totally into it."

You vs. the Mirror



Makeup is not a mask.

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Lasting Liquid Foundation

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SHISEIDO
GINZA TOKYO

FASHION

How to wear the new denim

Canadian style powerhouses—seen here with their canine “babies”—prove that the mom jean has serious fashion bite

BY VERONICA SAROLI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA



1. Blaire Borins, Hermès communications manager, and Fred (left) and Ed

Borins's toy poodles follow her around with what can only be described as Mary-had-a-little-lamb-like devotion. “Too many shadows,” Borins says, half joking. Brothers Ed and Fred were originally bought for two young family friends—hence the rhyming monikers—but as the kids grew and their interest waned, Borins took the poodles in for a weekend, which turned into five years of cohabitation. “Their whole life is dependent on me taking care of them,” she says with a laugh. “But they're horribly behaved.”

GAP TOP, \$25, GAPCANADA.CA. HERMÈS SHOES, \$1,175. HERMÈS. JEANS, BORINS'S OWN

2. Erin Kobayashi, writer, and Luna

One Christmas morning, Kobayashi discovered an eight-week-old Catahoula-leopard-and-German-shepherd-mix puppy under the tree. “It was basically like finding out you're pregnant and giving birth in one day,” she says. Like any proud parent, Kobayashi praises Luna's smarts and credits the dog for making her less selfish. However, Kobayashi's pride took a beating recently when she entered Luna in a dog selfie contest. Competition was tough: “She came in second place—she was against a cockapoo with 1,000 Instagram followers. Dogs don't care if they lose, but I do.”

TOPSHOP TOP, \$22, THEBAY.COM. JEANS AND SHOES, KOBAYASHI'S OWN

3. Emily Scarlett, H&M Canada communications and press manager, and Boadie

Getting Boadie, a 55-pound English bulldog with a penchant for drooling—he requires daily wrinkle cleaning—up on the block for this photo was easy for Scarlett, but it would throw out the backs of many mere mortals. Once situated, Boadie flashes a big Cheshire-cat grin, his charm melting hearts around the studio faster than you can say Oscar Isaac. “They make you happy all the time,” Scarlett muses about the allure of pets. “It's unconditional love. No matter what happens, they're always there for you.”

H&M TOP, \$40, JEANS, \$50, SHOES, \$60, HM.COM

4. Brooke Manning, owner of Toronto boutique Likely General, and Jane

They say dogs resemble their owners, but the likeness runs deeper between Manning and Jane, her husky-shepherd-mix rescue dog. “You form this instant bond,” says Manning. “You become like each other in a weird way. Pets want to do everything for you, and you want to do everything for them.” For Manning, that meant overhauling her business model: She opted not to stock food in her retail space so that it could become pet-friendly. Now, to the delight of customers, Jane parks herself right by the door.

OLD NAVY TOP, \$15, OLDNAVY.CA. JEANS AND SHOES, MANNING'S OWN

5. Natasha Ramkay, model, and Molly

When the tiny Cavalier King Charles spaniel pup arrived home for the first time, the Ramkay family came up with her name on the spot. “She just looked like a Molly,” Ramkay explains. The naming may have been easy, but getting used to Molly's woeful expression was not. “She'd look so sad all the time. We were like, ‘What did we do?’” Years later, Molly still looks glum, but Ramkay reassures us that she's got nothing to pout about. “Dogs live in the moment—they're not planning their next meal. They're not stressed.”

BANANA REPUBLIC TOP, \$62, BANANAREPUBLIC.CA. TOPSHOP JEANS, \$80, THEBAY.COM. ALDO SHOES, \$120, ALDOSHOOES.COM

6. Jennifer Lee, editorial director of Filler magazine, and Pickle

Every Christmas, Lee travels for 18 hours with her Australian-shepherd mix, Pickle, to Saint John, N.B., to visit her family. Sure, she could hop on a two-hour flight, but Pickle likes car rides, and Lee likes Pickle, so they drive. The duo have a special bond: After moving to Toronto from the U.K. following her master's, Lee was lonely. “I kind of needed a friend,” she says. Even now, “depending on your partner's work schedule,” she says, “you might see your dog more than anyone else.”

BANANA REPUBLIC TOP, \$62, BANANAREPUBLIC.CA. LEVI'S JEANS, \$108, LEVI.COM. WINNERS SHOES, \$130, WINNERS

TREND NOTE

Back in 2003, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler immortalized the oft unflattering “mom jean,” with its snug high waist and its yards of fabric extending out like an infinity pool. But now, street-style doyennes are having the last laugh, working elevated, roomy denim from Off-White, See by Chloé and Vetements and—in a pinch—refitted vintage gems.



BUILD YOUR DENIM WARDROBE

Top designers on the four styles to buy now and wear forever

BY CARLY OSTROFF



Heavily embellished
Paige Adams Geller of Paige

Why jeans never go out of style: “They can be dressed up as ‘cocktail denim’ or worn for comfy weekend wear. Jeans truly take you anywhere from morning to moonlight.”

Why they're worth the investment: “Embellished jeans are perfect for a special occasion. They can be worn to brunch with friends, to an art gallery on the weekend or any time you want to stand out in a crowd.”

How to style them: “I prefer to wear our embellished jeans with a white silk blouse and pointy-toe heels, but my rocker alter ego would pair them with a black motorcycle jacket, white tee and ankle boots.”

Top tip for care: “I recommend either dry cleaning or handwashing them in cold water, then hang drying.”

PAIGE JEANS, \$555, PAIGE.COM



Reworked
Sean Barron & Jamie Mazur of Re-Done

Why jeans never go out of style: “They are universal; everyone wears jeans. They cross economic, social and seasonal divides.”

Why they're worth the investment: “Our jeans have opened up the world of vintage denim to everyone. It is no longer just for the ‘in the know’ people who would go to vintage stores and hunt for the perfect pair. We've done the legwork.”

How to style them: “With our new Re-Done Hanes T-shirt! There isn't another shirt of this quality and simplicity out there.”

Top tip for care: “Wash them as infrequently as possible! And if they rip, send them back to us and we will fix them for you free of charge.”

RE-DONE JEANS, \$475, SHOPREDONE.COM



Oversized
Phillip Lim of 3.1 Phillip Lim

Why jeans never go out of style: “They're an amazing neutralizer to any outfit—and denim just gets better with age.”

Why they're worth the investment: “They're comfortable, and they exude coolness that skinny jeans can't. With skinny jeans you want to show something, obviously; with oversized jeans it's like ‘I don't want to show you, I know what I've got.’”

How to style them: “I like oversized denim with more tailored pieces. That way the proportions don't get carried away.”

Top tip for care: “Don't wash it. Put it in a dryer inside out, put a guard sheet in, and just tumble it for a while to air it out. That's the best way to preserve age.”

3.1 PHILLIP LIM JACKET, \$950, 31PHILLIPLIM.COM



Frayed
Scott Morrison of 3X1

Why jeans never go out of style: “Over the past 20 years we've seen just about every culture look at jeans as something not only acceptable, but coveted.”

Why they're worth the investment: “The fit is relaxed and comfortable, but the fringe makes them a little more luxurious and flirty.”

How to style them: “Rihanna recently styled our Tango jeans with a pair of Timberlands, which gives the jean a different feel altogether. The best thing to do is wear something you are comfortable in.”

Top tip for care: “We recommend handwashing inside out and then hang dry. Definitely don't put these in the dryer, as the fringe might tangle.”

3X1 FRINGE JEANS, \$375, 3X1.US

JEAN QUEENS

These A-list moms show that a good pair of jeans can suit any occasion



Christie Brinkley



Alicia Keys



Gwen Stefani



Hilary Duff

ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE
MOM KNOWS BEST

Our editors asked their mothers to take the latest beauty wonders for a spin and report back on the results



The reviewers

Sandra Vieira, 52, mom to Jillian Vieira, Fashion Editor

Judith Hume, age undisclosed, mom to Veronica Saroli, Assistant Editor

Julie deCarufel, 64, mom to Laura deCarufel, Editor-in-Chief

Christina Begy, 59, mom to Evie Begy, Marketing Manager

Barbara Yvonne Hotson, 69, mom to Jessica Hotson, Creative Director

Shawna Ostroff, 13.89 (in Celsius), mom to Carly Ostroff, Assistant Digital Editor

Roma Sheen, 65, mom to Rani Sheen, Beauty Editor

Early beauty lessons

“My mom would always say, ‘Make sure you wash your face and don’t forget your ears! You may have potatoes growing behind there.’”

“The best beauty advice I received was from my grandmother, who said, ‘Always use a cream’ (I believe Pond’s was a favourite) and ‘Never give your age!’ In fact, when she died, it was in the first paragraph of her will that her age was not to go in the paper.”

“My mother would say, ‘Don’t use soap on your face.’ She seldom wore makeup. I followed her example and didn’t wear any until my mid-twenties.”

Pet peeve

“I have a thing about feet. I can’t stand seeing a super-chic woman who blows it all with rough, cracked heels. That’s like sweeping dust bunnies under the rug, but forgetting to roll the rug back again. So I use a foot paddle twice a week between monthly pedicures.”

Beauty habits

“I still have fairly thick hair, but as I get older, it often looks dry and tired. I use hair masks and sometimes I’ll wrap my head in a plastic bag to add heat—a very attractive look, according to my husband. Sometimes I’ll leave it on for an afternoon while I cut the grass.”

“When I was younger, it was all about having a minimal regimen. Now, I take more time in the morning to achieve that ‘effortless’ look. I call it ‘the works’: moisturizer, foundation, eyebrow pencil, eyeshadow, eyeliner, blush and lipstick.”

Splurge strategy

“I definitely spend money on moisturizer and, more recently, on exfoliators and serums—thanks to my beauty editor daughter.”

The products



“It was refreshing, absorbed immediately and barely took any time to apply since it only adds a simple step between cleansing and moisturizing. A little goes a long way. I’ve noticed a huge change: within two days my face was softer and smoother and those little lines seem to be less defined.”

ELIZABETH ARDEN
PREVAGE ANTI-AGING ANTIOXIDANT INFUSION ESSENCE, \$120, HUDSON’S BAY



“This ‘simulated filler’ has a bit of a tint and felt like a non-greasy, creamy cover-up. I liked that it blended into my skin easily, so it wasn’t noticeable. I wanted it to treat the lines around my lips, and although there was no drastic improvement, it did help reduce larger pores that were there. I like the idea that it’s non-invasive, and I will continue using it.”

JOUVIANCE INJECTFX, \$35, JOUVIANCE.COM



“I love beautiful-smelling soaps for my bath and shower. This felt good on my achy muscles after exercise and was soft on my skin. The salt in it dissolved very quickly. The best part was the rose scent.”

SEALUXE RITUAL ROSE ELEGANT BATH TEA, \$12, KISSANDMAKEUP.STORE.COM



“I was surprised by the substantial texture: It’s more like crème brûlée than the whipped cream I was expecting. It took a while to rub in and absorb—a self-administered foot massage! It smelled great. My feet were silky smooth immediately. The small cracks were visibly improved after one use, and by the end of the week they were gone. Can I try it on my husband?”

CND CUCUMBER HEEL THERAPY INTENSIVE TREATMENT, \$50, SALONS



“It went on very creamy and rinsed out clean. Afterwards, I could comb my hair easily with no tangles—as if I’d had a trim to get rid of all the split ends. I colour my hair three times a year to hide the grey, and this product made my hair soft and silky, like it feels after a dye job. I’ll definitely use it again, and my husband will not miss the bag on my head.”

SCHWARZKOPF ESSENCE ULTIME AMBER+ OIL NUTRITION 60 SECOND TREATMENT, \$13, REXALL



“I need a GPS for my car and a GPS for my face to navigate the sheer number of beauty products I’ve collected. This palette is the perfect tool to streamline my routine and has taken the guesswork out of makeup application (especially before I’ve had my coffee) because it comes with directions. The overall look is me, but better.”

CHARLOTTE TILBURY INSTANT LOOK IN A PALETTE, \$85, HOLT RENFREW



“The best thing by far was the smell. It smelled divine, like wild English flowers in the spring. The unexpected thing was that I noticed a difference after the first use—smoother and softer skin around my eyes. I think I got a bit too enthusiastic and put it on too thickly, and it was quite hard to remove, so I wiped it off with a cleansing cloth.”

TATA HARPER BOOSTED CONTOURING EYE MASK, \$211, MURALE

TEXT EDITED BY NATASHA BRUNO

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*strength against damage vs. non-conditioning shampoo ©2016 P&G

Q&A

New era

Continued from cover



Kim Kardashian, North West and Kanye West attend Alexander Wang's Fall 2015 show.

my sister and just judge my friends for how they would raise their kids, and they weren't doing anything wrong, it was just 'Someone's too lenient, or someone's too strict,' and now I'm just like, 'Whatever works.' We're in survival mode."

How do you like to celebrate Mother's Day? "My husband is really sweet and is always so great on Mother's Day with me. But Mother's Day is usually about my mom and we'll usually send my grandmother a present or a card. But we're very low-key on Mother's Day."

Do you ask Kourtney for advice about your kids? "For every last thing: what organic food should we be getting, school things, activities... Everything Kourtney does, I just kind of follow. [laughs] She's taught me how

to completely overhaul our diet, especially for our kids."

What was your childhood like? "I feel like I had the best childhood with such a strong family bond. I just want to carry that into my own family."

How does your mom describe your childhood? "She jokes sometimes when I'm overwhelmed and everyone seems to be crying at the same time and I just want to sit and cry with them—which is really rare. I have such a good baby and my daughter's really sweet. She doesn't really throw a lot of tantrums. But especially last week when we were all sick, my mom was like, 'Ugh, this is what my life was like every single day. There were four of you, and then six.' I could not imagine."

Do you think about what you want your legacy to be? "I just want my kids to feel loved. It's not so much about my brand and my work—to me that's minimal in comparison. I just care what my kids think about me as a person."

And now that you have two? "It's like a whole different world. One is easy. Everyone would come up to us and say how difficult two is, and we just kind of laughed it off. And now I really, really understand it. It's like any free time that you thought you had when the baby's sleeping, or napping, or anything—you don't have that anymore. It's like a full assembly line, like, 'Okay, this one needs a bath, and then this one needs a bath,' and then 'Is everyone dressed?'"

What do you do when you have a moment to yourself? "I'm like, 'What do I do with myself?' Lately my husband's been recording his album so once all the kids go to sleep, and my mom is here and can watch them, then I will go to the studio with him. I have my monitor with me—I'm just that kind of mom, where I can't really relax until I'm at home. I've also been trying to finish that Netflix show *Making a Murderer*. I haven't been able to finish it. Once you get into a groove and you're able to watch it, then a baby will cry."

You've said motherhood has made you less judgmental. How so? "I used to watch



KARDASHIAN KIDS JUMPSUIT, \$40, TOP, \$30, DRESS, \$39, DROP-WAIST DRESS, \$45, THEBAY.COM

PRO PICKS

KID COUTURE

Industry insiders share mom-tested shopping strategies

BY JULIA SEIDL



Jessica Mulrone

Gig: Marketing and events specialist at Kleinfeld Bridal, Toronto

Kids: Twins Brian & John, 5 and Ivy, 2

Fave shopping spots? "I really like Zara Kids, Gap Kids, H&M and Joe Fresh. I'm a huge fan of shoes from Akid and Foot Locker. I like to buy Ivy little Nike Air Max runners and Converse—she's a little sneaker freak already. Appaman makes miniature skinny suits, the same suits that my husband, Ben [Mulrone], wears on *eTalk*."

Do you dress your twins identically? "When they were little, I did, but now I'm trying to put them in different things. They hate it! I buy them the same shoes in different colours but they take one of each pair and swap them so they're wearing mismatched shoes. It's their way of still looking the same."



Lindsey Haywood

Gig: Public relations executive at Make Up For Ever, Montreal

Kids: Carson, 18 months

Fave shopping spots: "I like preppy and practical. For everyday, I keep it simple with Carter and OshKosh. It's super-traditional but the overalls are too cute. Tommy Hilfinger has great jeans for babies, and I love the fedoras and caps from Joe Fresh."

What's your go-to for special occasions? "For Carson's baptism, I didn't want him to wear the traditional white gown. I went to a boutique, Mega Children's Wear, that makes custom three-piece suits for babies, complete with a tie and vest. But the day of his baptism, I realized I hadn't thought of any shoes since he doesn't walk yet, so I put some sneakers on him!"



Kate Hewko

Gig: Jewellery designer at kate-hewko.com, Calgary

Kids: Blake, 5, and John, 2

Fave shopping spots? "In a perfect world where money is abundant, I would buy all their clothes online at alexandalex.com. They have all my favourite brands like Scotch Shrunken (by Scotch and Soda), Chloé, Kenzo and Dr Martens, but in itty-bitty sizes."

Do your kids have their own personal style? "My daughter, Blake, is obsessed with both Darth Vader and Queen Elsa. You can find her either in full black gear with her studded boots that she calls her Vader boots, or bejewelled in a tulle dress, crown and gloves. I'm not sure what direction she will eventually take!"

TEST DRIVE

FAMILY MATTERS

We asked a mother-daughter duo to put their own spin on spring's nautical trend. The verdict: True style is ageless

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAYLA ROCCA



LINDSAY
"I spend a ton of time browsing online marketplaces like Etsy and the Asos Marketplace. They are amazing resources to find both vintage and handmade products that you just can't find in stores."

"The leather jacket I'm wearing is a recent purchase from the vintage store Public Butter. It was only \$40, studs and all."

"The look is all about balance. The frilliness of the dress made it a perfect counterpoint to layer on edgy accessory staples from my wardrobe: chokers and over-the-knee socks."

AUDREY
"I'm obsessed with Iris Apfel. Since I saw her documentary [Iris], I keep loading on accessories."

"When I was very young, my mother and I would devour *Vogue* as soon as it arrived. She loved fashion and taught me how to interpret trends."

"I liked the simplicity of this dress, but felt it needed another element. Right now, I can't get enough of pleather leggings. Must be residual memories of Julie Newmar's Catwoman."

Audrey Hyams Romoff and Lindsay Romoff, a mother-daughter pair of public relations pros, are making new use of their fashion industry experience. Just in time for Mother's Day, the duo are launching fringeuff.com, a blog that explores how women of different ages can interpret the same trend. It's a fitting next step for the pair, whose day jobs are also all about style. In 1990, Hyams Romoff, 52, founded OverCat Communications—with a client roster including Winners

and Estée Lauder. Romoff, 24, handles the agency's social media strategy.

The two share a taste for pushing sartorial boundaries. As Hyams Romoff puts it, "Women think about what's appropriate for their chronological age, which, in their minds, limits their choices." Her daughter agrees. "Style is a strong form of self-expression," says Romoff. "My mom has taught me that fashion has the power to transform, not just physically but also emotionally."



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Join us to celebrate the opening of Reiss at CF Sherway Gardens. The Kit Fashion Editor Jillian Vieira shows us her summer style edit. Enjoy summer treats and drinks, shopping and style.

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MELISSA'S *Musts* FOR SPRING '16



The mule is back in town and this time it's pretty in pink. **NINE WEST**

Voilà! The "something different" missing from your wardrobe. **Smythe, ANDREWS**



Peek-a-boo! I see you, gorgeous gal! **Elizabeth and James, TNT THE NEW TREND**



If you're a fan of Emily Schuman's "Cupcakes & Cashmere" blog and books, you'll love this little number. **Cupcakes & Cashmere, HONEY**



Perfect for #Italy2016! Visions of wearing these while touring around the Amalfi Coast are swirling around in my head right now (along with vino rosso and spaghetti alle vongole). **Soludos, CAPEZIO**



Sweet arm candy in one of the season's hottest hues. **Alexander Wang, TNT THE NEW TREND**



Hello, lover! **Manolo Blahnik, BROWNS**

WE HAVE TWO WORDS FOR YOU THIS SPRING! MELISSA'S MUSTS. BAYVIEW VILLAGE MARKETING AND STYLE DIRECTOR, MELISSA EVANS-LEE HAS GORGE PIECES TO HELP YOU PLAY UP SPRING IN STYLE.



Love, love, LOVE the dressier vibe this silhouette offers. **Free People, MENDOCINO**

This blouse is one of those pieces where just seeing it on the hanger doesn't do it justice. Try it on! **BANANA REPUBLIC**



"Werk it" in style! **GAP**



OMG! Someone save Karl! He's dangling from this darling little handbag! **BROWNS**



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SEE ALL 45 *Musts* BAYVIEWVILLAGESHOPS.COM/MELISSASMUSTSFORSRING2016



Olivia Stren posted sunlit pictures of her son, Leo, to Instagram during his most charming moments: sleeping as a newborn, learning to smile for the camera and playing with his feline friends.



"It was to curate the fantasy (read: lie) of order and serene maternal delight."



CULTURE

No filter

Is posting pics of your perfectly lit baby in French sleepwear a gateway to posing your toddler in fake tans and tiaras?

BY OLIVIA STREN

When Facebook was in its infancy, and people began posting shots of their offspring in *their* infancy, I made a private vow: In the interests of discretion and not turning into a wannabe stage mother, I would refrain from posting pictures of my own infant, should I ever have one, to any social media site. I reasoned, however, that my cats were suitable subjects, as cats are the irrepressible Kardashians of the social media universe. (Plus, if I were as good-looking as my cats, I wouldn't mind having my portrait up in Times Square.) So I proceeded to post occasional shots of myself with Baby Lemon at the peak of her destabilizingly adorable kittenhood (a mother's prejudice).

Years passed, and then I had a (human) baby, last year. In my postpartum haze, when I was forced to give up things like REM sleep, I swiftly

turned into my own worst nightmare. I was told repeatedly that whenever the baby slept, I should sleep, too—sound and sanity-preserving counsel. But while Baby Leo snoozed, instead of napping, I was busy snapping endless shots of him in various stages of slumber, which I hastened to post to Instagram. When he was awake, I'd photograph him in all his shiny-eyed freshness (at least one of us was looking good). Perhaps the impulse was to protract the fleeting and capture the rare and miraculous—like a *National Geographic* photographer shooting an eclipse. But it was also to curate the fantasy (read: lie) of order and serene maternal delight; to make it seem as if all was peaceful and perfectly lit.

I'm hardly the most prolific poster: Instagram is a rabbit hole of aggres-

sively adorable baby pictures, unwitting subjects captured in their dimpled splendour, bedecked in their finest for all to "like." It has turned parents (of humans, hounds, felines, etc.) into Anne-Geddes-esque photographers, prop stylists and set decorators. Not that we'll admit it. As I defensively replied to a friend who said as much: "I posted a shot of Baby Leo in a Petit Bateau sleeper—not in, like, a sequined bustier."

She wasn't swayed by my compelling wardrobe argument. She pointed out that I was photographing the baby in his most bunny-soft French sleepwear, among his most photogenic playthings in the most optimal lighting. So, she wondered, was I really that different from a pageant mom?

The truth can be glaringly unflattering—but that is surely something a Valencia filter can fix.

WHO TO FOLLOW

Meet some of the coolest moms on Instagram



Name: Catriona Smart @cocoandcowe
Based: Toronto
Followers: 14K
Look for cute and curated shots of this style blogger's daughter Harlow Lake.



Name: Kira Paran @northern_style
Based: Edmonton
Followers: 39K
This blogger invites us into the colourful world she shares with son Alastair, 2.



Name: Ana-Maria Klizs @bluebirdkisses
Based: Toronto
Followers: 81K
Co-owner of kids' shop Rufus + Murdog, Klizs is often chasing sons Johannes, 5, and Magnus, 1.



Name: Monika Hibbs @monikahibbs
Based: Vancouver
Followers: 113K
This home decor maven—and mom to Liam, 3, and Lillya, 5 months—has a feed full of breezy inspiration.



Name: Roxanne West @bonjourbliss-blog
Based: Toronto
Followers: 116K
This French Canadian has enviable style, as do her kids, Ella, 3, and Noah, 18 months.

FIRST PERSON

THE STEPMOTHER LODGE

No familial relationship is more layered or fraught than the one between a woman and her stepchild

BY MARILISA RACCO

"Do you love him yet?" my partner asks frequently, while looking at me with a mixture of hope and reproach. After four years together, including a year of cohabitation, and weeks before our wedding, he needs to know that I love his son. "I'm getting there," I say.

It's not that he's an unlovable child; it's quite the opposite, in fact. He's a charming, bright and curious 10-year-old, and for the most part, we have a strong relationship based on a genuine fondness for each another and a shared love of *The Simpsons*. Aside from the usual bevy of unpleasant traits that I've been assured are commonplace among "kids these days"—subpar manners, limited attention span and general smartassness—he's a great kid. But I'll never be his mother and that's a fact he continually reminds me of, either by swiftly correcting me when a term of endearment slips from my lips or, more hurtfully, by immediately retracting a comment that could be construed as a compliment.

"As a stepmother, you are initially perceived, falsely or not, as a rival to the most traditionally revered and respected biological force in the family—the mother," writes Cherie Burns in her seminal book *Stepmotherhood: How to Survive without Feeling Frustrated, Left out, Or Wicked*. "If that's not enough to put some drama into your life, there's plenty more. You are the last member to enter an extended family and you are often the last to grasp the significance of that. Family life is already in progress."

According to 2011 census numbers from Statistics Canada,

blended families account for 12.6 per cent of Canadian households, and they include nearly 558,000 children under the age of 14. That makes for a lot of step-parents trying to form a connection with children who very likely resent their mere existence.

Fortunately, we are past our days of theatrical displays of resentment, which included mild temper tantrums on sleepover nights, hostile dinners and a repeated refrain of "You're not my mom." I'd like to say that I handled all of these moments gracefully, but I chafed visibly, responding equally coolly and, I'm ashamed to admit, juvenily. Uttering "Don't worry, I don't want to be your mom" was not my shining moment. But time, as they say, heals all wounds, and eventually he grew to accept the fact that I was going to be a permanent fixture in his life. Despite his initial weepy reaction to learning that he and his father would be moving into my home, he loved his bedroom on sight.

The reality is that I care for him very deeply. I cook his favourite foods—baked pasta and pork tenderloin—when he's with us (which is half the time) in a vain attempt to garner if not his admiration, then at least his appreciation. I tidy his room, do his laundry and make sure he has clean towels; I pick up souvenirs to take back to him when I travel, and I agonize over Christmas and birthday presents. Most of all, I defend him to my friends and family, who often default to hackneyed remarks like "He'll never respect you" and "You'll never have

a real relationship with him." My partner insists that his son sees and appreciates these gestures, but I've yet to receive praise for my cooking (my deepest desire from anyone, to be honest) beyond "Can I have seconds?"

A real relationship—the term my friends lob at me—is precisely what I crave. I want to feel the warmth that exudes from his every pore when he sees his father, and I want to be on the receiving end of the excitement that rings through his voice when he recounts his weekend activities. In a nutshell, I want to be wanted and not just tolerated. It's why it cuts so deeply when he says he'll never even call me his stepmother. Rationally, I understand that attaching the word "mother" to me in any way makes him feel as though he's betraying his biological mom. But I feel rejected as a person in his life who is genuinely attempting to leave a positive and lasting mark.

Despite Burns's belief that "the ideal of a mutually devoted relationship between a stepmother and her stepchildren is seldom achieved," I haven't abandoned hope that, one day, he will fold me into his life without guilt and refer to me as his stepmom, and I will find the strength and security to let my guard down, put my sensitivities aside and love him. It will probably be a long and bumpy road to that point, but I'm hopeful. And for now, I'm working on getting there.



Hollywood is rife with unflattering stepmother stereotypes, from Disney's *Cinderella* to *Maleficent* (bottom left) and *Snow White and the Huntsman* (bottom right).

"I want to be wanted and not just tolerated. It's why it cuts so deeply when he says he'll never even call me his stepmother."

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