

THE KIT

Ultimate blow-dryer report: Our beauty director found the one that will change your life PAGE 5

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Eva Chen will see you now

The social media powerhouse talks balance, beauty and her bestselling children's book PAGE 4

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA



Work out like Tessa Virtue
The Olympian shares her fitness tips PAGE 3



Why we need a return to elegance
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Golden girl

Tessa Virtue opens up about her level-headed approach to fitness

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA



Winning an Olympic gold medal is no easy feat. Earning three in nine years over three separate Games? Well that's damn near impossible. Not for Canada's national treasure and celebrated ice dancer Tessa Virtue, whose last victorious performance of "Roxanne" brought pretty much the entire world to tears. (That competitive energy! Those obliques!) We sat down with the Adidas athlete in Toronto to scoop her ultra-practical tips for building sustainable fitness habits and putting self-care into actual practice.

FIND FULFILLMENT IN YOUR WORKOUT

Using any and every excuse to skip out on a gym sesh? We've all been there. Turns out even professional athletes are familiar with exercise apathy. "I think there's a misconception that when it's your job to be in shape, you don't feel that," says Virtue. While she admits that it's helpful having a team whose jobs revolve around making sure she's at her best, Virtue's had to do her own work to crack those motivation blocks. "The thing that always gets me going is thinking about how I want to feel when I walk out the doors to the gym or the arena," she says. "You have your best workouts when you go in thinking you don't want to do it, because you're so satisfied with your own determination and grit."

ALWAYS CHOOSE SELF-LOVE

After stepping back from her two-decade-long, nine-hour-a-day training schedule post-PyeongChang, 29-year-old Virtue had to reconcile with the changes she's witnessed in her physique. "Realizing that I won't be in Olympic shape or have the body I had this past February probably ever again, it really threw me," she confesses. And who hasn't become intimately acquainted with that awareness, when the same ab routine no longer produces a flat tummy, or your tried-and-true diet doesn't shed the pounds like it once did? Virtue's taking a self-love approach to these sudden shifts. "I don't think I'm going to look back and wish that I spent more time worrying about my muscles or fat or whatever," says Virtue. "This is where my body is right now in this moment, and it's the vehicle that's getting me through the day. I have to love it, cherish it and embrace it."

HONOUR THE SMALL WINS

Being an Olympian means tirelessly working toward a single event every four years—not exactly the instant gratification our culture is accustomed to. To make it feel more attainable—and to counteract the constant criticism she receives during practice—Virtue changes the long-lead

narrative: "It's about what I can do to make me proud of myself that day." That, she says, includes celebrating even the teensiest of victories: staying hydrated, having a nutritious breakfast, planning out your day's snacks, doing your stretches. "All these little things add up and have that cumulative effect," says Virtue. "I think more than anything else, in this day and age, we just have to feel good about ourselves."

GEAR UP

There's no shame in wanting fresh-looking gear when starting a new fitness journey; getting into an ensemble you feel good in does more than its aesthetic intention, especially when you can practically follow your own reflection in most gyms' ever-present mirrors. "I do feel different whether I'm in the gym or on the ice when I have a cute outfit on. I think most girls can relate—you carry yourself differently," she says. As someone who "lives in tights," her everyday pick is the Believe This pair from Adidas: a super-stretchy, high-waisted legging that's made from recycled polyester. "I think the way you present yourself to the world, whatever kind of task you're tackling, is really important," says Virtue.

The best gifts are for sharing

Shopping for your beau can be hard when it seems like he has everything already. But, oh what luck: These ideal presents for him just happen to be perfect for you, too

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA



THE SLEEK HEADPHONES

For the super techie, pick up lightweight, wireless headphones with major sound quality that's ideal for gym sessions or solo dance parties.

BEATS STUDIO3 WIRELESS HEADPHONES, \$350, APPLE.COM



SHARP SUNNIES

This classic shape—updated with a hint of winter-appropriate forest green—is one you'll be inclined to share on road trips.

WARBY PARKER SUNGLASSES, WARBY-PARKER.COM



LOCALLY MADE WHISKEY

If the bar cart's looking a little sparse, spruce it up with this small-batch bottle of vanilla-and-caramel-forward Canadian whiskey.

LOT NO. 40 11 YEAR OLD RYE WHISKEY, \$100, LIQUOR STORES



THE THROWBACK FLEECE

Surprise him with a throwback pullover that has "snowy hike" written all over it. Bonus: It'll look just as good on you with that oversized fit.

PATAGONIA TOP, \$139, PATAGONIA.CA



THE SENSUAL SCENT

The heady jasmine, moss and leather notes sing in this seriously sexy unisex fragrance. Splurge on the 100-mL bottle—you'll both be spritzing.

TOM FORD OMBRE LEATHER EAU DE PARFUM, \$224 (100 ML), SEPHORA.COM



THE WINTRY CANDLE

Maybe he isn't likely to go out and buy a candle himself, but find me a guy who isn't into the idea of a pepper, amber and cedar-based scent to set the mood.

P.F. CANDLE CO. SOY CANDLE IN LOS ANGELES, \$18, COMMON-PEOPLESOP.COM



THE SNUG ONESIE

He'll be living in this next-level cozy onesie all winter, but when he heads out of town on business, it's all yours.

ROOTS ONESIE, \$138, ROOTS.COM



MUST-HAVE MASKS

Introduce him to a consistent skincare routine with these easy-peasy sheet masks that illuminate tired skin.

ERNO LASZLO EXFOLIATE & DETOX HYDROGEL MASK SET, \$80 (4 MASKS), ERNO-LASZLO.COM

THE KIT X NUDE BY NATURE

Clean beauty all-stars

Our staffers test-drove Nude by Nature's essential holiday kits. Here's what they're most obsessed with



NATURAL GLOW

NUDE BY NATURE KIT: GLOW MINI TOUCH OF GLOW HIGHLIGHT STICK TRIO GIFT SET, \$40



Celia DiMinno, art director

TOP PICKS: "I'm obsessed with the Champagne Highlighter Stick! I smoothed it on my high cheekbone area and it gave me the perfect glowy highlight. I was on set for a shoot with some seriously talented makeup artists and they all asked what highlighter I was wearing. I also love the Rose Highlighter stick—it's a perfect blush tone that makes me look fresh and youthful."

WHY CLEAN MATTERS: "There's something very modern about clean beauty products that are super effective and just as trendy and cool as the many non-clean products on the shelves. These ones are free from parabens, silicones and talc, so they're actually good for your skin. Why would you use anything else?"

EFFORTLESS DAZZLE

NUDE BY NATURE KIT: DAZZLE 3-PIECE BERRY COLLECTION, \$40



Lara Buchar, marketing & special projects coordinator

TOP PICKS: "I absolutely love the Moisture Infusion Lipgloss in Violet Pink. It completely pulled together the lip look and the shimmery shine of the gloss, made me feel extra luxe and ready for any holiday party. Plus, it was super moisturizing, which is a major perk in the winter months. I love how affordable it is—you can get the full lip kit treatment without breaking the bank."

WHY CLEAN MATTERS: "It seems like a no-brainer to only use natural, cruelty-free makeup. I'm careful about what I put on my skin and try to use natural skincare and beauty products, so I love that I'm not sacrificing anything with this lip kit."

INSTANT RADIANCE

NUDE BY NATURE KIT: RADIANT GOOD FOR YOU COMPLEXION COLLECTION GIFT SET, \$60



Sarah Chan, collab coordinator

TOP PICKS: "I love the Translucent Loose Finishing Powder. Finishing powder is so important to me because my makeup doesn't feel complete until I apply this last step. After trying it, I can certainly vouch for all of the amazing reviews I've read. My favourite part about Nude by Nature is that everything looks and feels luxurious, but is super affordable. Another bonus: It comes packaged in a beautiful compact makeup bag."

WHY CLEAN MATTERS: "It's equally important to be conscious of what we put not only into, but onto our bodies, because our skin is so permeable. It's comforting to know that Nude by Nature products aren't just good, but they are genuinely good for you. They feel lighter, but the coverage is perfect."

All gift sets available at Shoppers Drug Mart and Shoppersdrugmart.ca/beauty. Discover more at nudebynature.ca.

A force of nature

Social media mogul Eva Chen talks career transitions, why her 30s are better and the best advice she ever got from Anna Wintour

BY RENÉE TSE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA

I'm pacing around in my suite at the swanky Conrad hotel, waiting for Eva Chen to arrive. I've been arranging (and rearranging) the plate of Chinese buns and egg tarts I brought for her. Luckily for my nerves, she arrives right on time, breezing into the room wearing an outfit that has become something of a signature to her more than 1 million Instagram followers: a blanket coat, mom jeans, dad sneakers and a Chanel bag.

Since she was *Teen Vogue's* beauty director, I have religiously followed Chen's Tumblr updates and admired her enthusiasm for answering readers' questions about everything from career to what bag one should invest in. (According to Chen, it's Chanel because they can become heirloom pieces.) In 2011, the American-born Chinese editor was one of the few of the "media elite" who had jumped wholeheartedly into the social media scene and connected with fans on a personal level. She hasn't changed. Offering funny but surprisingly useful tutorials on how to pose for outfit photos (#babygiraffe) to giving personal updates like whether her four-year-old daughter, Ren, ate her lunch, Chen treats her day-to-day life as an open book.

Perhaps that's why her career has been such an exciting one to follow. She was on the pre-med track when she landed her first fashion internship at *Harper's Bazaar*. Then, 10 years later, at now shuttered shopping magazine *Lucky*, she became the youngest editor-in-chief to helm a Condé Nast's publication. In 2015, she left the publishing world to head up fashion projects at Instagram. "My entire career has had a lot of transitions: from pre-med to magazines was the hardest one because it was my most major detour," explains Chen. "My parents were disappointed, but it was more out of love for me—[they wanted me] to have a more stable financial path because they moved to the U.S. in the '70s and sacrificed so much for me to get an education and all the opportunities I had. For a lot of immigrant families, love is expressed in actions and not necessarily with words."

This year, Chen is once again entering a new chapter in her life. The 38-year-old mom of two took a leap of faith to fulfill her lifelong dream of writing her first children's book, *Juno Valentine*, which just hit the *New York Times* bestseller list.

"I feel like my entire career path has been a series of unexpected opportunities," adds Chen. "If you work hard and love what you do, opportunities come to you."

You were in management positions at a very young age. Were you tempted to act differently to be taken seriously? "My personal strategy has just been to be myself. People have preconceived notions of how a magazine editor should behave. It helps that I came from the beauty world because it's a little friendlier [than fashion], but it's taken decades to get to that point where it's like, 'No, I'm not going to change. I'm going to be myself.'"

You are so busy. What is something you had to let go of and cut from your schedule to make things work? "I used to get facials! Having this book has been like a second job, so I stopped going out unless it was for work obligations or for something meaningful that I'm committed to. I still manage to squeeze in self-care, which is reading at night, taking a bath and maybe watching an episode of *Friends*. I think in general, we live very busy, crowded lives. We're doing 10 things at once with a computer in our hands—we're working all the time. You have to find things that spark joy for you. My kids make me feel the deepest, most insane joy. For some people, it might be their family and friends, and for others, it's going out to dinner that starts at 9 p.m. So, whatever it is that gives you joy, you should do it."

What's the best advice you ever received from someone in the industry? "I worked for Carlyne Cerf de Dudzele. She's this legendary French stylist and did Anna Wintour's first ever cover of *Vogue*. Her advice for fashion was, 'If it's good, it's good.' It doesn't matter if it's vintage, or from Gap, a street vendor, Alaïa, Chanel or Dior. It doesn't have to be a brand name or the latest thing. When it's good, it's good. I also remember when I was at *Lucky*, and people didn't like a cover I had done, Anna

[Wintour] said, 'Move forward, move on.' It's really simple advice: Learn from something and move forward. I think people have to trust their gut more because people tend to look to other people to give them the wisdom to figure out what to do with their lives, but most of the time you tend to know."

What advice would you give to someone who's transitioning career paths? "Do your research and your homework. I'll sometimes meet with people in interviews and they'll say, 'Oh, I want to do something creative.' But that's not helpful because what is that? Introspection and self-awareness are quite hard, but that's what people have to do."

What advice would you give your 20-year-old self? "Your 30s are better! The 20s are worse than the teen years because people expect you to have your you-know-what together and know exactly what you're doing. I think the decade from 35 to 45 is the best time to be a woman. When you're in your 20s people are like, 'I'm having this get-together at my apartment, it starts at 10 p.m. on a Thursday

night,' and you're literally like, 'Oh God, I don't want to go,' but you feel obligated to because you feel like you don't want to disappoint people. But in your 30s, you learn that you can't disappoint yourself either."

With a million Instagram followers, do you ever feel nervous whenever you put something up on your platform? "No, I was raised to have an opinion on things. I have a very, very strong, opinionated mother. We could be talking about quantum physics and she'll be like, 'Well, my opinion is...' and I'm like, 'Okay, Mom.' I believe that when we stop having an opinion on things, that's where the danger is. If you have a platform of 50 people or five million people, you have to have an opinion and a voice. It doesn't have to be on politics. It can be on the environment, gun control and animal rights. If you don't stand for anything, you stand for nothing. I feel the next generation of teens will change the world. There's so much craziness happening, and they are so vocal and active. When they're able to vote, watch out, world, because they grew up with, frankly, some horrible things happening."

Why did you want to write a children's book? "I had the idea to write a book for a long time. Having young children [Ren, 4, and Tao, 1] and reading so many children's books, I thought I'd love to do a book. And now more than ever young people need to be told they can be whatever they want. There are external



Eva Chen shows off the power of the white suit and poses with her bestselling children's book, *Juno Valentine*. Shot on location at The Conrad New York hotel, part of the Kiwi Collection.

forces telling people they can't. But in this book, there are scientists, athletes, musicians,

queens, artists and dancers. I wanted to write about a little girl stepping into the shoes of all these famous women. All of us have wondered what it would be like to walk in the shoes of Michelle Obama, Oprah or J.K. Rowling. And I think this book is extra important for boys, who should be surrounded by strong women from a very young age to know that having strong women around us makes everything better."

How did you connect with Canadian illustrator Derek Desierto? "Derek and I connected on Instagram. He did an illustration of me two years ago, and tagged me. We didn't keep in touch, but a year later when I had my book deal, I reached out to him on DM and asked if he's ever done a book. And he said, 'No, I'd love to.' And I said, 'Great, we have six weeks.' So, we did it over FaceTime, text, DM... We met when the book was completed, and it was like meeting a long-lost sibling. I love his energy—he has an incredible work ethic and talent."

So, what's next? "*Juno Valentine* only has 16 women. When I was thinking about who I wanted to put in the book, there were so many people that I couldn't fit in. I'm writing another book that's coming out next December. It's due in six weeks and I haven't written it yet [laughs]. I'll do it over Christmas, and then Derek and I will start again in January and work on the illustrations for it. That's the most time-consuming part of writing children's books: It's not the words but the pictures. The pictures have to match the words so well. You end up re-writing the book while you're doing the pictures. It's teamwork."

Let's talk beauty. What's your cardinal rule? "I never wear makeup when I fly, because I feel like it's just the absolute worst. It's so dry in the air that when you wear makeup, it ends up just getting caked into your pores. I always fly with bare skin and a moisturizer—I've been using Biologique Recherche La Grande Crème. And always wash your face at night! It doesn't matter how tired you are. If you went out until 2 a.m., it doesn't matter—just wash your face. I also tend to eat pretty healthy. I believe the foundation of good skin is a healthy diet. Don't eat junk, eat a lot of fruits and veggies and take care of yourself. It really shows."

What inspires your style now? How has your style changed over the years? "Real women and my friends inspire my style—I love Leandra Medine, Yasmin Sewell, Caroline Issa and Susie Bubble. Now I have more confidence to wear what I want to wear. I also think once you become a mom, comfort is such a huge factor. Now, I don't always wear huge sequined suits. The outfit I came in—mom jeans, cozy sweater, dad sneakers and a big coat—that's my day-to-day uniform. Once in a while it's fun to dress up. For the book tour, I was wearing sequined rainboots and sequins. When you're younger, you might dress for other people. As you get older, you dress for yourself. That might mean a lot of things for some people: For some, it means wearing a head-to-toe sequined look—for me, it's comfort and utility."

SHOP EVA CHEN'S SIGNATURE LOOK



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CHANEL BAG, PRICE UPON REQUEST, CHANEL BOUTIQUES



AGOLDE JEANS, \$168. NET-A-PORTER.COM



REEBOK SNEAKERS, \$130. REEBOK.CA

If you only buy one

Our beauty director, **Katherine Lalancette**, looks to be blown away by the best hair dryer ever

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY CARLSON

Fact: Hundreds of beauty products launch every season. Other fact: Zero per cent of humans have time to try every one. In our If You Only Buy One series, we do the digging to uncover the top beauty products out there.

There's a home video from my first birthday where I try to blow out the candle on my funfetti cake, but can't quite muster the lung power. The same feeling washes over me every time I switch on an underwhelming hair dryer: child-like disappointment.

As someone whose wiry hair requires management of the mechanical variety, I'm serious about my dryer. I've even gone as far as messaging Airbnb hosts to ask what kind they have to see if I should bring my own. (See? Serious.) For years now, I've searched for a model that would make good on the promise of perpetual good hair days.

My conclusion is that blow-dryers are a lot like winter coats: You can't get away with poor quality. Sure, it'd be much more thrilling to shell out that money on a few trendy, cropped colourful teddy coats, but if you cheap out, you'll end up with pneumonia—or fried, frizzy hair, as the case may be. So which blow-dryer should you invest in? After trying out dozens, I can finally declare a winner. Now, that calls for cake.



IF YOU ONLY BUY ONE HAIR DRYER, GO FOR...

Equipped with loads of bells and whistles, this genius dryer checks all the boxes. Want sleek strands? Let the ionic technology do its thing. Craving volume? There's a button for that. The five heat settings and two speeds allow for a customized blowout, while the ergonomic design and auto pause sensor (it turns off every time you set it down) make the whole process feel effortless. Great hair is guaranteed.

T3 CURA LUXE DRYER, \$365, THEBAY.COM



If you're prepared to splurge
With its mighty motor (about six times faster than most dryers) and high pressure air jet, the Supersonic is described more like a plane than a styling tool. Sure, it's pricey, but the state-of-the-art design speeds up drying and mitigates damage, saving you time and trims.

DYSON SUPERSONIC HAIR DRYER, \$500, DYSON-CANADA.CA



If you're a jet-setter
Because sometimes emailing Airbnb hosts about their hair dryer can be weird (I admit it), you need a travel companion that can fit in your carry-on and serve up a strong stream. Count on this pick to give you amazing hair anywhere.

GHD FLIGHT WANDERLUST TRAVEL HAIRDRYER, \$149, CHATTERS.CA



If frizz is your nemesis
Specializing in smoothness, this dryer utilizes infrared heat to gently penetrate hair and lock in moisture. It also produces negative ions to seal the cuticle and fight flyaways and static. Translation? More shine, more softness and more manageability.

SEPHORA COLLECTION BLAST! INFRARED HAIR DRYER, \$131, SEPHORA.CA



If you're all about curl power
More than a mere diffuser popped onto a regular dryer, this model is entirely made with curls in mind. Its 360-degree airflow surrounds spirals to deliver pristine definition, while the hand-like attachment lifts roots and enhances movement.

DEVACURL DRYER & DEVAFUSER, \$211, DEVACURL.COM



If you want bang for your buck
This baby is built to last. Its brushless motor multiplies its lifespan by 10 (compared to most dryers), which amounts to about 5,000 hours of use. If drying your hair takes you around 15 minutes, that means it'll last you a whopping 20,000 blowouts.

CONAIR INFINITIPRO 3Q HAIR DRYER, \$80, AMAZON.CA

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Start the year off fresh with spectacular greens. Energize your winter wardrobe with these 3 stunning looks.

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LOOK 3



LOOK 2



look 1 blazer \$780 + pants, \$480 | look 2 skirt, \$430 + blouse, \$350
look 3 skirt \$310 + blouse \$310 | 4 sneakers, \$440 | 5 necklace, \$240
6 bag, \$580 | 7 booties, \$710



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Confessions of a Mom Bag

Faced with shame about her messy contents—from crushed crackers to creepy Certs—an everyday purse opens up about why she yearns for glamour

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY CARLSON

I recently submitted my DNA to ancestry.com and discovered that I'm related to Mary Poppins's carpet bag. Granted, the connection is distant (I was born in a factory in the Chinese province of Zhejiang), but I should hardly be surprised: I've long known that I am a Mom Bag. All of my relatives—Carryalls, Totes and Diaper Bags (poor things)—have heard the stories about our magical, bottomless foremother. She spent her life carrying two bathing caps, seven flannel nightgowns, a coat rack and an eiderdown. So, basically, her human was a minimalist compared to mine.

I'm only three, but that's ancient in Mom Bag years. Soon, my zippers won't work and my handles will fray. I know, comparison is the thief of joy. We can't all be born Birkins; with their infuriatingly architectural bone structure, they even age elegantly. And I know I need to check my privilege—I could have been a barf bag. But all my life, I've heard about how "sturdy" and "roomy" I am. My friend Evening Purse (she's so fabulous and soigné, but she just seems so empty sometimes) tells me that I should feel lucky that I'm so practical because it means I get to go out every day. Maybe. But how can I be fulfilled when my human treats me as if my secret aspiration was to be a Glad Bag? I had dreams. I used to think I'd grow up to be an Attache Case.

Just this morning, my human took me to a café and frantically groped me while searching for Wallet and Phone as her small human ran around like a lunatic, knocking over chairs. I do wonder what the old bag (sorry, that expression just came out; classic self-loathing, my analyst tells me) could actually get something done if she didn't spend half her life flapping around in my tummy and unflattering side pockets looking for Phone in a feral panic. (I need to accept my imperfections, but why must I have pouches around my mid-section? It does nothing for my silhouette.) Anyway, Wallet—which by the way is never zipped up properly, making Change Pouch permanently incontinent, forever trickling coins, poor lamb—was lodged in my bowels, beached on a sandbox-worth of cookie crumbs. So instead of Wallet, my human fished out a reminder card for a therapist appointment she hadn't remembered to attend. I've also been hauling around a breast pump valve despite the fact that she hasn't nursed in two years, a boarding pass from a trip we took in 2016 (the amount of time I had to spend on the bathroom floor at Schiphol during that "vacation" still makes my snaps shiver), some dried-out baby wipes, pulverized crackers housed in a compromised Ziploc, a loose Ativan and what I think might have been a Cert.

I do worry about my human sometimes; she's always



so tired—the bags under her eyes are presently verging on the valise. So I try to take comfort in knowing I can be of service if she might need, say, a small snack or a brief coma. (She does seem to enjoy both a great deal.)

On good days, I know my worth. I am hard-working and more of an emotional-support animal than an accessory. "I am not a useless envelope clutch!" I tell myself in the mirror sometimes. But on bad days, to indulge my feelings of inferiority, I hate-read those purse-shaming What's In Your Bag columns in human celebrity magazines about buttery Bucket Bags, tassled Beach Bags (God, to be a Beach Bag—nice life) and leopard-print Fanny Packs (how I would love to be one of those, they're so petite and urbane) adopted from European flea markets and Silver Lake pop-ups. Their humans are movie stars and fashion designers and social-media influencers. (I wish my human was an influencer. She couldn't even influence her kid to put his shoes on this morning.) Those bags get to go to bistros in Le Marais and beaches in the Cyclades. (My human is constantly taking me to the drugstore. She took me to a place called "the gym" once but we never went back.) Those chic bags only seem to carry lipsticks

in the shade of Parisian window-box geraniums, international battery chargers, expensive aspartame-free mints, first-edition Russian novels and Scandinavian non-toxic wooden figurines (they're such engaged, playful mommies to their human offspring, too!). As far as I can tell, for my human, parenthood has mainly meant being eternally proximal to a cracker and a quick cry.

Those celebrity bags aren't in the business of shouldering geriatric Certs, resignation and guilt. *Entre nous*, my human might need to adopt a larger bag for her guilt. Thankfully for her, despair must be trending right now because I hear that giant bags, enormous enough to make a body bag look discreet, are currently being delivered at European fashion houses like Victoria Beckham and Jacquemus. They might be sized appropriately if, say, the Statue of Liberty were in the market for a new hobo.

Now the holidays are coming up, which always makes me more reflective. I'm trying to learn from my human: She can be so hard on herself, so I'm striving for more self-acceptance. Lord knows, we all have our baggage. —as told to Olivia Stren

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2. GIORGIO ARMANI Acqua Di Gio Absolu Eau de Parfum, 75 mL, \$122
The simplicity of water and wood meet in the third exciting interpretation of the timeless fragrance, now spiked with grapefruit and tonka bean.

3. BURBERRY Mr. Burberry Indigo Eau de Toilette, 100 mL \$104
Sophisticated yet sensual, this lemon and rosemary scent is inspired by the coastal English sea breeze.

4. DIOR Sauvage Eau de Toilette, 100 mL, \$118
A powerfully fresh juice, this fragrance features an ingenious composition of Reggio di Calabria bergamot and smoky, sensual vanilla.

5. HUGO BOSS Hugo Boss The Scent Eau de Toilette, 100 mL, \$106
This is irresistibility bottled: ginger, leather and exotic Maninka fruit combine to delight the senses.

6. PRADA Luna Rossa Carbon Eau de Toilette, 100 mL, \$110
Refinement rules this elegant scent, which moves beautifully between natural and synthetic elements. Lavender adds freshness while vibrating patchouli wood ensures depth.

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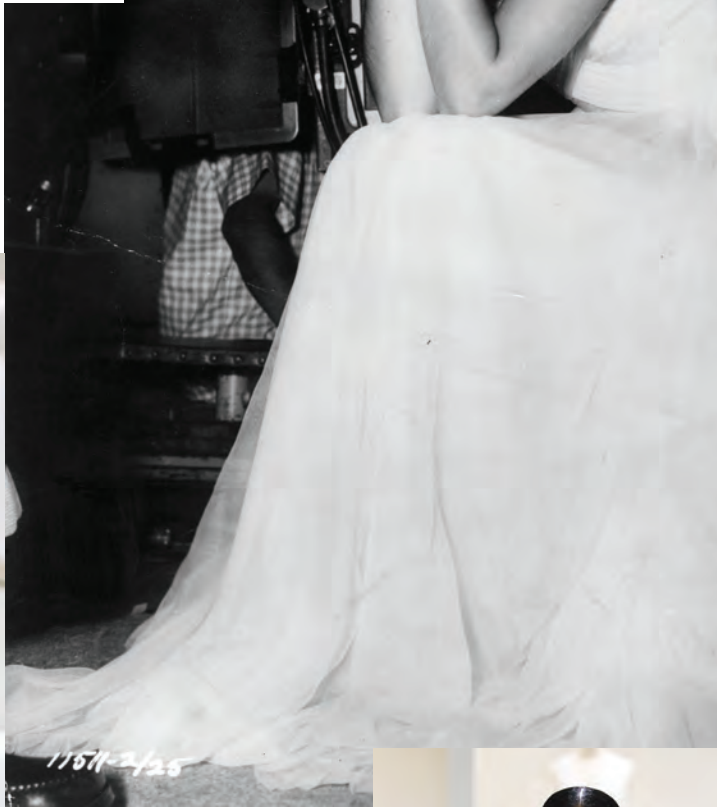
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Why we need the return of elegance

After years of flashy trends dominating the runways (think logo mania and latex dresses), **Leanne Delap** predicts that classic good taste will soon be back in fashion



The epitome of classic elegance: Grace Kelly (near left) on the set of *To Catch a Thief* (1955); select standout looks from the Dior Fall 2018 Haute Couture show.



Here's something I never thought I'd say: Those tacky latex dresses we've been seeing everywhere are actually a good thing. You know the ones: Worn by Kardashians and Hadids, they look like they come from the fetish shop but are actually made by a Japanese couturier in London named Atsuko Kudo. Even as they cling to the cartoonish curves of the reality clones, they are signalling the end of this era. What they really mean is that the return of elegant style is nigh.

There is a visual overload in popular fashion right now—the second coming of logo mania, the embrace of bike shorts and fugly trainers, the cacophony of Gucci's clashing prints. So logically, the only antidote, the only thing that will feel fresh to move on to next, is to pare fashion down again and ease the burden on our collective eyes.

Elegance is a concept that is employed well beyond fashion: Decor can be elegant, but so can scientific theories and mathematical equation proofs. Elegance encompasses three major concepts: simplicity (of line, colour and pattern and texture), economy (of how form meets functionality, but not of cost, sadly) and consistency (a recognizable style). It implies individuality and a certain level of being tastefully covered up. And elegant style is about impeccable fit, wherein the clothes showcase the person, not the body parts.



ally takes a while for our eyes to adjust, and a series of minor changes always precedes each revolution.

I would point to the Dior Fall 2018 Haute Couture collection as the oasis of calm that just might be the way forward: What designer Maria Grazia Chiuri brought to the elite Paris runway was a vision of elegance. Couture is a lab, and a chance for the best designers in the world to play with ideas that don't

Can you imagine Kelly or Hepburn pursing plumped-up lips and sucking in their cheeks for a selfie? Elegance is decorum and dignity.

We've seen a few major and encouraging trends brewing the past few seasons, with a focus on more fabric, rather than less. The themes of protection and protest have manifested in high necks and voluminous arms and floor-sweeping skirts, multiple layers of oversized coats and jackets with shoulder pads like armour. We've done a flip through historical cover-ups, including stops at lace Victorian mourning garb, Goth drama, and even a flirtation with *Little House on the Prairie*-ready modest and frilled dresses.

But these are whistle stops on the journey back to elegance. Because even though fashion appears to be moving at warp speed, it actually

have to sell on a mass scale. It was a pleasure to see a designer freed up to play. The result was a collection, as Sally Singer of *Vogue* described it, "entirely devoted to the precious dignity of such beautiful but quiet clothes." There were blush and rose and tea-stained dresses with swooping midi skirts and portrait collars and balletic flourishes in tulle. The ladylike tweed and black jackets had a jaunty, hopeful swing to them. The clothes are beautiful because they are timeless. They are compelling because they ooze good taste.

Both Gwyneth Paltrow and Lady Gaga have been photographed in that Dior collection recently, which has slowed the high-speed fashion train down to real time, because the pieces debuted on the couture runway at the beginning of July—and took this long to be custom-made. Imagine: Clothes appearing on the red carpet in their own actual season!

Wanting to feel different—more elegant, less exposed—is a reaction to how we feel on display, all the time. We are virtually transparent, with our thoughts and our lives on view for others 24/7. There is constant ugliness playing out on our screens. Isn't it natural, then, to yearn for some of the lost niceties in life?

On what would have been Grace Kelly's birthday last month, the flurry of timeless images of her on social media made me realize how many Old Hollywood accounts I follow. It's amazing how soothing a still of Kelly in *To Catch a Thief* can be. Or Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, or Lauren Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*. This kind of iconography makes me yearn for substantive style.

Elegance demands qualities of the wearer, beyond the actual clothing: poise, posture, grace and confidence. Grooming is also a factor, as are good manners and a ready smile. Can you imagine Kelly or Hepburn pursing plumped-up lips and sucking in their cheeks for a selfie? Elegance is decorum and dignity. It's the art of being elusive and holding some of your inner mystery back.

And the essential ingredient in elegance is self-discipline. In a world of oft-misattributed quotes (oh, how the internet has mangled up witticisms), Coco Chanel is the OG fountain of wisdom on the subject of elegance: "Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman." Chanel's cardinal rule—always remove one item before leaving the house—feels like a habit we ought to bring back.

She also said, back in the 1930s at the dawn of modernism, "Elegance is refusal," by which she meant dressing simply, in flattering shapes to a balanced approach to the outfit. And yes, then as now, she was also talking about dressing expensively. Zara can't just knock off the creations from the Dior couture collection: Such deceptively simple clothes must be fit to within a hair's breadth on the body, which takes mad atelier-level skills.

But at least poise and good posture are free—and, luckily, so is patience.

Shop the look

Classic silhouettes may seem simple at first glance, but luxe materials and fine craftsmanship transform these pieces into pass-it-down heirlooms that will always be in style



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE EARRINGS, \$560, SSENSE.COM



LOUIS VUITTON TOP, \$2,050, LOUISVUITTON.COM



ERDEM SKIRT, \$1,680, ERDEM.COM



CO BAG, \$1,980, CO-COLLECTIONS.COM



MANOLO BLAHNIK SHOES, \$1,185, MANOLOBLAHNIK.COM



Cher Bai of @chermycloset is all about dewy and luminous skin when it comes to her number one beauty look.

PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ RADIANT CUSHION FOUNDATION IN "110"



PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ RADIANT CUSHION FOUNDATION

True radiance

Toronto's top Chinese-Canadian influencers joined *The Kit Chinese Edition* for a magical evening to celebrate Clé de Peau Beauté's latest launch: the Radiant Cushion Foundation

Last month, *The Kit Chinese Edition* and Clé de Peau Beauté took over Yorkville's charming little French restaurant Chabrol to co-host a private evening for five of Toronto's buzziest Chinese influencers (and their guests). Dressed to the nines, Cher Bai, Chantal Li, Yuki Zhao, Jill Liu and Sylvia Jade all arrived in head-to-toe white eager to explore the beautiful world of the French-inspired Japanese brand.

While champagne bubbly and decadent appetizers were passed around, our fashionable guests got the opportunity to experience the number one Japanese beauty brand firsthand. One by one, the ladies received a mini skin consultation to understand what kind of products best suited their skin type, while learning a few expert tips from Chizuko Nishida, Clé de Peau Beauté regional trainer. They (and their glowy, flawless skin) were then shimmied over to receive makeup touch-ups and to try out the new Radiant Cushion Foundation, before being photographed by *The Kit's* very own Luis Mora for an exclusive portrait session. Let's just say this didn't faze these girls at all. Like the pros they are, Cher, Chantal, Yuki, Jill and Sylvia all worked their best angles and radiant skin, while sharing their fave products from the brand's latest collection.

After our lovely ladies' guests arrived to join us for an elegant and divine three-course dinner (and get colour-matched by Clé de Peau Beauté makeup artists), *The Kit Chinese Edition* editor, Renée Tse led an engaging discussion with Elaine Shigeishi, Vice President, Shiseido (Canada) Inc., to talk all things Clé de Peau Beauté. From talking about Shigeishi's first memory of the brand to uncovering some news of innovative products we can look forward to, to our guests sharing their number one beauty tip, it was an enchanted evening full of laughter and smiles for the books.

Jill Liu of @jilljiujiuliu admits she rarely wears makeup, but when she does, she loves rocking a statement red lip.

PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ LIPSTICK CASHMERE IN "103 LEGEND"



Yuki Zhao of @mercuryukiyuki gives off the beautiful illusion of sun-kissed skin for the winter season.

PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ BRONZING POWDER DUO IN "1"



Sylvia Jade of @heysylvia loves enhancing her flawless complexion with a touch of luminization.

PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ LUMINIZING FACE ENHANCER IN "17"



Chantal Li of @chantal_li looks fierce in an on-trend monochromatic makeup look, matching her red eyeshadow to her blush and her lip colour.

PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ EYE COLOR QUAD IN "313"



PRODUCT: CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ LIPSTICK CASHMERE

Don't mind if I do

The holidays are about giving, but it never hurts to have a wish list ready in case someone asks. *The Kit's* Renée Tse shares her luxury picks

1. WEAR-EVERYWHERE BOOTS

I've exclusively owned black ankle boots, but in 2019, I'm stepping up my selection with these futuristic silver boots.

CHANEL BOOTS, \$1,635, CHANEL.COM

2. ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES

With these colourful Fendi logo earrings, I can try the logomania trend, without feeling like I'm a walking billboard.

FENDI EARRINGS, \$1,790, FENDI.COM

3. BOUDOIR CUTENESS

Louis Vuitton's capsule collection collab with Grace Coddington features playful illustrations of cats, dogs and mice, an homage to Coddington's and Nicolas Ghesquière's love for animals. My fave? The monogrammed pyjamas.

LOUIS VUITTON PYJAMA TOP, \$2,300, **BOTTOM**, \$2,400, CA.LOUISVUITTON.COM

4. ELEGANT TOUCHES

In the past few years, beautifully made soaps have enjoyed a renaissance. These hand-made marble soaps and matching dishes are show-stoppers.

BINU BINU MARBLE SOAP, \$28, **MARBLE SOAP DISH**, \$95, BINU-BINU.COM

5. COVETABLE SKINCARE

Inspired by the dragon, symbol of pride and power, artist and Valmont founder Didier Guillon designed this year's limited-edition box for the love of his life, Sophie Guillon, which seems like a lucky token.

VALMONT HOLIDAY BOX, \$990, **LA MAISON VALMONT VANCOUVER**, **LANGDON HALL COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & SPA**, CAMBRIDGE, ONT.

6. STYLE INSPIRATION

I probably have more than enough coffee table books in my house, but when one of my favourite social media stars writes her second book featuring beautiful photos of her inspiring fashion and jet-set life, I can't not have it for my library.

WORLD OF STYLE BY AIMEE SONG, \$32, CHAPTERS.INDIGO.CA

7. COLLECT THEM ALL

Move over, K-beauty sheet masks. This season, treat your skin to some much-needed TLC with beautiful dry masks from cult Montreal beauty brand Nannette de Gaspé.

NANNETTE DE GASPÉ DRY MASKS, **YOUTH REVEALED LIBRARY OF SKIN SEDUCTION**, \$425, HOLT RENFREW

8. THE VANITY UPGRADE

Australian beauty brand Aesop collaborated with Dutch designer Iris van Herpen to create a covetable holiday collection. I've got my heart set on the home kit, which includes mouthwash (in a limited edition 250-mL size) and room spray.

AESOP X IRIS VAN HERPEN THE FAMILIAR HORIZON SET, \$120, AESOP.COM

9. SIGNATURE SCENT

I'm on the hunt for a new fragrance for the upcoming year, and my eyes are set on the newly reimagined Maison Christian Dior fragrance collection. Although I would love to have all 21 fragrances beautifully displayed on my vanity, I'll start with this woody-meets-rose scent.

MAISON CHRISTIAN DIOR FRAGRANCE IN OUD ISPAHAN, \$285 (125 mL), SAKSFIFTHAVENUE.COM



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SPONSORED

Reinventing business travel

North America Business Class from Air Canada makes travelling for work a pleasure



The delectable in-flight menu is complemented by an expanded wine selection.

Not all business travel is created equal, particularly on transcontinental flights.

Frequent flyers know business travel isn't always as glamorous as it sounds. Attending conferences, networking with clients and trying to close deals can be challenging after a long day of travel or while fighting jet lag.

Sometimes it even means getting off an overnight flight and heading straight to a meeting.

Business travellers need to get from A to B as quickly, easily and comfortably as possible, so they can make the most of their time out of the office. If employees can rest (or catch up on work) in transit, they'll arrive refreshed and ready to go — which is why most companies feel business class travel is a worthwhile investment.

But not all business class travel is created equal, particularly on transcontinental flights. Air Canada's award-winning, end-to-end North America Business Class experience begins the

moment you arrive at the airport with expedited check-in and security clearance, priority baggage handling and preferential boarding. And Air Canada is continually working to improve this experience.

For example, Air Canada is the only Canadian airline to provide dedicated lounges for its premium travellers, who can escape the airport hustle to relax or work as they await boarding in one of 17 lounges dedicated to North American flight departures.

Its brand-new 7,000-square-foot Maple Leaf Lounge in New York's LaGuardia airport is one of the airline's newest lounges. The newly-built lounge in the new Terminal B offers travellers panoramic views of the terminal alongside a self-service food buffet and bar, and specially-designed TV viewing area.

Special attention is paid to the in-flight experience. For example, for those who need to stay in touch with the office while in the air, Air Canada offers North America Business Class travellers in-flight Wi-Fi. For the frequent traveller, subscription-based Wi-Fi is also available to ensure connectivity every time they board. Each seat also has its own power supply to charge devices.

The seat-back in-flight entertainment system — with enhanced-definition touchscreens and intuitive interface — offers more than

600 hours of top-rated entertainment, with a range of new releases accompanying a rotating lineup of 150 movies, as well as short films, television programs, music albums, audio books and podcasts.

North American travellers can also experience Air Canada's new Signature Class, the premium cabin of its wide-body aircraft, which brings international business class services and amenities to select non-stop transcontinental flights in North America, including daytime flights between Vancouver and New York, and overnight flights from Los Angeles and San Francisco to Toronto. Air Canada is the first North American airline to designate aircrafts with lie-flat seats on these specific routes, which stretch out to 80 inches and come equipped with quilted pillows and plush mattress pads.

For all North America Business Class passengers, the delectable in-flight menu is complemented by an expanded wine selection chosen by Véronique Rivest — Air Canada's sommelier and one of the top-ranked in the world. Sophisticated touches are even found on the new restaurant-style dishware and glassware.

Air Canada's commitment to elevating customer service is clearly paying off. The airline received the Skytrax 2018 Best Business Class in North America award in addition to its Best Airline in North America award — the seventh time in the past nine years it has won the latter award. ✈️

A coat you'll love forever



Kerina Wang (above left) and Chloe Zhang admire the pieces on display at Woolrich's Yorkdale location; Chloe Zhang (right) epitomizes downtown cool in a chic parka and trendy denim.

Woolrich's top-tier offering of coats, parkas, boots and stylish accessories, including picks selected by Chloe Zhang and Kerina Wang.



Woolrich is the ultimate destination for investment outerwear and contemporary international design. At a recent holiday in-store event, we asked star influencers Chloe Zhang and Kerina Wang to pick their favourite pieces and tell us why they're obsessed



Every Canadian needs the perfect parka. As Chloe Zhang puts it, "I love dressing trendy, but I don't want to sacrifice being warm."



Kerina Wang describes her winter style as "cozy and functional," adding, "I like the feeling of being hugged by lush furs and linings."



MINIMALIST MILITARY

CHLOE ZHANG, @CHLOEZHAANG



MILITARY DOWN PARKA, \$1,495, WOOLRICH.COM
WORK BOOT, AVAILABLE AT WOOLRICH YORKDALE

How would you describe your winter style?

"My winter style is all about warmth and being trendy. I love dressing trendy, but I don't want to sacrifice being warm."

How would you describe the winter style options available at Woolrich?

"The winter style at Woolrich matches perfectly with my philosophy of staying warm while staying stylish."

Tell us about your look.

"I picked this military parka because I love the fur trim details on the jacket, which also adds a different touch to a parka compared to other brands! I also picked up the work boots, which I think are a perfect staple to have in one's closet. Comfy, trendy and warm all in one look—that's amazing."

Where would you wear this stylish winter look?

"It's such a versatile look that I think it's suitable for all occasions!"



TOP PICKS

COZY CHIC

KERINA WANG, @MANGORABBITRABBIT



MCKENZIE CHECK PARKA, \$1,965, WOOLRICH.COM
SERENITY SCARF, \$245, WOOLRICH.COM

How would you describe your winter style?

"My winter style is cozy and functional. I like the feeling of being hugged by lush furs and linings, but I also want my pieces to be practical. Keep me warm and protected!"

How would you describe the winter style options available at Woolrich?

"Woolrich embodies luxurious coziness with a wide range of winter options. I love the plaids, checks and earth tones."

Tell us about your look.

"I chose a parka with the original Buffalo red plaid pattern. I love the timeless design and the boldness of it. The large red checks on the coat really pop among the masses of monochromatic coats we see so much of during the winter. The fur hood is very large and generous and made me feel like a Nordic princess!"

Where would you wear this stylish winter look?

"I would wear this look for date nights, shopping trips and any fun outings this winter! This is definitely a memorable winter piece that one would want to be seen in."



TOP PICKS



TOP PICKS

AURORA PUFFY COAT, \$925, WOOLRICH.COM
MOUNTAIN BOOT, AVAILABLE AT WOOLRICH YORKDALE

Exclusive shopping event

Join the fun this December 15 with influencer **VICTORIA HUI**, of **@THELUSTLISTT**! Browse the best coats and accessories of the season with Victoria, who will be at the Woolrich Yorkdale location from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Can't wait to see you there.

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