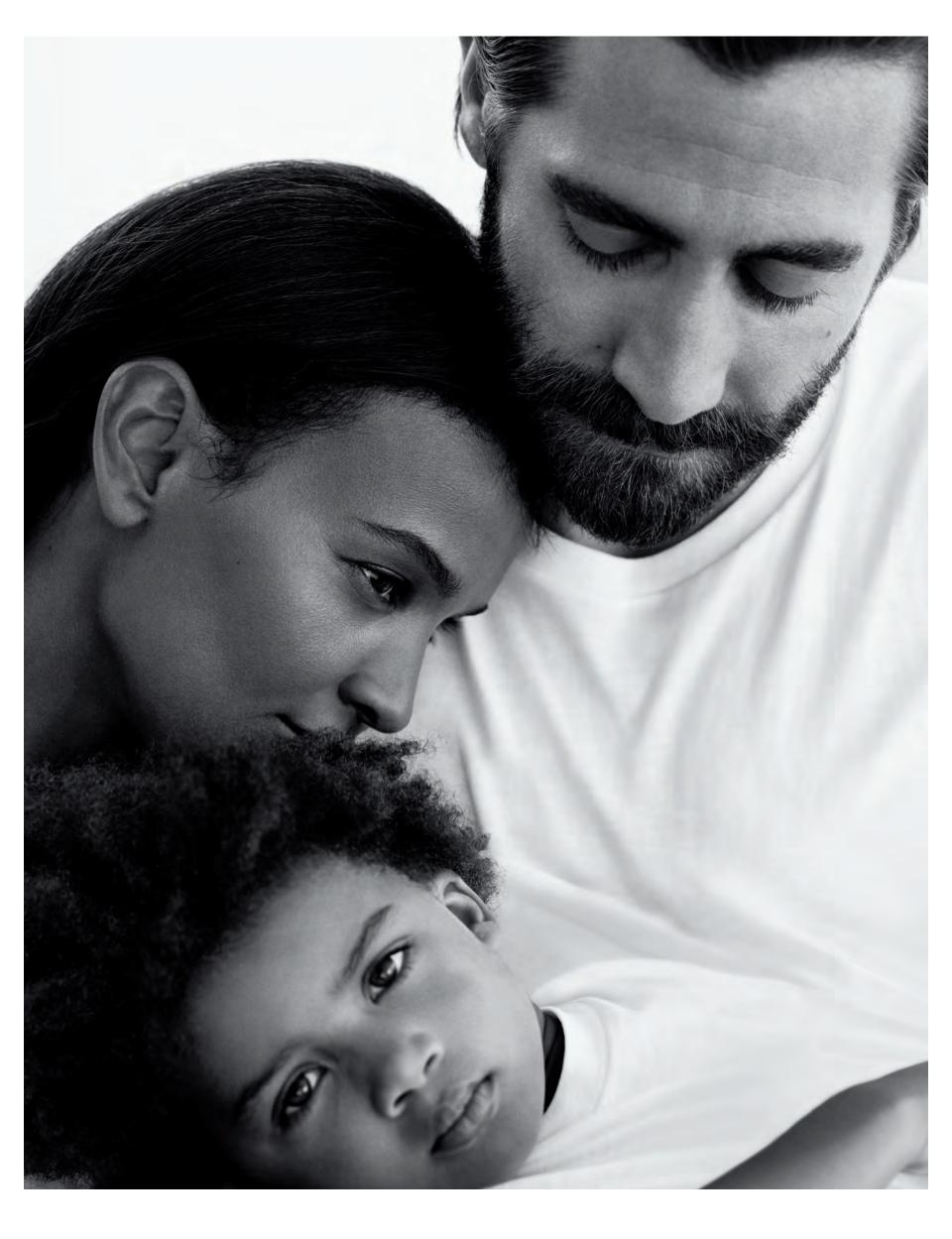


'Tis the season for total exhaustion How to look less tired—for real **PAGE 3** 

How to buy perfect presents 12 women share their no-fail gift lists **PAGE 10** 

"That's right, I don't drink" How to respond respectfully to sobriety PAGE 12





## ETERNITY CALVIN KLEIN

The Perfect Gift this Holiday Season

Luxurious. Romantic. Timeless. Inspired by the ideal of lasting love and intimacy ETERNITY CALVIN KLEIN



This set contains a 100ml Eau de Parfum, a 10ml Pen Spray and a 100ml Body Lotion. yours for \$112, a \$151 value.



This set contains a 100ml Eau de Toilette and a 30ml Eau de Toilette. yours for \$95, a \$140 value.

Available at



While quantities last.



In our I Tried It series, columnist Leah Rumack test-drives the latest and buzziest cosmetic procedures. This time around, she discovers how to look less tired—without going under the knife

ILLUSTRATION BY OANA CAZAN



"You look tired," my 7-year-old informs me one morning as I fumble around for the coffee press. "You look better with 'mascary.' You look creepy without it.'

He's not wrong. I do look tired. As I've slid into my 40s, my "mascary"-less eyes have taken on a constant wearv look. And since genetics also blessed me with dark under-eye circles, countless eye creams and even a fancy plumping eye treatment mask from Valmont full of arnica, green tea and caffeine have produced only minor, temporary improvement. I need to bring in the big guns.

"Eyes are the number one thing people talk about when they describe looking tired," says plastic surgeon Brett Beber. He explains that, in addition to the fine lines in your tear troughs, which seem to deepen with every passing year, the brow tends to descend as we age, and eyelid skin gets looser. He reaches over and pushes the skin on my upper lid gently skyward. Suddenly I look refreshed. "You're getting to the point where you could have upper blepharoplasty," he says cheerfully. "Forties are a good time!" During an upper blepharoplasty (i.e. an eye lift), a surgeon trims the excess skin and fat on your eyelid—sometimes just under a local anesthetic, which isn't horrifying at all! And while I'm not ready to go under the knife—not to mention I don't have \$4,000 and two to three weeks during which I can hide a bruised post-surgery face—I decide to proceed with a threepart, non-surgical treatment plan.

that kind of procedure also comes with about 10 days of downtime. Instead, I opt to play with Beber's new toy, a radio frequency machine-which uses heat, not light—called the Venus Viva. The other upside of radiofrequency-based treatments is that they can be used on a wider variety of skin tones, whereas lasers aren't recommended for darker skin.

I sign up for four monthly nano-fractional radio frequency treatments (about \$150 each) to resurface the skin-my collagen will be purposely damaged, kick-starting the creation of new collagen-interspersed with eight weekly sessions of multipolar and magnetic pulse treatments (from \$100-\$180 each) to tighten the skin and help with dark circles. Beber also recommends "whisper amounts" of Botox high up on my forehead for a little lift. Too much Botox can actually cause drooping, encouraging your forehead to fold over your eyebrow like a sweater at the Gap. (It's happened to me before and it's not a good look.) People sometimes also get fillers in their tear troughs, but because I don't have deep hollows to be filled or fat pads that need to be evened out, fillers won't help much in my case. The nano frequency hand piece looks like a little rectangular stun gun, and the heat is delivered through 160 tiny pins. The aesthetican pulls down the skin under and above my eye and sizzles away. Each zap only takes about five seconds, but damn, it does not tickle—it feels like I'm being bitten by a tiny, angry waffle iron. You can get numbing cream, but because

that takes at about 45 minutes to take effect and the treatment only lasts about 15, most patients don't bother. Afterwards, it looks like I've been punched in the eyes or like I have a weirdly specific sunburn. I'm puffy and tender but it only lasts about a day.

During the second treatment, the aesthetician wants to up the intensity, but I'm so chicken they need to bring Dad in to talk me off the ledge.

"It's not going to be totally comfortable," Beber says, warning me that if I go with a lower intensity, my results aren't going to be as good. "It's up to you..."

Okay, fine, Dad. For the next three treatments, I let them squeak up the intensity by small increments. In retrospect, a numbing cream would have been worth it for me.

Between each monthly waffle on session, I get three weeks of nice, warm eye massages. The "DiamondPolar" hand piecewhich uses a combination of multi-polar radio frequency and pulsed electro magnetic fieldsglides over my skin. It's pretty hot, but isn't unbearable. Also, Beber injects the Botox into my brow in tiny amounts a couple weeks apart to make sure he doesn't overdo it. At the end of the regimen, I look more rested, and the fine lines under and around my eyes are definitely reduced, though I don't see much change in the darkness of my circles.

known to pile on mascara like it's my job, even my well-documented fondness for a lash-y, baby doll look hadn't yet helped me get past the horror stories I'd heard of natural lashes being damaged and broken by under-skilled lash technicians (Long story short: Get a recommendation!)

"You can't have more weight than your natural lashes can hold," explains Linh Nguyen, the owner of Beyond Beauty, an award-winning lash salon in the Annex neighbourhood in Toronto. She also explains that I'm using my eyelash curler too much—she holds a mirror over my head as I'm lying on the table. "See? These ones are all broken. Leave them alone and they will grow."

I'm at Beyond Beauty for a new set of full volume extensions. It's \$325 for the more than two-anda-half hour initial treatment, and with touch-ups required every two to five weeks at \$100 to \$150  $\,$ a pop, this could quickly become an expensive beauty obsession. But obsessed I am. When I get up halfway through the application to go the washroom, I catch sight of my mascara-less yet suddenly uber fabulous new lashes and am already besotted. I start madly calculating how I can stretch my beauty budget—I'll dye my own hair! I'll get fewer manicures!---to make room for this clearly totally necessary service.

#### **Quick fixes**

Tried, true and tired-proof picks to score a rested look



This makeup artist fave weightlessly sets concealer while brightening under-eyes





Blended beneath arches, this pale pink pencil gives brows a youthful, lifted look

BENEFIT COSMETICS HIGH BROW HIGHLIGHT & LIFT PENCIL, \$30, SEPHORA.CA



Part highlighter, part cover-up, the cult-classic pen diffuses dark circles in a flash.

#### YVES SAINT LAURENT TOUCHE



One end features a firming eye cream while the other boasts light-reflecting particles.

CHARLOTTE TILBURY MINI MIRACLE EYE WAND, \$55, CHARLOTTETIL-BURY.CA



The beloved sandy shadow tops lids with subtle, universally-flattering radiance.

STILA KITTEN EYE SHADOW, \$23, STILA.CA



While the skin around the eyes is often treated with lasers,

I need one final touch.

No7

Eyelash extensions have become increasingly popular over the last few years, and lash shops are starting to become the new nail bars. Though I've been

The next morning I wake up and go downstairs, fluttering my new eyelashes.

"You look so pretty Mommy," my son says, confused.

I float grandly through the room and pick up the coffee press with a flourish.

"Yes," I agree. "Yes I do."

Up and out: That's this mascara's M.O. It lifts and lengthens to open eyes wide.

BOBBI BROWN EYE OPENING MASCARA, \$38, BOBBIBROWNCOS-METICS.CA



Smooth on this luminous base to extend the wear of shadows and energize your gaze

CLARINS INSTANT LIGHT EYE PERFECTING BASE, \$26, CLARINS.CA



**Holiday Hints** Holiday shopping is stressful—we get that. Here to ease your shopping woes, we present the products on our holiday shopping radar. The criteria? Easy to find, easy to use and oh-so-sure to delight.

THE KIT COLLAB

#### TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

Ten Thousand Villages is the go-to destination for holiday gifts with meaning, offering beautiful, fair-trade items crafted by artisans from all over the world.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES ARROW'S END EARRINGS, \$39. TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES



The perfect hybrid between a primer and a foundation, this product is the

ultimate base for all those holiday



SAKS OFF 5TH There's a reason gift cards are a tried and true classic present. Give them the gift to treat themselves to a shopping date, on you.

SAKS OFF 5TH GIFT CARD, \$1-\$2,000, SAKS OFF 5TH



#### VEET

No more shaving-induced cuts! Could there be a more perfect grooming gift? Bonus: this trusty tool allows you to get holiday-party-ready at home.

VEET SENSITIVE PRECISION™ BEAUTY STYLER EXPERT, \$30, SHOPPERS DRUG MART

## saksoff5th.com

## **The art of style** With Toronto's recently re-opened Museum of Contemporary Art as their backdrop, five Canadian artists muse on their

mediums and what it's like to dedicate their whole selves to the craft

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA | FASHION DIRECTION BY JILLIAN VIEIRA

KYRA HARPER, 66, ACTRESS, PERFORMING NEXT IN SOULPEPPER'S COPENHAGEN, BEGINNING APRIL 6 "I'm in my mid-60s and I'm still working as an actress, so that in itself is some level of success. I just wrapped a show called *Escaped Alone*, which was written by Caryl Churchill when she was 79. It's written for women of a certain age, and the cast is only four older women. The response was phenomenal. I feel as an older actress I am still relevant to some degree. That makes me feel good. That also challenges me, which I find is really important—I don't ever want to be complacent."



STELLA MCCARTNEY JACKET, \$2,235 PANTS, \$905, HOLT RENFREW ARTWORK: *BANNERS FOR NEW* EMPIRES BY RAJNI PERERA (2018)



#### TESS VISSER, 23, PAINTER, ILLUS-TRATOR AND INSTALLATION ARTIST

"I do feel that [women and nonbinary folks] need to push harder to be recognized, heard, and validated. When we are met with that validation, there is a lot of internalized judgment that we face: Am I doing enough? Am I working as hard as my female and non-binary peers before me who have made my position as a queer woman possible? It's easy to get caught in that tornado of negative self-reflection, which is why it's so important for us to publicly discuss our experiences." SARAH WEBBER, 18, MUSICIAN 🕨 "I've had both warm and cold experiences in the music community. Several producers have reached out to me with all these ideas for collaboration and then stop messaging me back once they find out I'm not a boy. But it is getting better: You just have to surround yourself with the right people."

TANYA TALAGA, 48, AUTHOR OF ALL OUR RELA-TIONS: FINDING THE PATH FORWARD (2018) "I write to inform, to tell truths about the people I am so very graced to know. My voice comes from inside—it is the voice of myself and my ancestors, of all my relations. If I can honour their stories and their voices, so they touch and inform others, then I have succeeded. Many hands make change, which is why my writing is very community-oriented."

V









#### CURTIA WRIGHT, 26, VISUAL ARTIST 🕨

"Creating work as a Black-Canadian woman and a child of first-generation Jamaican immigrants holds with it important histories and perspectives my peers may not possess. I was asked during a critique in university why I 'only paint black people' as if I somehow strayed from the requirement of traditional art. Ever since then, I realized, as a radicalized body, there is no blurring between art and being."

HELMUT LANG SI 3.1 PHILLIP LIM

ARTWORK: KNOWL FERENCE IV BY JEN NJOOTLI (2018)

## SHINING STARS



#### THE FASHION ADVENTURER: KARUNA ISRANI

As one half of the lifestyle and fashion blog @whatweworeblog, Karuna Israni unsurprisingly has enviable taste. Born and raised in Dubai, she launched the site and accompanying Instagram with her partner Alistair D'Cruz in 2015, a few years after arriving in Toronto, and she's been documenting her travel adventures and colourful and eclectic fashion sense ever since. A selfdescribed creative multi-hyphenate—"I tend to have my hands in a lot of different creative spheres at any given time"—she has worked in PR and will soon venture into social media management. Her style blog is, for now, a side hustle, but one she continually uses to express herself and her always-evolving approach to style. Not one to shy away from bold colour, in the last year, she remade her wardrobe and said goodbye to all-black-everything, in favour of autumnal hues of red, mustard yellow, rust and moss green, and hasn't looked back.



'Tis the season to sparkle, so we've tapped Canadian fashion tastemakers to reveal how they plan to turn up the shine on their holiday style this season. Plus, they share the glitziest gifts they'd love to give and receive this Christmas.

How would you describe your approach to holiday style? "I was born and raised in Dubai and my family is based there, so the holidays mean being in warm weather at 25 degrees Celsius. Holiday style for me means comfort, so a typical outfit would be a large holiday sweater and shorts.'

What is your holiday jewellery style? "My jewellery style is minimal, layered and then for a pop of drama, I like to add a statement earring. So if I'm doing rings, I'll stack very minimal rings on both hands and maybe do two stacked necklaces that are very delicate, and then play with a bold earring.'

What are some tips for incorporating jewellery into a holiday outfit? "It's always nice to have a couple of simple pieces that you can layer together so just have your statement pieces-two or three necklaces, five or six rings, a couple of basic hoops and sets, so you can mix and match with that.'

What are some holiday style trends you're looking forward to adding to your wardrobe? "I tend to dress in quite an autumnal palette yearround, so lots of deep yellows, red, a rust or cinnamon colour, and a moss green. What I'm looking forward to doing is coordinating matching sets-so having the same colour throughout [my outfit] with a top and a skirt, or a wearing monochrome suit for a fancier look."

What is your favourite holiday tradition? "Home for me is pretty far away, so tradition for me is to save up all year and go home [to Dubai] for the holidays. My family likes to keep it very low key: we'll have everybody from the extended family come over to the house, eat dinner together, and enjoy the time we have together, because not all of us live in the same place."

#### On Karuna's wish list







PANDORA REFLEXIONS FLOATING LOCKET CHARM, \$60

PANDORA REGAL BEAUTY RING, PANDORA ROSE, \$60

PANDORA REFLEXIONS LOGO CHARM, PANDORA SHINE, \$55



describe your approach

"I was born and raised in Dubai and my family is based there, so the holidays means being in warm weather at 25 degrees Celsius. Holiday style for me means comfort, so a typical outfit would be a large holiday sweater and shorts."



#### ON KARUNA'S TO-GIFT LIST



For my mother: "My mom loves ornate design and engraved jewellery, and she is (of course) royalty in my eyes, which makes the Victorian inspired Regal Tales collection perfect for her."

PANDORA REGAL DROPLET EARRINGS, CLEAR CZ, \$110



For my godmother: "My godmother loves sophistication with simplicity. This ring works day and night, making it an instant essential for the season."

PANDORA CONTEMPORARY PEARL RING, PANDORA ROSE, \$100

PANDORA LIVELY WISH RING, \$50

For my best friend: "My

friend Richa has been my

system for over 15 years,

and this is my small way

of cheering her on and

showing my support."

chosen family and support



For my cousin: ""I don't have a sister but being two months apart in age, my cousin and I have been partners in crime since day one. This lock and heart charm is perfect to symbolize the memories we've made over the years.'

PANDORA LOVE YOU LOCK CHARM,



For my aunt: "This glamorous statement ring from the Regal Tales collection would make the perfect gift for my fun-loving aunt Wilma who isn't afraid to express herself."

PANDORA RADIANT TEARDROP RING, PANDORA ROSE & CLEAR CZ, \$140

#### SHOP EVERY PIECE AT CA.PANDORA.NET

#### THE MODERN CLASSIC: LIV JUDD

As a former beauty and fashion magazine editor, Liv Judd has parlayed her love of shopping into the role of uber style expert: you'll find her offering sage fashion advice everywhere from *ET Canada* and *The Marilyn Dennis Show* to her own YouTube channel and Instagram. She was also named one of Canada's Best Dressed by *Hello! Magazine* for good reason: her timeless, sophisticated style is always punched up with bold colours and textures, along with an armload of handbags and accessories (of which she says she owns too many to count).





How would you describe your holiday style?

"I like to be elegant and classic, but I like to add something interesting. I like shine, I like glitter, I like something that catches your eye, but ultimately the silhouette is very classic. So I would wear a glitter sequin skirt with a cashmere sweater and fabulous shoes."

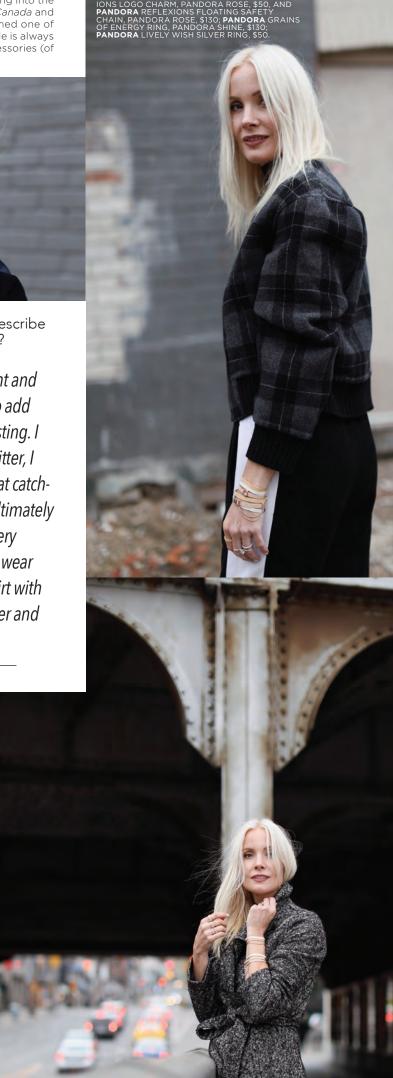
#### On Liv's wish list







PANDORA GRAINS OF ENERGY RING, PANDORA SHINE & CLEAR CZ, \$130



#### How would you describe your style?

"I like to be elegant and classic, but I like to add something interesting. I like shine, I like glitter, I like something that catches your eye, but ultimately the silhouette is very classic. So I would wear a glitter sequin skirt with a cashmere sweater and fabulous shoes. "

#### What is your holiday jewellery style?

"I have five drawers of jewellery at home, so it's a big part of how I put myself together. Sometimes I'll build around jewellery, like a standout piece on my wrist; other times I'll build around my outfit. Sometimes I'll wear oversized and large but I'll also wear small and dainty. It entirely depends on my mood."

What are some tips for incorporating jewellery into a holiday outfit? "If you're not sure how to go about it, pick one piece that's sentimental or speaks to you, and see if that becomes something you start wearing regularly. I like to push the boundaries a bit and mix and match—jewellery doesn't have to be all the same colour. I love stacking many different pieces and colours together."

What are some holiday style trends you're looking forward to adding to your wardrobe? "I'm very much a magpie—yay for glitter and sequins and sparkles! It's the time of year that you get to shine and I love that. I love being able to get dressed up, and everybody else is in the same mode. You just get to feel beautiful."

What are some of your favourite holiday traditions? "I love setting up the Christmas tree, putting on Christmas music, and getting into the spirit. Because I have little kids, I love finding out where the sleigh rides are, having hot chocolate, walking through Christmas markets and riding in a horsedrawn carriage."

PANDORA GRAINS OF ENERGY RING, PANDORA SHINE, \$130; PANDORA LIVELY WISH SILVER RING, \$50; PANDORA ALLURING HEARTS RING, PANDORA ROSE, \$10; PANDORA STRING OF BEADS SILVER RING, \$55; PANDORA STRING OF BEADS SILVER RING, \$55; PANDORA STRING OF BEADS SILVER FING, \$55; PANDORA STRING OF BEACELET, SILVER, \$75; PANDORA STRING OF BEACELET, SILVER, \$75; PANDORA STRING BRACELET, SILVER, \$75; PANDORA STRING BRACELET, PANDORA STRING, \$200; PANDORA BEFI FXIONS SBRACEL FT PANDORA ROSE, \$195

#### ON LIV'S TO-GIFT LIST

PANDORA



For my sister: "She is the pickiest jewellery person, but my sister [who lives in London] is very classic. These Grains earrings are 100% her. And if I had a pair and she had a pair, we could have the connection of having the same thing, even though we live on different continents."

PANDORA LIMITED-EDITION FLOATING GRAINS EARRINGS, PANDORA SHINE & CLEAR CZ, \$195



For my best friends: "These cuffs are between \$30 and \$40, so if you have a group of girls that you're close to, you could pick either the gold, silver or rose gold ones and give them to your best friends."

PANDORA OPEN HEART EAR CUFF, \$30



For my nanny: "I would give this to my nanny, Emily, from our daughters. It's very classic, which is good when you're giving a gift. I like how it has two strands, so it could represent both of my daughters. It's a token of them to her."

PANDORA INTERTWINED RING, \$50



For my sister-in-law: "Ingrid has a cool, hip sensibility and she doesn't wear a lot of jewellery. She's a photographer, so she's always using her hands, and these kind of symbolize who she is. Plus, she can customize them herself."

PANDORA TIMELESS ZIGZAG RING, PANDORA ROSE, \$60



For my mom: "She's a jewellery fanatic, so I would give her something that's very sentimental. I would give her rings with my daughter's birthstone—this one is for November."

PANDORA NOVEMBER DROPLET CITRINE RING, \$55

### LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE Be a holiday hero this year with these perfect picks for everyone on your list





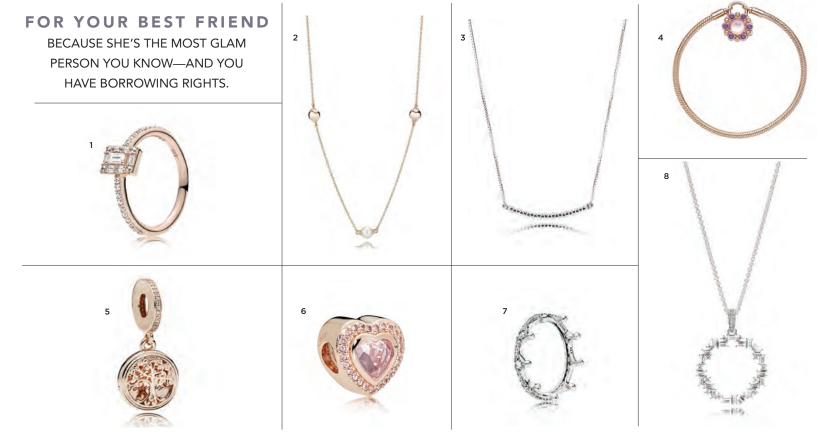
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FOR YOUR MOTHER BECAUSE SHE DESERVES THE MOON. ADD SILVER STARS FOR EXTRA SWEETNESS.





1. PANDORA HARMONIOUS HEARTS CHIME NECKLACE, PANDORA ROSE, \$305 2. PANDORA REFLEXIONS BRACELET, PANDORA SHINE, \$220 3. PANDORA LUNAR LIGHT STUD EARRINGS, SILVER AND CZ, \$55 4. PANDORA HAPPY REINDEER CHARM, PANDORA ROSE, \$75 5. PANDORA MOON AND STARS NECKLACE, SILVER AND CZ, \$100 6. PANDORA CELEBRATION STARS NECKLACE, CLEAR CZ, \$100 7. PANDORA MOTHER & DAUGHTER HEARTS DANGLE CHARM, PANDORA ROSE, SILVER ENAMEL & CLEAR CZ, \$100 8. PANDORA CONTEMPORARY PEARLS HOOP EARRINGS, \$100. ALL AVAILABLE AT PANDORA.NET



1. PANDORA LUMINOUS ICE RING, PANDORA ROSE, CZ, \$110 2. PANDORA CONTEMPORARY PEARLS NECKLACE, PANDORA ROSE, \$250 3. PANDORA HEARTS OF PANDORA BAR NECKLACE, CLEAR CZ, \$100 4. PANDORA HERALDIC RADIANCE PADLOCK BRACELET, PANDORA ROSE & PINK & PURPLE CRYSTALS, \$250 5. PANDORA FAMILY ROOTS DANGLE CHARM, PANDORA ROSE & CLEAR CZ, \$100 6. PANDORA SPARKLING LOVE CHARM PANDORA ROSE & PINK CRYSTAL, \$110 7. PANDORA ENCHANTED CROWN RING, CLEAR CZ, \$90 8. PANDORA SHARDS OF SPARKLE PENDANT, SILVER 9. C. 7. \$100 ALL ADVIE AD DANDORA NOSE & PINK CRYSTAL, \$110 7. PANDORA ENCHANTED CROWN RING, CLEAR CZ, \$90 8. PANDORA SHARDS OF SPARKLE PENDANT, SILVER

& CZ, \$140. ALL AVAILABLE AT PANDORA.NET



1. PANDORA FLOATING GRAINS NECKLACE, CLEAR CZ, \$110 2. PANDORA WINTRY HOLIDAY OPEN BANGLE GIFT SET, \$140 3. PANDORA LOCKET OF DAZZLE NECKLACE PENDANT, MULTI-COLOURED CZ, \$140 4. PANDORA GLACIAL BEAUTY RING, SILVER AND CZ, \$110 5. PANDORA RADIANT TEAR DROP, PANDORA ROSE, CLEAR CZ, \$140 6. PANDORA SANTA IN SPACE CHARM, SILVER & CZ, \$55 7. PANDORA STRING OF BEADS HOOP EARRINGS, SILVER, \$55 8. PANDORA STRING OF BEADS DANGLE EARRINGS, SILVER, \$75. ALL AVAILABLE AT PANDORA.NET

#### FOR YOUR OWN WISH LIST

BECAUSE YOU DESERVE SOME STANDOUT SPARKLE OF YOUR OWN.



1. PANDORA BELLA BOT CHARM, PANDORA SHINE, \$110 2. PANDORA HEARTS OF PANDORA RING, PANDORA ROSE & PINK CZ, \$140 3. PANDORA FOREVER PANDORA SIGNATURE EARRINGS, CLEAR CZ, \$90 4. PANDORA OVAL SPARKLE HOOP EARRINGS, CLEAR CZ, \$85 5. PANDORA CONTEMPORARY PEARL NECKLACE, \$100. ALL AVAILABLE AT PANDORA.NET



## GIVE THE GIFT OF SPARKLE

CANADA'S GIFTING Destination 2018

## PANDÖRA®

## The style expert gift guide

To save your time and sanity during the busy holiday season, we've tapped our favourite Canadian insiders to share their no-fail present ideas



#### HAYLEY ELSAESSER Fashion designer

1. "No Fun is a Toronto brand with an irreverent approach to design. Its tongue-in-cheek pieces might even make the Scrooge on your list smile. I love this gorgeous 100 per cent cotton blanket.



#### NO FUN BLANKET, \$165, NOFUN.PRESS

2. "Corey Moranis is an amazingly talented, and multi-dimensional artist who creates beautiful transparent jewellery out of lucite. Her iconic knot ring is a great gift for the style maven in your life. She created the backdrop for our New York Fashion Week show in 2017."

COREY MORANIS RING, \$70, COREY MORANIS.COM

3. "Our Mouthy print is always our most popular. This season, we've brought it back in our classic wide-leg pants and on our unisex overalls in a brand new colourway with expanded sizing. Our overalls are great because they're basically an entire look and can be comfy and casual or dressed up with the right accessories."

HAYLEY ELSAESSER OVER-ALLS, \$168, HAYLEYEL SAESSER.COM





FASHION

#### DANI ROCHE Designer and influencer

"What better holiday 1. gift than a cute top called the 'Bon Bon?' Peoples Product is a Toronto-based brand committed to supporting low-impact, traditional, hand-done processes that create sustainable products and support skilled artisans around the globe.'

PEOPLES PRODUCT TOP, \$118,

2. "Vancouver-based brand Sonya Lee is my go-to for functional bags with a twist. I love this bag because of its unique lock closureit's perfect to accompany a card expressing that the special someone in your life holds the key (or code!) to

SONYA LEE BAG, \$460, SONY-

3. "When in doubt, opt for a statement earring. Apres Ski, carried by Edmontonbased retailer New Classics, has a full roster of spirited earrings perfect for a stocking stuffer or a standout stand-alone."

NEW CLASSICS APRÈS SKI EARRINGS, \$139, NEWCLAS-SICS.CA







#### AMY PATEL Artist and influencer

1. "These boots can be styled endlessly, with mini dresses and opaque tights or a graphic trouser and blazer. They can transition into your spring wardrobe with jeans and a tee. These make the perfect gift for someone who loves an effortless look.'

AQUAZZURA BOOTS, \$1,380, DAVIDSFOOTWEAR.COM

2. "I can't think of a better gift for someone who's into stacking rings. The dome design is clean and timeless and, because it's made n 14k gold, it's a forever piece. I've added it to my own rotation, stacking it with a gold heirloom from my grandmother, a silver twist ring and an engraved signet.

MEJURI RING, \$295, MEJURI.COM

3. "A silk scarf transcends time, especially when it's designed by the finest artisans. It's a thoughtful gift for the traveller who needs to get creative with the contents of a carry-on. You can tie it around the neck, wear it as a headband and, with the larger formats, even as a skirt or dress!'

HERMÈS SCARF, \$485, HERMES.COM





Founder of Velour Lashes 1. "Every girl wants beautiful lashes! This set is everything you need all in one and will have you covered for all your holiday events whether you have a daytime office event or an evening party. It includes all the tools you need to achieve the look you're going for."

VELOUR DAY TO NIGHT TRAVEL CASE \$74, VELOURLASHES. COM

2. "I love using my jade roller every morning to wake up my skin. This rose quartz one has a cooling effect, which promotes drainage and reduces facial tension, while the gua sha tool aids in lifting and smoothing. It's a must for eauty routine





#### DYSON AIRWRAP STYLER COMPLETE, \$650, DYSON-CANADA.CA 2. "This dry shampoo foam refreshes and texturizes hair. It's the perfect stocking stuffer and one of my all-time favourite Quai

products.'

OUAI DRY SHAMPOO FOAM, \$35, SEPHORA.CA

3. "These pure silk pillowcases are my beauty secret for taming my hair while I sleep. They make such a good present







#### JILL LANSKY Content creator, @theaugustdiaries

1. "I love a good holiday limited-edition palette and this M.A.C one has amazing colours. Normally, I only like about 75 per cent of a palette's shades, but I love all of these.

M.A.C SHINY PRETTY THINGS ROSY EYE PALETTE, \$38, MACCOSMETICS.COM

2. "Fragrances are very personal, but I love that you can tailor this one to a specific setting or memory. The bottle is also chic enough to sit on your shelf."

MAISON MARTIN MARGIELA REPLICA JAZZ CLUB EAU DE TOILETTE, \$155 (100 ML), THEBAY.COM

3. "With pretty much every brush you could need, it's Sigma Beauty brushes are high quality but affordable, which is the best kind of beauty product in my opinion!"





## your heart."

BEAUTY



#### MOUNT LAI ROSE QUARTZ FACIAL SPA SET \$80, SEPHORA.CA

3. "I'm obsessed with this scent-it's been my go-to for years and the best part about it is that it's unisex. I know they say perfumes are tricky to buy as gifts, but take my word for it, this is the exception!"

TOM FORD TOBACCO VANILLE EAU DE PARFUM, \$275 (50 ML), SEPHORA.CA



OUAI

SLIP STANDARD/QUEEN IN PINK, \$102, SEPHORA.CA



SIGMA BEAUTY FIVE-PIECE MOST-WANTED BRUSH SET, \$95, THEBAY.COM



#### TESSA VIRTUE Olympic ice-dancing champion

'The cool thing about this bra is the different levels of support for different cup sizes and different kinds of workouts. I like to wear mine as part of a cohesive outfit-I want everything matching."

ADIDAS SPORTS BRA, \$85, SPORTCHEK.CA





#### **CALEIGH RYKISS**

FITNESS

Owner of Toronto's **BOLO** fitness studio

"A staple in my wellness routine: bulletproof coffee with a scoop of collagen. Local Toronto nutrition company Good Goddess makes my favourite MCT oil (the good fats that make it bulletproof), and a kick- ass collagen powder, too.'

GREEN GODDESS MCT OIL, \$38,







#### ANGELA LIDDON Author of Oh She Glows cookbooks

"I love making homemade nut milk and juice with this straining bag! It's so easy. I just throw soaked nuts (or some veggies) and water in my blender and then strain it through the bag."

SIMPLE ECOLOGY STRAINING





#### NATALIE HO Content creator, My Little Secrets

"Abeego makes reusable, antibacterial, breathable, plastic-free and compostable food wraps from beeswax. I love using these wraps to keep half-cut fruits, vegetables and even cheese fresh. The wraps can be cut in differing sizes, but this gift box will wow foodies and chefs alike."

ABEEGO RESUABLE BEESWAX FOOD WRAP GIFT BOX, \$65, ABEEGO.COM





#### HOME

#### EDEN GRINSHPAN Chef and owner of New York restaurant Dez

"There are so many cookbooks that I love right now, but Cook Beautiful by Athena Calderone is one of my faves. It's all about beautiful seasonal food and really inspires you to pick up your entertaining game!"

COOK BEAUTIFUL, \$44, INDIGO.CA

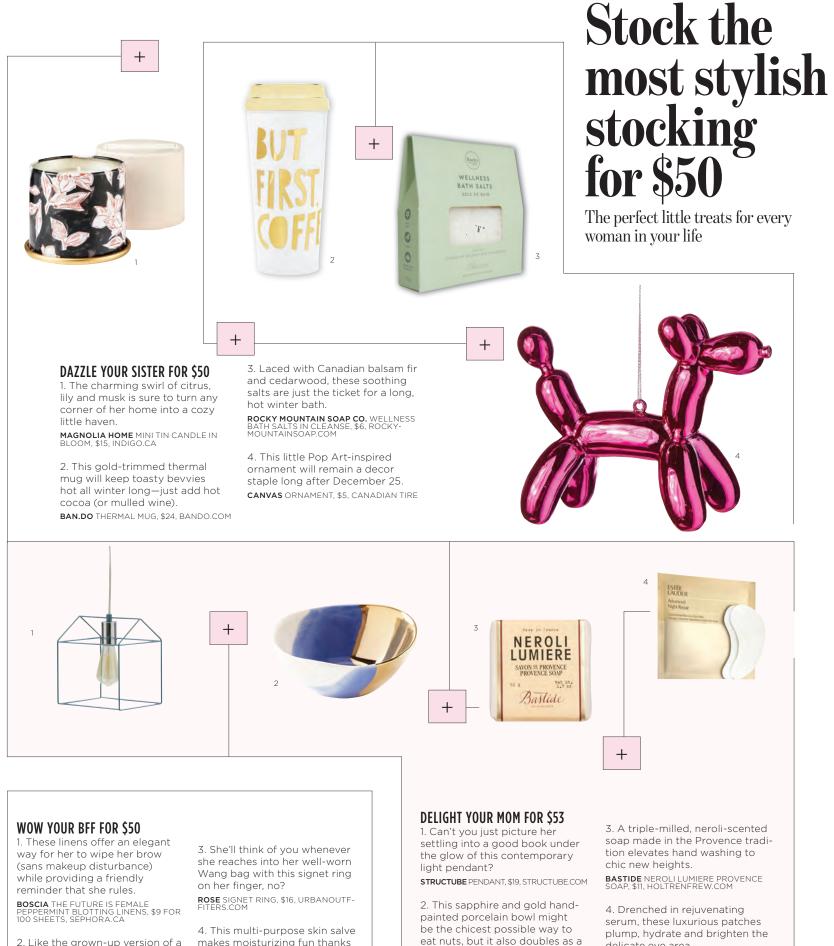




#### AMY ROSEN Owner of Toronto's **Rosen's Cinnamon Buns**

"Invite the gang over. Chill the champagne. Slice open a few lemons, get out the Tabasco and grate some fresh horseradish. Then fill some trays with ice and get shucking. With a minimum order of 75 of the freshest, plumpest, briniest PEI oysters money can buy, you'll be a local hero."

RODNEY'S OYSTER DEPOT, VARIOUS PRICES, RODNEYSOYSTERDEPOT.COM



2. Like the grown-up version of a friendship necklace, this enamel pin lets her have a little piece of you wherever she goes. DRAKE GENERAL STORE PIN, \$10, DRAKEGENERALSTORE.CA

makes moisturizing fun thanks to the tiniest bit of shimmer And did we mention it smells like cake?

+

GLOSSIER BALM DOT COM IN BIRTHDAY, \$15, GLOSSIER.COM

pretty way to store rings.

ANTHROPOLOGIE TAMATOA NUT BOWL, \$8, ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM

delicate eve area.

ESTÉE LAUDER ADVANCED NIGHT REPAIR CONCENTRATED RECOVERY EYE MASK, \$15, ESTEELAUDER.CA

+







#### Help is the best gift of all

Looking to give back in the midst of the holiday consumerism? We've rounded up quick and easy ways to get out there and do some good across the country. You'll also be giving to yourself-helping others is scientifically proven to boost your happiness

#### WHERE TO VOLUNTEER IN TORONTO **Daily Bread Food Bank** When: Flexible

In brief: Daily Bread requires volunteers for a host of different tasks, including food sorting, packing orders for other food banks or administrative support. How to participate: Set up an account at dailybread. ca and then select a date for your short volunteer interview. After that, you can search and select shifts from the website whenever you're available.

#### WHERE TO VOLUNTEER IN VANCOUVER

#### Downtown Eastside Neighborhood House

When: Monthly; 7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. on Wednesdays, and between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. In brief: DTES runs two monthly nutritional outreach programs-Banana Beat and the Mobile Smoothie Project-both of which require volunteers to assist with delivery. How to participate: Send an email to volunteer@dtesnhouse.ca. A repeat commitment isn't necessary, but there are incentives for volunteers who return on a regular basis!

#### WHERE TO VOLUNTEER IN MONTREAL **Moisson Montreal**

When: Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You can either sign up for a half shift or the full day.

In brief: As the largest food bank in Canada, Moisson Montreal is always in need of hands to help sort donations.

How to participate: Call 514-344-4494 (ext. 253) to inquire about shifts.

#### WHERE TO VOLUNTEER IN CALGARY

#### **Calgary Drop-In Centre**

When: Shifts run every day between 6:45 a.m. to 8 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:45 to 7 p.m. In brief: The Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre serves more than 3,500 hot meals a day, and they need volunteers to help plate food up in the kitchen and deliver plates to hungry clients.

How to participate: Fill out their short registration form, which will then allow you to sign up for shifts.



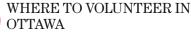
#### WHERE TO VOLUNTEER IN **EDMONTON**

#### **Mission Hope**

When: Flexible 3-4 hour shifts.

In brief: For those who aren't looking to make a regular commitment, Mission Hope offers opportunities to help serve meals or sort donations on an as-available basis.

How to participate: Fill out their Individual Volunteer Application to be eligible to sign up for shifts.



#### **Ottawa Food Bank**

When: Varying dates and times; check its calendar for specifics.

In brief: Individuals can sign up for farm shifts to help harvest food for the Community Harvest program, or they can assist with food sorting. How to participate: Create an account

and then select shifts from the calendar to sign up. -McKenzie Bohn

### Sober and not sorry Caitlin Agnew on how

to react if someone tells you they're not imbibing this holiday

#### PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHAN CYPRYS

If you close your eyes and picture yourself at a party, chances are you have a drink in your hand. Life's special moments have long been soaked with alcohol, but what happens to having a good time when you take booze out of the equation? Unless you're pregnant, refusing a drink often sparks a strong reaction—and usually not a positive one. The social expectation that we need alcohol to have fun—and be fun—has created an environment that can be downright hostile to those who don't drink.

Given the well-documented risks associated with excessive drinking (a 2016 U.S. study found that it's the number one cause of premature mortality for people age 15 to 49), it's clear that alcohol's role as a signifier of celebration isn't all it's cracked up to be. Those stark figures likely contribute to the fact that a growing number of young people are abstaining from alcohol altogether. According to a 2018 U.K. study, nearly 30 per cent of 16- to 24-year-olds in England—a country long associated with binge drinking now classify themselves as non-drinkers.

Jen McNeely, the founder and editor-in-chief of Toronto blog She Does the City, quit drinking in November 2010 after acknowledging her alcohol addiction. "That holiday season, and 2011, were definitely challenging," says McNeely. "I often found, and still do, that the people who were visibly uncomfortable with me not drinking, were those who had their own issues."

According to Laura Demoe, VP of clinical services at Trafalgar Addiction Treatment Centres in Erin, Ont., stigma and shame are often at the root of the urge to comment on someone else's drinking habits. "The people that pressure you the most are often the ones with their own issues of moderating their alcohol intake," says Demoe. "There's a stigma in our society that if you're not drinking, you're not going to be fun."

Nabra Badr is familiar with that stigma. Badr, a Muslim, doesn't drink for religious and personal reasons and says this slowed down the development of new friendships when she finished high school and began studying fashion

communications at Ryerson University. "It made it hard for me to feel like I could socialize with people or really see them on a regular basis," Badr explains, adding that her sobriety made her feel cut off from her peers. That has changed, she says, as she's gotten older and become more confident. "Now, I'm able to go to gatherings and parties and feel comfortable about not drinking. And I also don't have this fear of missing out." Allegra Christie

admits she'll choose to stay home to avoid getting a hard time from people when she tells them she's not drinking. The Toronto entrepreneur says she feels

best about herself and her goals when she's sober and clear-headed, but when she explains this in social settings, she's often met with an unwelcome response. "I've heard things like, 'OMG I should try that!' as if [not drinking] is a new face cream," she says. "People should respect my decision and not comment."

McNeely says that the easiest way for her to deal with people's questions was to answer them. "The more I wore my addiction on my sleeve, the less of a deal it became," she says. "Now, it's so easy for me to talk openly about it— it's like talking about what I ate for breakfast. That's how you smash the stigma. I simply couldn't live in a space where I had to cover up my addiction. It felt like I was leading some secretive existence, living in limbo, which was uncomfortable for me, especially when I found myself making up excuses. When I allowed my truth to surface, it was liberating; why should we cover up who we are?"

Demoe agrees that it's important to be open with others about not drinking, and that it's even more important for them to be supportive of your decision. (She also reminds hosts to offer a variety of non-alcoholic options so that no one feels singled out.) "Giving up alcohol is a challenging thing to do," she says, "so have some compassion along the way." Cheers to that.

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Photographer Luis Mora

Publisher, The Kit Giorgina Bigioni

Operations Director Kelly Matthews

Direct advertising inquiries to: Collab Director Evie Begy, eb@thekit.ca Collab Coordinator

Sarah Chan Marketing & Special Projects Coordinato Lara Buchar

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THE KIT X SILK'N

Silk'n

**SILK'N** TITAN, \$299, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, LONDON DRUGS AND THE SHOPPING CHANNEL

## Upgrade your skincare this holiday

Kick off the new year with the must-have tool that is gentle yet effective and doctor-approved

Not long ago, a savvy anti-aging routine meant sunscreen and night cream—and maybe a doctor's appointment if you were ready for a more serious intervention. But today, it's possible to reap the benefits of both worlds: You can upgrade your at-home skincare strategy with an aesthetic device that borrows tech from the pros, achieving next-level results on your own. One of the most noteworthy gadgets on the market is the Silk'n Titan (\$299, at Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs and The Shopping Channel), which you can use all over your face and neck to treat a multitude of concerns: It tightens and lifts sagging skin, reverses the effects of gravity, repairs damage,

and smoothes the look of fine lines and wrinkles.

"In the past 10 years, the average age of patients receiving injectables and cosmetic procedures has decreased by 10 years: from 41 to 31," says Torontobased plastic surgeon Dr. Stephen Mulholland. Unsurprisingly, this is right around the time when many people start seeing the first signs of aging. But while injectables and in-office procedures are increasingly popular, they're not the only option if you're not quite ready to face the needle (or knife). Innovations like the Silk'n Titan are making professional-grade technology much more accessible, without the daunting price tag or downtime.

The breakthrough Silk'n Titan tool is powered by three sources of energyinfrared heat energy, LED light energy and radiofrequency energy (all of which power in-office machines, too). By delivering this harmonized energy to key areas beneath the surface of your skin, deeper than topical products can reach, the device switches on your natural cell renewal process. The infrared heat energy remodels collagen to improve your skin tone and texture, the LED light energy encourages more collagen production, and the radiofrequency energy bonds connective tissue to help lift and tighten. The payoff: a painless way to achieve more youthful skin.

While the Silk'n Titan is a safe, costeffective alternative to cosmetic procedures, it can also be a super helpful sidekick to big-ticket in-office treatments. "I'm a big believer in maintaining and protecting your investment," says Dr. Mulholland, who recommends the Silk'n Titan to his clients who have undergone surgical or non-surgical programs. If you're still healing from an in-office procedure, you can take advantage of dermal heating from the Silk'n Titan to achieve an extra boost: "You'll get more collagen than you would have had without the device," says Dr. Mulholland. (For best results, check with your doc before using the Silk'n Titan post-procedure.)

This holiday season, getting better skin is as easy as holding the device against each area of your face for 15 minutes while Netflixing. What better way to take anti-aging tech into your own hands?

### Beauty by the decades

#### Late teens to 20s: The

age when you should be practicing smart habits for overall skin health. "That means appropriate use of sunblock, minimizing UV exposure, and using the right moisturizer, toner and cleanser," says Dr. Mulholland.

#### Late 20s to 30s: The

age when fine lines start creeping in. This is often when people start making trips to a medispa or a doctor's office (especially for noninvasive procedures) or incorporating an at-home aesthetic device into their routine.

#### 40s and up: The age

when skin starts losing more volume and elasticity. So in addition to seeing wrinkles, you'll notice that facial contours aren't as firm as they used to be. If you're investing in serious in-office procedures, adding an innovative at-home device like the Silk'n Titan will make the most of your results.



### THE KIT X INDIGO **Holiday treats for all**

Stop by Indigo to find perfectly thoughtful gifts for everyone on your list-including you

The FIVE-MINUTE JOURNAL

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2025

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1. The hustle helper You're already busy this season-keep track with

knit toque. LOVE & LORE GRANDE -KNIT HAT IN ANTIQUE WHITE, \$24.50

BENEFIT GIMME SOME SUGAR SET, \$59.

8. The cozy cuddlers

8 Canadian poet Rupi Kaur caused a sensation with her first collection of inspiring wordsand this, her second, reaches even deeper.

#### **GIVE THIS**

#### 1. The techie

OK Google, win us gift-giver of the year. GOOGLE HOME, \$179.95.

#### 2. The dreamer

This whimsical snow globe plays music to create a pitch perfect holiday mood. INDIGO LOVE SNOW GLOBE, \$29.50.

#### 3. The little lady

Every stylish kid deserves to wake up in these adorable jammies. **INDIGO** LLAMA KIDS PJ SET, \$24.95.

#### 4. The optimist

With daily affirmations, this well-designed journal

#### will spark gratitude. INTELLIGENT CHANGE THE FIVE MINUTE JOURNAL, \$26.95.

ROSÉ

ALL

DAY

This on-trend rose gold 1

LED lightbox comes complete with 100 letters and emojis.

5. The Zen seeker Pick up this tea set for the wellness guru in your life. INDIGO WELLNESS TEA-FOR-ONE IN MINT, \$29.50.

#### 6. The partier A pint glass as niche as his craft beer collection. INDIGO ONLY CRAFT I DO IS BEER GLASS, \$20.

#### 7. The Pinterest queen

Any girls' night would benefit from this cheeky addition. MY CINEMA LIGHTBOX IN ROSE GOLD, \$24.99

#### 8. The soul searcher Truly a gift that keeps on giving, this read will contine to inspire long after you've finished it. THE SUN & HER FLOWERS BY RUPI KAUR, \$26.99.

IS BEER

6

#### 9. The music lover

These wireless headphones will delight any stylish listener. BEATS SOLO3 WIRELESS HEADPHONES IN ROSE GOLD, \$329.95

#### 10. The trendsetter

This plush texture and blush tone will thrill. LOVE & LORE FAUX FUR MINI BACKPACK IN BLUSH, \$49.50. this fitness sidekick. FITBIT CHARGE 3 ROSE GOLD ALUMINUM CASE WITH BLUE/GREY BAND, \$199.95.

#### 2. The mood setter Treat your home—and yourself-to this warm, spicy scent. INDIGO MINI TIN MULLED CIDER & CINNAMON CANDLE, \$10.

3. The sleep saviour

Indulge in a glam holiday nap with this silk beauty. INDIGO SILK SLEEP MASK IN PINK, \$29.50.

#### 4. The outfit maker Finish off every winter look with this creamy, textured

#### 5. The trendy sipper

Marble styling? Check Rosy hue? Check. Eco-warrior? Check **S'WELL** GEODE ROSE TRAV-ELLER 160Z, \$45.

#### 6. The pump up

This inspiring read will remind you of your worth and help you overcome obstacles. UNLEARN: 101 LIFE LESSONS WITHOUT THE BULLSH\*T BY HUMBLE THE POET, \$23.99.

7. The glow getters Give yourself the gift of a scene-stealing makeup look with these essentials

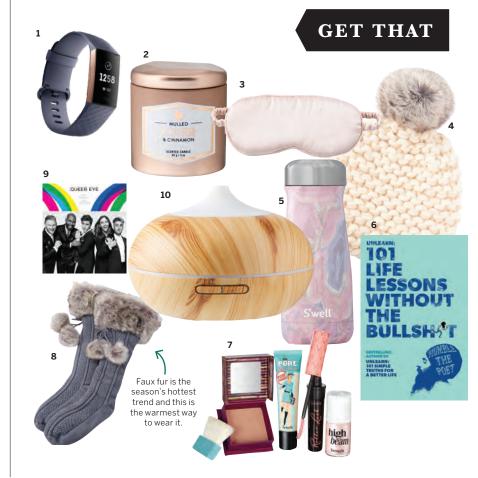
These adorable pompom socks are the ultimate hang-in wear. INDIGO FUR TRIMMED READING SOCKS IN CHAR-COAL, \$34.50.

#### 9. The viral hit

This guide to life offers BTS tidbits from your fave Netflix show. QUEER EYE: LOVE YOUR-SELF. LOVE YOUR LIFE BY ANTONI POROWSKI, \$40.

#### 10. The mood lifter

This sleek diffuser will infuse your space with natural essential oils. AURIA TAJ ULTRASONIC DIFFUSER IN WOOD, \$79.50.



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