

# THE KIT

A moving tribute: “I wear my mother’s lipstick to feel closer to her” PAGE 7



## A new hope

The shop local movement is booming—could this be the spark that finally encourages more Canadians to buy homegrown clothes? In this spring fashion lookbook, photographer **Justin Aranha** captures five Toronto-area designers as they face the future

Mani Jassal wears one of her saris, \$650, [manijassal.com](http://manijassal.com)

### Mani Jassal

Mani Jassal’s brand of modern South Asian bridal wear started with her 2013 Ryerson grad collection. “I had people inquiring to purchase even though I thought of it as just a school project,” says the Brampton-based designer. Jassal quickly realized there was a market for brides looking for updated takes on traditional fashion. Jassal started taking custom orders, sewing them in her parents’ basement. Then Jassal shifted to ready-to-wear collections and opened her first store in Brampton in 2016 and a pop-up in Yorkville Village in 2018. Jassal was set to open her new Vaughan flagship (where retail and manufacturing would be combined along with a collaborative artist space) just before COVID-19 shutdowns halted construction.

With wedding season postponed indefinitely, Jassal has seen a slow-down in orders, although a few clients have bought outfits for simple civil ceremonies. “Normally this is our busiest time, but I’m making the most of a terrible situation—I never get to have downtime. And now, I started painting again.” Jassal, who was set to get married in July, is taking the break to work on her own wedding look. “I know that once this is all over, we’re going to be twice as busy. People will always want to get married and people will always want to get dressed up.” —*Liz Guber*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



### THE KIT X FRESH

Is there anything more satisfying than cleansing away the day’s dirt and grime? Influencers tell us about their nighttime cleansing routines and tricks for using the iconic fresh Soy Face Cleanser.

continued on page 8







KHATIE

# Fresh starts

Allow style editor **Liz Guber** to narrow down your shopping list to the season’s three key pieces



## THE SARONG SKIRT

Bring the breezy elegance of this vacation staple into real life—and don’t shy away from a playful pattern

STATESIDE, \$195, SHOPBOP.COM. BABATON, \$64, ARITZIA.COM. MARNI, \$1,225, MATCHESFASHION.COM. ISABEL MARANT, \$1,352, NET-A-PORTER.COM



CÉDRIC CHARLIER



## THE ROMANTIC DRESS

This season, it’s all about layering this forever classic with unexpected pieces like leather trousers or denim

MOTHER OF PEARL, \$952, MOTHEROFPEARL.CO.UK. MANGO, \$100, MANGO.COM. H&M, \$80, HM.COM. OAK AND FORT, \$88, OAKANDFORT.COM



## THE RUGBY SHIRT

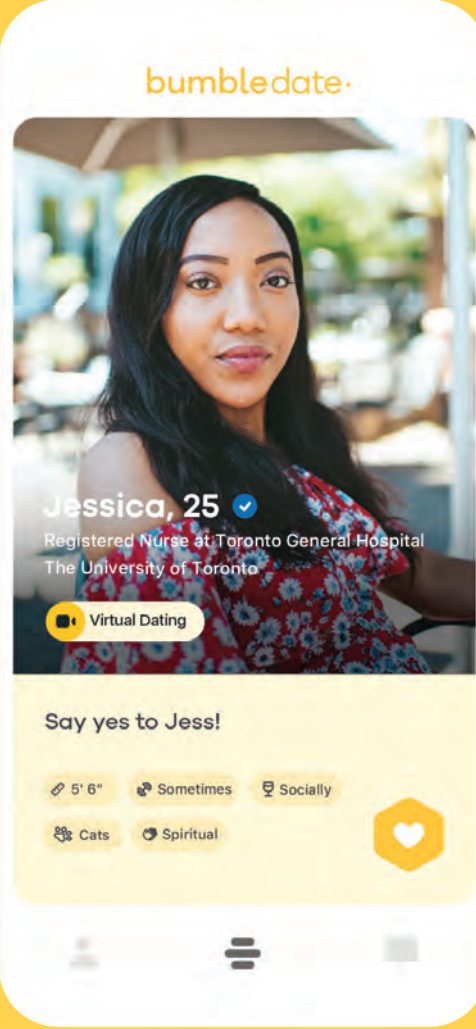
Wear this retro-sporty polo tucked into high-waisted pants or pleated skirts and consider sizing up for a slouchier fit

TORY BURCH, \$208, TORYBURCH.COM. LAND’S END, \$66, LANDSEND.COM. UNIQLO, \$30, UNIQLO.COM. GAP, \$60, GAPCANADA.CA



LACOSTE

## THE KIT X BUMBLE



# How to get more out of online dating

Need to improve your profile or get some dating tips? Read on.

It’s not unusual to experience some bumps in the online dating road. Everyone is out there with their feelings, trying to make a meaningful (or casual!) connection, and sometimes it doesn’t go exactly as planned. In an effort to help you #BumbleBetter, we asked The Kit readers to submit their burning online dating questions, then we posed a selection of them to Meredith Gillies, Senior Marketing Manager of Bumble Canada, who knows all the ins and outs of the app. Read on for some seriously useful intel.

**Any ideas on how to date during this pandemic? I was thinking that we could make the same dinner and then eat it over Zoom. Is this fine for a first “pandemic date” or is it too much?** —*Amelia, 35*

The first thing to remember is virtual dating is new to everyone, so don’t think you’re being extra by setting up an interactive first date. Bumble’s data shows that people are having longer in-app video calls (the average time is 29 minutes in Canada). Virtual dates don’t have to feel completely different from what you’d normally do on a first date—you can grab an afternoon coffee, have a glass of wine, play a game or watch a movie together. We’ve heard that people are feeling more relaxed when virtually connecting directly from Bumble using our in-app video calling feature, because they don’t have to exchange personal information like phone numbers or change out of their sweatpants.

**I find it really hard to start up a conversation with a guy. Do you have any tips on a successful intro line other than, “Oh, hey there?”** —*Allie, 29*

You are not alone in feeling at a loss for words when starting a conversation! Good news for you—we recently launched the Question Game, which can act as your first move with a new match. Choose from some of the in-app questions provided or type your own; once you both respond, the answer will

appear in a chat and you can discuss the responses.

**Is it better to use a profile picture where you’re wearing full makeup and have your hair done, or be more natural? Which gets more attention?** —*Anonymous, 30*

Your pictures should be authentic, a real reflection of who you are. Show off your smile, your eyes and your entire face—without a filter. Graphic overlays or FaceTune are distracting and a big turn-off to many. Choose a combination of your favourite photos so people can see more of your personality—and yes, you should have six pictures! Including three or more photos increases your chance of matching with someone by 31 per cent. Don’t put a group photo as your first pic and avoid wearing sunglasses.

Your profile is your chance to showcase slices of your actual life. If your dog is the centre of your world, include a cute snap of you and the pup. (However, “dogfishing” is a new trend to avoid—don’t borrow a friend’s pet to reel someone in!)

**I don’t want to waste my time with anyone who’s just on a dating app to have fun. How can I attract men who are looking for the real deal?** —*Anonymous, 29*

Around Valentine’s Day 2020, which truly feels like forever ago, we polled 4,000 Canadian Bumble users about what success looks like to them on the app. Results showed 18 per cent said they are looking for

a casual romantic relationship, such as a hookup or friends with benefits; 27 per cent said they are open to anything; and 46 per cent of respondents said they are on Bumble looking for a long-term romantic relationship. We recommend swiping with an open mind and staying positive! Don’t get defeated if a match isn’t the one. Be clear on your profile and use all the features available to you. Add a badge that shows what you’re looking for, use your bio and answer profile prompts so fellow users have the most information about you possible.

**My friend went to meet someone from a dating site and was expecting a tall, blond Swedish guy, and the person who showed up was quite the opposite. My question is, how do you confirm that the person is really who they say they are?** —*Lucy, 31*

Next time, make sure they have a little blue check mark on their Bumble profile, which means they’ve undergone Photo Verification to combat this type of catfishing. It only takes a moment—a user takes a real-time selfie in the same pose as an image provided by the app, submits it and a third-party moderator compares it to their profile photos and verifies them if everything checks out.

► **Download the Bumble app at [bumble.com](https://bumble.com) and start making meaningful connections today!**



The white tee is coolness personified. Clockwise from left: James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, Jane Birkin, Rihanna, Zoë Kravitz, Brigitte Bardot in *A Very Private Affair*, Marlon Brando in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.



# White space

The perfect white T-shirt is all in the details. Rani Sheen sets out to find it

Is there anything more full of possibility than a crisp white T-shirt fresh out of its packet? Unsullied by chimichurri specks, garden dirt or the dinginess of passing time, it gleams almost blue in its optic brightness, ready to reflect light onto its wearer's face and frame her throat and shoulders in boyish coolness.

A white tee is canvas and decoration in one, a blank slate for any kind of outfit—jeans! suit! slip-dress layer!—as well as a conduit of low-key rebelliousness born of its origins as an undergarment gone public (see: James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*). It's no accident that the first time we laid eyes on Meghan Markle after she had decamped to Los Angeles, on a video call with charity workers, the duchess was sheathed in a gleaming white crew-neck T-shirt, astonishingly pared down and ready for anything.

But not just any white T-shirt will do—this truly iconic piece is all in the details. The shape must be boxy and look

like the letter T when laid flat. It should be seamed at the very edge of the shoulder and fall to skim the body at its curves but not hug them.

The neckline can make or break it. A classic crew neckband—named for the ship crews who wore their own aboard navy vessels pre-WWI—should encircle the base of the neck evenly and be wide enough to stake its position atop the collarbones. The sleeves should be cylinders that stop and stand to attention just at the mid-bicep. “What really makes it perfect is the simplicity, and that is the hardest thing to do,” says celebrity fashion stylist Karla Welch, who has a line of superb tees called x karla.

There are zillions of white T-shirts out there, so how can we ever find The One? The beauty of it is, there doesn't have to be just one. The search for gleaming perfection in this accessible form can continue forever. So much possibility.



**CRISP AND CLEAN**  
This superfine-rib cotton tee is so smooth it's unreal, which means maximum crispness. It's a little over-size, with a slightly longer sleeve, but the neckband is perfectly snug.  
**COS COTTON JERSEY T-SHIRT**, \$35



**NEAT AND TIDY**  
This style is definitely designed for a woman, creating a neat frame at the shoulders and a slightly slimmer torso fit. The fabric has great heft, it's opaque and super smooth.  
**KOTN WOMEN'S ESSENTIAL CREW**, \$30, [KOTN.COM](http://KOTN.COM)



**SLOUCH APPEAL**  
Those with longer torsos will rejoice in this tee: It comes down well below my hips, to the point that I need to tuck it into high-waisted trousers. The fabric drapes elegantly.  
**REFORMATION PERFECT VINTAGE TEE**, \$40, [THEREFORMATION.COM](http://THEREFORMATION.COM)



**SOFT TOUCH**  
This tee drapes well from bust to waist, so I look like a louche rectangle; the slightly cropped length makes for a great French tuck. The slightly slub fabric is more soft, less crisp.  
**GAP SHRUNKEN SHORT-SLEEVE T-SHIRT**, \$30, [GAPCANADA.CA](http://GAPCANADA.CA)



Pretend you've just returned from somewhere sunny with this hydrating self-tanning water.  
**ISLE OF PARADISE SELF-TANNING WATER**, \$37, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



Squalane, hyaluronic acid and glycerin plump skin overnight, while vitamin C serves up a brightening boost.  
**YOUTH TO THE PEOPLE SUPERBERRY HYDRATE + GLOW DREAM MASK**, \$63, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



An earthy blend of lavender and sage, this cologne recalls a bucolic stroll through verdant fields.  
**JO MALONE LONDON LAVENDER & CORIANDER COLOGNE**, \$96 (30 ML), [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



Retinol-infused eye patches smooth out lines and make you look more rested in just 15 minutes.  
**SHISEIDO BENEFIANCE WRINKLERESIST24 PURE RETINOL EXPRESS SMOOTHING EYE MASK**, \$85 (12 PAIRS), [SHISEIDO.CA](http://SHISEIDO.CA)

You deserve these  
Soothe the soul with spirit-lifting picks, selected by beauty director Katherine Lalancette



A gua sha massage helps stimulate blood flow and define contours. Even better, it's wonderfully relaxing and releases any tension in your face.  
**ODACITÉ CRYSTAL CONTOUR GUA SHA GREEN AVENTURINE**, \$55, [THEDETOXMARKET.CA](http://THEDETOXMARKET.CA)



Satisfy your wanderlust from the comfort of home. Inspired by mimosa fields in bloom, this candle transports you to the yellow hills of the French Riviera.  
**DIPTYQUE MIMOSA CANDLE LIMITED EDITION**, \$100, [HOLTRENFREW.COM](http://HOLTRENFREW.COM)



Slip on these mask socks and let them do their thing while you read or watch a movie. After 60 minutes, your feet will emerge silky soft and callus-free.  
**PATCHOLOGY POSHPEEL PEDI CURE**, \$25, [PATCHOLOGY.CA](http://PATCHOLOGY.CA)



Scalp massages have been shown to decrease stress and improve your mood. Treat yours to a luxurious scrub with this build-up-clearing formula.  
**DRUNK ELEPHANT T.L.C. HAPPY SCALP SCRUB**, \$48, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



**PREP YOUR SKIN**  
There's something in the water. The magic of this essence lies in Green Mineral Water, obtained by soaking kale, watercress and beets in deep seawater. Chock-full of potassium, sodium and calcium, the formula drenches skin in hydration while helping to enhance the benefits of products applied on top.  
**LANEIGE WATER BANK HYDRO ESSENCE**, \$51, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



**SEAL IN HYDRATION**  
A treat for the senses, this cooling moisturizer serves up a burst of hydration with a refreshing scent experience. The light-as-air gel quickly absorbs into skin, making it just the ticket for oilier skin types. It's infused with mineral-rich water to help strengthen the moisture barrier without leaving any hint of greasiness.  
**LANEIGE WATER BANK HYDRO GEL**, \$50, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



**BOOST YOUR GLOW**  
Designed to go on after your moisturizer, this revolutionary new serum does it all. First, the Ceramide Hydration Gel locks in moisture and helps to balance skin's oil-to-water ratio. Then, the Diamond Mineral Powder bathes the complexion in light, making it look smoother and healthier even without foundation. Finally, if you do decide to put on makeup, the Light-fit Prep Technology perfects your canvas and ensures products stay put.  
**LANEIGE GLOW MY MAKEUP SERUM**, \$43, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)



**DON'T FORGET YOUR LIPS**  
The finishing touch? Laneige's iconic Lip Sleeping Mask. Its exclusive Moisture Wrap technology coats lips in intense hydration (thank you, hyaluronic acid!) and helps to prevent chapping. But that's not all! An antioxidant-rich Berry Mix Complex gently exfoliates lips. The result: a soft, supple pout.  
**LANEIGE LIP SLEEPING MASK**, \$26, [SEPHORA.CA](http://SEPHORA.CA)

This content was created by The Kit; Laneige funded and approved it. Stay tuned for part 2 in July

## THE KIT

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# A new hope

Continued from cover

Horses Atelier



Claudia Dey (left) and Heidi Sopinka wearing pieces from their upcoming collection. Similar pieces at [horsesatelier.com](https://horsesatelier.com).

Heidi Sopinka and Claudia Dey, the best friends and founders of Horses Atelier, are thinking a lot about frontier living right now. “We’ve always had a fascination with and love of pioneer dressing,” says Sopinka. “We want to make things that are comfortable and easy to move in in these times” she adds. This sense of make-do practicality blended with cool-girl allure has informed their line since its launch eight years ago, but feels even more vital right now. Just as vital is the community that the duo have built in step with their brand. “This has reminded us that we’re still very much within that community and that everyone is still with us.”

After hastily closing up their west-end Toronto studio in March, Dey and Sopinka have refocused their energies to their online shop, where their customer base is growing. The brand no longer keeps wholesale accounts with retailers,

something that has freed the designers from “the relentless fashion calendar,” says Dey. “It’s a real gift to be able to make things in a small quantity and see what people are liking and go from there organically,” says Sopinka. “Hopefully we’re part of a paradigm shift where people are wanting to spend their dollars in a more impactful way and make the choice to support smaller brands,” says Dey.

The designers are also releasing non-medical face masks made from archival Horses Atelier fabrics with all profits going to The Daily Bread Food Bank. “People can think of clothes as shallow, but we’ve had moments with friends who have gone through horrible things and we love to send a parcel in the mail to let them know we’re thinking about them. Clothes can be deep as well,” says Sopinka. “Fashion is a form of autobiography,” adds Dey. —*Liz Guber*

Soft Focus



Sammi Smith wears a lounge set, \$295, and robe, \$245, at [insoftfocus.com](https://insoftfocus.com).

Unlike many of us, Sammi Smith got a head start on working from home when she left her corporate fashion job to go freelance six years ago. “Having to get dressed and go to the office wasn’t my day anymore, so I started to recognize that I needed to find ways to create some structure and cohesion in my day-to-day life,” says Smith. Her loungewear line, Soft Focus, was born from the idea of elevating her own lifestyle. “I feel like I’m fashion with a lowercase, not capital, f.” The line is comprised of butter-soft pyjama separates, robes and slip dresses in crisp, cheery shades like sky blue and bubblegum pink.

When Soft Focus launched in 2017, Smith had a hard time explaining the need for gorgeous home clothes. “The flexible office lifestyle thing hadn’t been that widespread, and people didn’t understand why you would get dressed just for

you. Fashion was still very outward-focused. But for me it’s always been about making yourself feel extra-special.” Now, everyone is inside, feeling the pressure and anxiety of unprecedented lifestyle changes. “Maybe what I’m making is something helpful, something people might want to know about,” offers Smith.

Smith feels “very optimistic” about the future of small fashion businesses like hers. “I want my money to go where it can be meaningful, and it makes me want to shop with the kind of small brands that I love, and I’m seeing that much more broadly with people around me.” The designer has been “surprised and happy” to see an increase in orders from her website during the pandemic. “There’s still a place for specialness and nice things. And that’s what I hope to offer. A comfortable woman is a powerful woman.” —*Liz Guber*



Hilary MacMillan (with her pug, Maisie!) wears a blazer, \$280, sleeveless turtleneck, \$85, and mini-skirt, \$205, at [hilarymacmillan.com](https://hilarymacmillan.com).

For fashion obsessives, listening to Hilary MacMillan describe her Spring 2020 collection is like a silky scoop of ice cream during high summer. She speaks of champagne satin, cerulean blue and “very faint” quilted white snakeskin—shivers.

MacMillan has been serving up sartorial freshness since 2013, when she launched her eponymous brand of elevated separates. You’d think those might be a harder sell during these athleisure times, but MacMillan and her team have focused on new ways to reach their customer, including offering curated shopping boxes and hosting a digital sample sale. “I think people’s closets are getting overloaded with WFH clothing, and we’re ready for clothes that don’t necessarily have stretch in them,” says the designer with a laugh. “People are buying for when they can get out of the house.”

MacMillan shipped her spring collection in February, and now she’s focused on

producing fall. “I’m fitting the production samples on myself right now, because I’m the only person available to do it,” she says. “We’re not quite sure what happens next, but we’re good at being reactive. We know how to produce styles that work well for us.”

Part of the Hilary MacMillan brand appeal is its commitment to progressive values: The line is size-inclusive and cruelty-free, forgoing silk and wool in favour of vegan materials. “I want my brand and the clothes I design to reflect aspects of my values and who I am, in addition to making my customers happy. Personally, I am vegan and not a size 2,” says MacMillan. The designer is pushing forward with a new sense of purpose. “I derive so much excitement by starting conversations and speaking to a person’s values as well as their aesthetic preferences. It’s provocative and hopefully conscientious.” —*Laura deCarufel*



Lesley Hampton wears her pleated wrap skirt, \$350 (order at [info@lesleyhampton.com](mailto:info@lesleyhampton.com)), and Indi City earrings, \$125, at [indicity.ca](https://indicity.ca).

Lesley Hampton can handle a whirlwind. The designer’s debut collection, shown during her first semester at fashion school, cracked international titles, and now, just three years later, Hampton has attracted a starry clientele devoted to her beautifully crafted clothes, imbued with the influence of her Indigenous heritage. So, yes, Hampton can move with the moment, but the quarantine, frankly, sucked. “Our big money-maker is the eveningwear pieces, so it was a punch in the gut every time a major event was cancelled or postponed,” says Hampton, citing the 2020 Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards as a particular blow (her brand is nominated for the prestigious Fashion Impact Award).

Accustomed to life in fast-forward, Hampton tried something new: She stopped. “I started the brand when I was 22, and every time I had an issue, I replaced it with work.

Now, we’re alone with our thoughts, so I thought I might as well work on myself.”

Hampton is still dreaming up new designs for her eveningwear, bridal and athleisure collections, but her focus is firmly on herself. She’s started online therapy and has a new goal to get an MBA before she’s 30 for that extra business edge. Always a champion for other designers, especially her fellow Indigenous creators, Hampton hopes that, post-pandemic, Canadians will be moved to spend more to support their homegrown talent: “It’s so important to buy from to the designers and creators that you want to see thrive.” Ultimately, she’s looking at the future through a philosophical lens. “Sales will go up and down, and the interest in my pieces will depend on the collection and where people are at in our new reality, but really, I am the business,” she says. “If I can invest time in myself, the business will thrive.” —*Laura deCarufel*

## Designers across the country sound off on shopping local



**Sandra Zovko, designer of Mila Zovko**

“I think we’ll continue to see the benefits of shopping locally as Canadians rally behind their favourite local companies. Despite this movement, however, many local companies are at risk and their success will likely depend on the strength of their customer base as well as their product offering.”



**Eunice Quan, designer of Priory**

“We make all of our collections in a small family-run factory in Vancouver. This allows us to have intimate relationships with our manufacturers, cutters and sewers. Consumers want to invest in brands with a minimal environmental impact and support workers that provide a creative infrastructure of a city.”



**Maggie McCormick, designer of Maggie Jayne**

“Each sale has a direct impact, and we have seen an increase in online orders. The continued support has made it possible for us to honour orders with our partners in India and pay a deposit for our fall collection which directly contributes to wages for the garment workers during India’s lockdown.”



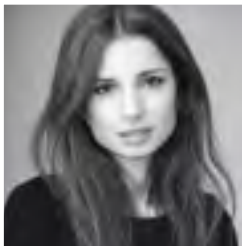
**Nina Kharey, designer of Nonie**

“The big corporations have resources to weather [the pandemic]; however small businesses like mine and many others in Canada will weather this by taking a big hit. Our creatives are the heart and soul of Canada, and without supporting local businesses, we risk losing what keeps our culture thriving.”



**Eliza Faulkner**

“We manufacture in Montreal, and it’s not just my business that will be affected—it’s the sewers, stylists and photographers. Because of the pandemic, people are finally thinking more critically about their purchases. It’s a bizarre and uncomfortable time, but I’m optimistic for what’s to come.”



**Valérie Dumain**

“The shop-local movement really helps empower communities by putting the spotlight on local talent and generating opportunities that benefit all of us. Not only will it help us make it to the other end of this crisis, it is also more sustainable and it has a positive multiplier effect on our local economies.”





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## Glamour all the way

Beauty entrepreneur Charlotte Tilbury makes the case for dressing up

**Have you been getting dressed up and putting on makeup every day?** “Of course! Darling, I am all about the glamour! I love dressing up and putting on makeup, whether it’s my favourite Temperley dress that makes me feel instantly more chic or my signature smoky eye look from my Charlotte Darling palette. When you look good, you feel good, and the world reacts to you in a more powerful, positive way.”

**What would be your ideal, quick makeup routine?** “I’ve spoken to women and men all over the world who are as time-poor as they are tired, and they always say to me, ‘Charlotte, I have no time for makeup, especially with two deadlines looming or three kids screaming.’ I say, ‘Take five minutes for quick and easy, mood-boosting makeup.’ You can be five minutes to flawless with my Instant Look in a Palette. It’s like painting by numbers. I’ve used it in the back of cabs, in the toilets at [private London club] Annabel’s and now I keep them by my desk for quick and easy makeup magic for my working day. And then my Magic Away liquid concealer is my beauty secret for cheating the appearance of eight hours of sleep. It conceals everything from a sleepless night to naughty imperfections. I cannot live without it.”

**What kind of looks are you liking at the moment?** “I live in maxi dresses right now. I’m very much an LBD enthusiast—I think we counted 250 black dresses in my closet when I was moving house! I’ve also found myself gravitating to my morning and nighttime ‘Magic Skin’ routines. After double cleansing, I apply my Magic Serum by warming a few drops on my fingertips and then massaging that into my skin. I apply my iconic moisturizer on top to seal in all the magical goodness. In recent times, I’ve been applying both to my face, neck—and hands!”

**What’s bringing you joy right now?** “I’m loving having more time to spend with my boys and reading them stories. I miss my friends, so I’ve been wearing lipstick shades that I created in homage to them. Nude Kate is a shade I used to mix by hand for my gorgeous best friend, Kate Moss; Glowing Jen is a beachy-rose hue that I created for Jennifer Aniston. I love applying Patsy Red to remind me of my mother, Patsy.”

**What do you like to surround yourself with at home to keep the good vibes going?** “I grew up in bohemian Ibiza, so I have always been obsessed with crystals and their magic. They bring me a feeling of protection and love. My birthstone is uplifting, soothing amethyst, so I had to include it in my serum. I wanted to bring holistic wellbeing, energy and light frequency into your life and into your skincare regimen by infusing my new serum with a magic, crystal complex. It’s your ‘crystal conduit’ to the best skin of your life.” —*Katherine Lalancette*

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### QUESTION

What will malls be like?

How will shopping be different?

What’s the future of fitting rooms?

Can I book a massage?

► When can I get my hair cut?

I need a facial. What can I do?

Can I exchange clothes?

How are Canadian boutiques coping?

Will I have to wear a mask at the nail salon?

### ANSWER

THEKIT.CA

Your need-to-know fashion and beauty source, as Canada reopens



# Everything’s rosy

Fearing for her mother’s health amid the pandemic, Katherine Lalancette seeks solace in pretty things



Sweet. That’s the word I’d pick to describe my mom. Her name is Terrie Lee and she was born on the second day of summer in a small town called Sweetsburg. She has green eyes and butter blonde hair. Her garden is filled with tulips, her favourite pie is coconut meringue and her lipstick is a shade of pink I’ve come to regard as the colour of safety.

My mother is a caretaker at heart—even her initials spell TLC. When her baby sister was born, she quit school to take care of her while my grandmother worked. When my dad was in university, she supported both of them by taking a breakfast shift at a diner and sewing thumbs on gloves in a factory. Then I came along and she couldn’t fathom leaving me in the care of a stranger, so she started a daycare out of our two-bedroom apartment.

She wiped tears from plump cheeks and stuck Band-Aids over scraped knees. She frosted seasonal cupcakes—pumpkins on Halloween, hearts on Valentine’s Day—and taught kids to knit and braid friendship bracelets. I can still picture her, spit-up and spaghetti stains on her shirt, a baby on her hip and a slick of fuchsia on her lips.

When I was 16, my mother was diagnosed with lupus. In the 15 years since, her immune system has routinely betrayed her, attacking her body in violent ways. Nearly every cold she gets turns into pneumonia. She gets rashes on her face and suffers from horrible

I have no interest in being bold or sexy. I want safe and happy. Pink lips and painted shiplap. Really, I just want my mom



My mother’s makeup drawer is filled with fuchsia lipsticks, but her favourites are always Chanel.

CHANEL ROUGE COCO IN ROSE MALICIEUX, \$48, CHANEL.CA

arthritis. At times, she can’t walk. Her joints swell to the size of oranges and my dad has to wash her hair.

This has meant that for the past two months, I’ve lived in constant fear that she’ll catch the virus. It’s all I think about. *COVID-19 could infect 35 to 70 per cent of Canadians... Experts predict a second wave in the fall...* The headlines read like death threats. She cannot catch this. She just can’t.

The other day, I broke down and blubbered, “You’re supposed to make me cocoa!” at my bewildered boyfriend. I wanted him to wipe my tears and fix everything, the way she would, the way I watched her do so many times.

I might be her only child, but my mom has been a second mother to countless kids over the years. Many would come visit long after they’d grown up. They’d have her famous “cookies à la Ter” and the embrace of their teenage limbs would swallow up her tiny frame.

But kids will be kids and not all of them were nice. At times I felt like some belittled her. They’d make fun of her accent or treat her like some kind of maid, and I’d get furiously protective. She’d say, “Kik, it’s my job.” I was angry at them, but I was also angry at her for always doing everything for everyone, even though she always did everything for me, too.

I was determined to make my life different. I worked hard in school and dreamed of a job where I would never be made to feel small. I would move to a big city and travel the world. As a kid, I used to pack my teddy bears in a purse, stick two chairs together and declare I was leaving for Africa on elephant-back. Two years ago, I relocated to Toronto for a job that’s taken me everywhere from Switzerland to Costa Rica. My mom now lives in a quaint lakeside town and doesn’t own a passport. Every time I leave on a work trip, she asks for my flight numbers so she can make sure the plane hasn’t crashed.

She worries a lot. When I was 11, my whole class went on an overnight field trip to Quebec City, but my mom refused to let me go. I had to stay at school and do math homework with two boys who had been barred for misbehaving. Her protectiveness has often driven me crazy. “It’s because I love you,” she says. She’s always supported me and been so proud, but I wanted her to say, “Go out and experience the world.” She wanted me to text her when I got home.

The thing is I get it now. I get it because these past weeks, I’ve been doing the exact same thing to her: scolding her if she goes out of the house, texting her constantly to make sure she’s okay. “Are you washing

your lettuce? You have to use soap. They said to use soap!”

I feel so powerless knowing that at any time, the person I love most in the world could catch this wretched thing and that’d be it. The myriad ways this could happen replay in flashes on a dizzying loop: the cough of a passerby, the ill-washed hands packing her groceries...

The anxiety has turned me into someone I barely recognize. I bake and have a strange passion for decorating shows. I don’t own a TV, so I scour the web for bootleg episodes of *Fixer Upper* like some mad hacker thirsted for rustic interiors. Every show or movie I try to watch winds up stressing me out. Porch swings and pretty kitchens soothe my nerves.

I’ve also been wearing pink lipstick. I never cared much for the shade, preferring red’s retro allure or the fiery punch of orange. But they seem out of place in this new normal. I have no interest in being bold or sexy. I want safe and happy. Pink lips and painted shiplap. Really, I just want my mom.

A lot of my friends have been covertly seeing their mothers during this time. “We both haven’t been out, so it’s okay,” they say. I envy them. The last time I saw my mom was at Christmas. She asked for Joanna Gaines’s book and, back then, I had never heard of her or of her show, *Fixer Upper*.

Even if my mom and I lived in the same city, I’d be way too scared of getting her sick. Sometimes I consider making the nine-hour drive to her house just to stand on the curb and scream that I love her. I bet her tulips are in full bloom by now.

I spent my whole life trying to be different from my mother and now all I want is to be just like her. I revel in the comfort of her favourite things and take refuge in their safety. I imagine wiping plump cheeks and pray she’ll be there to see it. I miss her so much. Mostly, I’m terrified I’ll never see her again.

A few weeks ago, my friend’s grandmother, an elegant, vivacious woman, tested positive for the virus. In a matter of days, she developed complications and was transferred to the hospital. Not long after, the doctors called to say she wouldn’t make it. Only one person was allowed to see her. The rest of the family said their goodbyes over FaceTime. This story haunts me. What if... I can’t even allow myself to think it.

Instead, I put on that pink lipstick and slip on another dress, willing my dainty armour to ward off evil. I tell myself that if I fill my life with homemade pie and wholesome TV, then nothing bad can happen. It can’t. It just can’t.

## THE KIT X SAMSUNG

# THIS PHONE WILL SERIOUSLY UPGRADE YOUR AT-HOME LIFE

Feature-packed yet affordable, Samsung Galaxy A Series phones are here and ready to change the game

With physical distancing still going strong, we’re all using our phones to connect with each other more than ever. From video chats with friends and family to taking grid-worthy photos of our homemade sourdough to recording fun TikTok videos, our devices have never been a more important part of our lives.

But what if you could bring your at-home life to the next level? Introducing the new Samsung Galaxy A71 and Galaxy A51 smartphones: they’re packed with the latest in smartphone technology, but they won’t break the bank. From an incredible, multi-functional camera, to its AMOLED Infinity-O display and all-day battery (yep, you read that right), these are the high-performance yet affordable “It” devices to have. **Read on for all the ways that the Galaxy A Series phones can help make your day a little brighter.**

**Connect with friends and family in vivid colour** Going for weeks (and now months) without seeing friends and family IRL can be hard, but thanks to the Super AMOLED Infinity-O display you’ll see rich, vibrant colour in everything on your screen. From your BFF’s OOTD to your mom’s sweet smile, colour technology on the Galaxy A series will make you feel like they’re right there in front of you. Galaxy A Series devices also feature a large display with minimal bezels to maximize every inch of screen space (6.7” on the A71 and 6.5” on the A51 ) so you can view your favourite content whenever, wherever—no compromises needed.

**Become your own personal food photographer** With all of us becoming at-home chefs, the urge to document every meal has never been more reasonable—think

of all the hard work you put in! You’ll be able to shoot your latest kitchen masterpieces in crisp, clear detail by day or mood-setting candlelight by night with the powerful 64-megapixel main camera on the Galaxy A71, and 48-megapixel camera on the Galaxy A51.

And to really impress friends and family, you can take your smartphone photography to the next level with the amazing additional lenses on your Galaxy A Series device. Share those beautifully julienned veggies and your perfect mise en place with the upgraded 5MP Macro Cam. Highlight your newfound knife skills and make your final dish stand out with the 5MP Depth Camera’s multiple Live Focus effects for extra drama. Plus, with Live Focus, the camera automatically knocks out unwanted background noise, so your shots will look more professional.

Last but not least, don’t forget to snap a beautiful high-resolution selfie of you and your banana bread with the new Galaxy A series 32MP front camera as proof that yes, you really did cook this. Selfie Focus mode even gently blurs the background, so you and your dish can shine. Yes, chef!

**Show off your cozy space** Whether you’ve reorganized your closet, painted your living-room wall or started a balcony herb garden, showing it off to family and friends is a breeze with the Galaxy A71 and Galaxy A51 Ultra Wide Camera. It offers a 123-degree angle view, similar to human sight lines, which means you’ll do less panning to capture all your nesting accomplishments. Post-quarantine, it’ll help you capture all of your friend and family reunions because it can fit an extra-wide group of people, all in one shot.

**Shoot top-quality TikTok videos** TikTok has taken our social feeds by storm, and you can make your mark with your very own

high-quality videos using the Samsung Galaxy A71 and Galaxy A51’s Super Steady Video feature. It automatically stabilizes footage to give you super smooth and professional-looking content (say goodbye to shaky videos). Plus, you’ll be able to record yourself practicing the Renegade challenge as many times as it takes to nail it, since both devices offer additional Micro SD support up to 512GB of storage. Next step: going viral!

**Go all day without plugging in** There’s nothing more frustrating than having your phone die on you mid-chat, mid-stream or mid-photo-shoot. With the Samsung Galaxy A71 and A51’s powerhouse 4,500 mAh and 4,000 mAh batteries respectively, you can use your phone throughout the whole day without running out of power. Plus, both devices charge super-fast so you can spend more time playing, scrolling and sharing, and less time charging.

**Upgrade without breaking the bank** Making an investment during these uncertain times can be intimidating, but thanks to 0% financing for 12, 24 or 36 months on select online purchases, you can get your hands on the latest in smartphone technology in a way that fits your budget. Say hello to the latest and greatest tech on your own terms with the Samsung Galaxy A series.



SAMSUNG GALAXY A51, \$479.99, AND SAMSUNG GALAXY A71, \$599.99. SAMSUNG.COM

For product specifications, screen size, performance, storage options and battery life, please visit [samsung.com](https://samsung.com). Terms and conditions apply, please see [shop.samsung.com/ca/financing](https://shop.samsung.com/ca/financing) for more details on the 0% Financing offer.



# Come clean

Is there anything more satisfying than cleansing away the day's dirt and grime, leaving your skin fresh and glowing? We asked influencers to tell us about their nighttime cleansing routines and tricks for using the iconic fresh Soy Face Cleanser. Made with amino-acid-rich soy proteins, soothing cucumber extract and balancing rosewater, it now comes in a jumbo 400 mL pump size (\$88, available in June at [fresh.com](https://www.fresh.com) and [sephora.com](https://www.sephora.com)), which is perfect for stashing in the shower.



## ► TORRI WEBSTER

**Clean start** "I have normal to dry skin, but I am also prone to breakouts if I sweat through my make-up, so I am very conscious of my cleansing routine before a workout, and especially before bed. The last thing I want to do is lie down or sweat with a ton of makeup seeping into my skin."

**Cleanser collector** "I have relatively sensitive skin, and fresh Soy Face Cleanser has never once irritated me or stripped away my natural moisture. I like to collect all the different sizes: I love keeping a jumbo size in my shower, and a travel size in my gym bag or car. Massaging in the cleanser and then using a hot washcloth to wipe away the makeup and stress of the day feels so relaxing."

**Me time** "Lately I've had extra time to give my skin the love and attention it deserves, like a de-puffing massage with my Nurse Jamie Beauty Roller or layering on a mask. Meditating or writing in my journal is also a great way to end the day."



## ▼ JENNIFER CHIU

**Wash cycle** "My cleansing routine is very important to me! I do it every day to keep my skin healthy and clear of breakouts. I love that fresh Soy Face Cleanser is a three-in-one face wash—it not only melts away makeup, it also helps remove impurities and tones the skin. Another huge bonus is that it doesn't leave your skin feeling dry after using it. It feels hydrated and soft."

**Makeup break** "While I've been staying at home more, I've been wearing way less makeup. My skin looks and feels way better because all I'm doing most days is a full skincare routine."

**Bath time** "I recently had a baby boy, so it's been hard to wind down! When I do get the chance, a warm bath with a glass of wine while watching a show on my iPad sounds about right."



## ◀ CHANTAL LI

**Fresh start** "Cleansing is probably the most important step in my skincare routine since I have combination to oily skin. A good cleanse can remove all the impurities and get my skin fresh and oil-free for the next skincare steps. During social distancing, I've still been doing the same cleansing routine—actually I try out a lot more skincare products!"

**Foam tricks** "I love that fresh Soy Face Cleanser is super gentle while cleansing really well. My skin feels very hydrated and soothed after each use. I like to wet my hand and massage the cleanser in my hand to make it foamy first, then apply it to my skin. Also I make sure to thoroughly wash it off for that fresh and radiant feeling."

**Soak it off** "Literally what I've been doing every night at home lately is having a nice bath, a glass of wine and Netflix!"

## ► HEMALI MISTRY

**Custom care** "I switch up my cleansing routine depending on how my skin is acting. Right now, my skin is very dry, sensitive and acne-prone. I need to make sure that all the products I'm using now are suitable for sensitive skin."

**Comforting cleanse** "I'm only cleansing my face once a day because I don't want to make it more irritated, but if I don't cleanse properly at night, I notice that my skin ends up looking extra dry and dull. I've been using fresh Soy Face Cleanser to remove makeup and impurities. It's great for my sensitive, dry skin because it doesn't irritate it but still manages to take off all my makeup. I'll take a baby washcloth and gently rub the cleanser around my eyes, as some products like mascara and eyeliner are a bit harder to remove."

**Nighttime treat** "The unprecedented social distancing protocols have caused a lot of stress in my life, which has had a really big impact on my skin. Sometimes I'll throw on a face mask at the end of the night if I want to pamper myself. It helps me unwind and relax."



## ◀ AMBER SCOTT

**No days off** "I am VERY strict with my cleansing routine. I truly can't remember the last time I missed a night. My husband sometimes bugs me about my rigidness with my routine—I vaguely remember on New Year's, we got home and ordered pizza at 2 a.m. and I said, 'BRB, I need to do my skincare.'"

**Wash style** "I like to rub fresh Soy Face Cleanser on without any water at first, then I'll slowly apply more water—it gets foamy as you add the water. I love that it has multiple uses; I can use it to rub off my eye makeup without any stinging! The cucumber and rose have such a calming effect."

**Wind down routine** "In the evening, I like to make tea, get into my comfy robe, turn on my diffuser with lavender-scented oils and watch Netflix or read. Also, I've been doing a lot more face masks with all this downtime."