







1. SIMPLY BOW-TIFUL

The season's undone-updos, like the messy chignon or teased ponytail, stay sweet with a girly bow nestled to one side. **Goody** glam black satin bow bobby slide, \$5 for 2, at Loblaws and Walmart.

2. PERFECTLY PEWTER
Paint all 10 of your fingers—and
toes—with a gunmetal polish that
gives your everyday manicure an au
courrant edge. Joe Fresh nail polish
in pewter, \$4 each, joefresh.com

-VANESSA TAYLOR/PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON

3. COCKTAIL CHIC

If your dress is heavily embellished, a statement ring is the ideal accessory. Winners multi-coloured crystal cluster rings, \$17 each, winners.ca

4. HANDS-FREE HAUTE

This beaded clutch is ideal for formal events, but also boasts a crossbody option for Saturday night dancing. Banana Republic beaded clutch, \$124, bananarepublic.ca

5. PARTY PEEPERS

These sexy, shimmery shadows are guaranteed to get the party started.

M.A.C Glamour Daze Extra Dimension Eye Shadows in Ready to Party, Evening Grey and Stolen Moment, \$23 each, maccosmetics.com

6. HIGH COLLAR

LBD feeling last season? Layer on a collar necklace, the accessory du jour. Compliments guaranteed. Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection crystal collar necklace, \$1,500, at TNT and caroletanenbaum.com



Winter is here. How do you stay warm while still looking fashionable?—Alison

DEAR ALISON:

When I was little I hated winter, because my mother always made me wear pants under my dresses on especially cold days—something I absolutely abhorred. (Funny how Karl Lagerfeld came on so strong with that particular winter look at Chanel a couple of seasons back, making the notion totally chic.) With so many fantastic winter options available this season, I'm surprised you think it would be a challenge to dress for the cold and still look smoking hot.

There are some amazing down-filled jackets and stylish coats that are obvious choices to help keep you toasty. Moose Knuckles is one cool Canadian label that makes a stylish yet warm parka. What about all the cozy shearling and faux-fur pieces that are so on-trend? I find shearling keeps me incredibly warm. Danier makes some well-styled shearling coats that aren't too pricey.

This is most definitely the season of the cape, and there are some dramatic, luxurious ones you can try. I especially love voluminous capes, because you can wear tailored jackets underneath.

Layering is always smart. The chunky knits we've been seeing are to-die-for, from oversized boyfriend sweaters to funky ponchos. But few garments are warmer, cozier and more comfy than simple cashmere sweaters. Invest in a few basic ones in a variety of colours to help fight the cold this winter.

I've come across several pairs of fabulous boots with sheepskin linings that would certainly warm your toes. Thick, opaque hosiery is also must, and if you brave sub-zero temperatures, invest in silky long underwear. These days, even toques are making strong style statements. Don't be too shy to sport a wooly cap, even if it may give you hat head. A good pair of cashmere or shearling-lined gloves are also a must. And when it comes to scarves, the longer and more handmade the better. An ultra-long scarf shouts

decadent luxury, and will certainly help you keep warm and stay fashionable at the same time.

Remember, nothing is more unfashion-able than a lovely lady with chattering teeth, shivering because she's too vain to dress warm. There are untold ways to do it all in style, just choose the pieces that will work best for you. And don't be afraid to bundle up, baby, it's cold outside!

Send your questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca.

Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of Fashion Television Channel. Follow her on Twitter @Jeanne_Beker

Find more great accessory ideas at: thekit.ca/accessories



THE PERFECT LAST-MINUTE GIFT

Having a bit of trouble ticking everyone off your list? Don't panic. We've found five new gift-worthy fashion books guaranteed to please even your fussiest friends. Our favourite? *The Sartorialist: Closer* (Limited Edition) by Scott Schuman (\$156, indigo.ca). For more great giftable reads, visit kit2it.com/holiday-books.—*Janelle Wilson*

THE KIT WILL RETURN

There will be no Kit paper for the next two weeks, while we work hard on our new February 2013 interactive magazine. Watch for new digital features that make it even easier to look great every day. *The Kit* will return to your newspaper the second week of January. In the meantime, get your fashion and beauty fix at TheKit.ca.



Wilfred for Aritzia Meteore Skirt \$135, aritzia.com

ARITZIA AT YOUR (ONLINE) SERVICE

Aritzia, the Vancouver-based purveyor of hip-girl sweaters, fur-trimmed winter coats and blazers revealed its webshop this month. Now, fans who live far from of Aritzia's brick-and-mortar locations—think: Québec and the East Coast—can shop the entire collection online, including popular brands like TNA, Talula, T.Babaton and Wilfred. The brand gets extra style points for appointing Luke Crisell, former executive editor of *Nylon*, as its editor-in-chief. Visit aritzia.com.



Cosy-

chic at

Alberta

Ferretti

Fall



SPOTTED

How to dress well in the dead of winter? No one knows better than Canadians. We've made wearing knubby knits, giant scarves and warm accessories an art form—and now we're showing you how to do the same. From holiday shopping to hanging out with loved ones, these comfy sweaters will have you wrapped up (and warm!) all winter long. -VANESSA TAYLOR



THROW ONE ON This jacket-blanket is perfect for wearing to a friend's house or while running errands. We love that it's cropped at the back, making it easy to layer. Try a leather legging and tall boots to add some edge. Nevada acrylic poncho, \$35, sears.ca



Building on the classic woolly cardigan, this length can double as a sweater dress (when worn with opaque leggings). Looks great belted with a tailored sheath for the office. Agyness Deyn for Dr Martens lambswool Knitted Varsity Cardigan, \$260, drmartens.com



IT'S A WRAP Canadian label Line has teamed up with Roots to create a capsule collection of sweaters inspired by Canadian cities (this one is Toronto). This open cardigan looks great with jeans for the weekend. Maple Intarsia Cardigan, \$178, roots.ca



BOXED IN The cut of this colourful knit is boxy, so go with a slim jean to balance out the volume. Team a longer, fitted tank or T-shirt in a matching colour underneath to cover up bare skin. BB Dakota Uri acrylic-wool knit, \$105, bbdakota.com

PUTA LID ON IT

Though an oversize hat makes a statement, a floppy brim can be cumbersome with winter winds. Enter the fedora, with a brim that flatters the face while beating the breeze





SOFTER, **SMOOTHÉR** LIPS

Generally speaking, we love any makeup that multitasks and can be applied with our fingers. No wonder we're smitten with Givenchy's little pot of tinted gloss (pink or coral). It gives crazy colour payoff and morphs to blend to your skin tone. Easy, natural and very, very pretty.

-DEBORAH FULSANG

Givenchy Magic Lip & Cheek Balm Moisturizing Rosy Glow, \$34, exclusively at Sephora, sephora.ca



Khloe Kardashian, 27

LOOK POLISHED This look can easily take you from business meetings to dinner and we love the dove-grey hat. It's much more polished than a knitted toque.



Catherine Zeta-Jones, 43

EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED Although this ladylike dress and fur-embellished bag are classic, the hat adds an unexpected menswearinspired detail that balances out this look-or at least fools the paparazzi.



Madonna, 54

DRESS IT DOWN Weekend errands? No need to bust out the beat-up baseball cap. These slouchy pants and leather jacket combo give this structured hat a casual nod

Instant sparkle: 2 easy ways to wear it





- Sweep the cream eyeshadow of the DUO SHADOW & GLITTER Fard à paupières et paillettes - Smoky Silver on the entire eyelid with your fingertip.
- 2 Draw a line with the 24 HRS GLAM EYELINER - Noir on the upper eyelid.
- 3 Use the WATERPROOF EYELINER Noir intense under the eye to further define your eye.
- 4 Finish with the DRAMATIQUE LASH BOOSTER MASCARA - Noir.



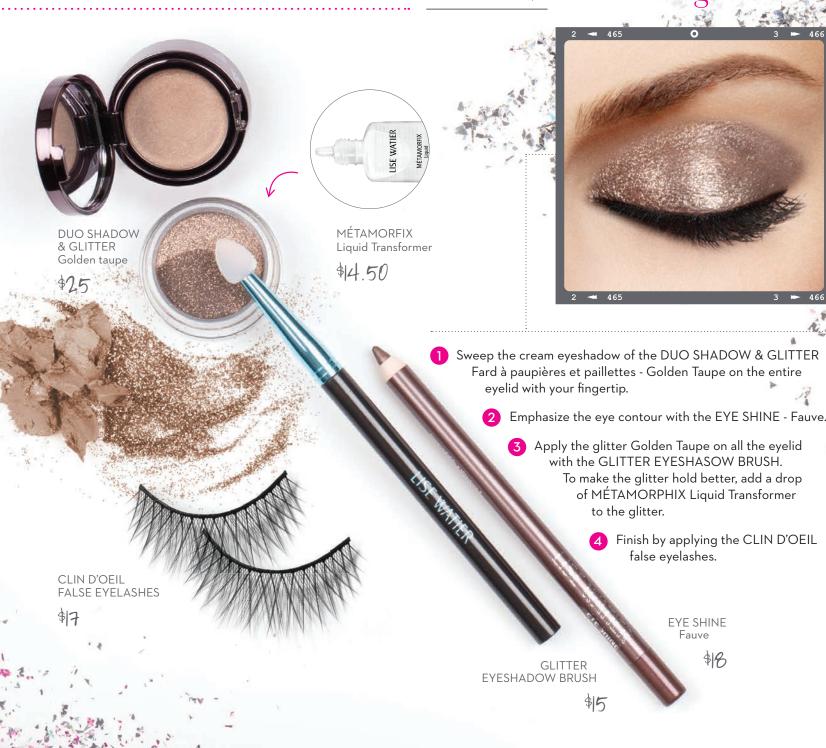
WATERPROOF EYELINER Noir intense

DRAMATIQUE LASH BOOSTER MASCARA

\$24



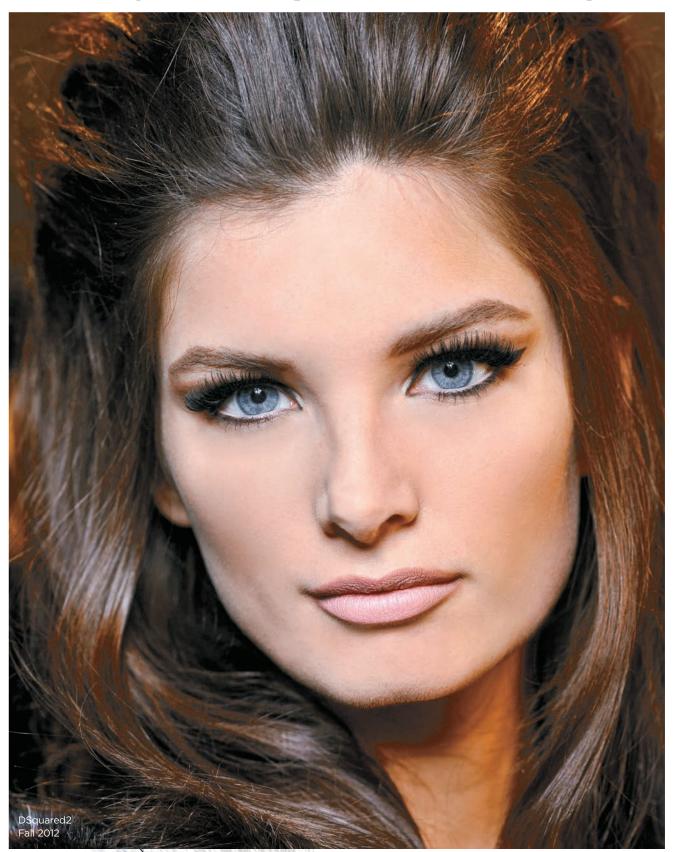
LOOK 2: Dramatic glit



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FRINGE FESTIVAL



Want full, fabulous lashes? High-tech mascaras and treatments let your eyes do all of the talking MICHELLE VILLETT

think again. Facial features, too, fall in and out of fashion—and the '00s craze for plump, Angelina Jolie-style lips has shifted to an obsession with longer, darker, thicker lashes. (Just ask the Kardashians.)

The appeal isn't hard to explain, says Anna Nenoju, a makeup and hair artist with Page One Management in Toronto. "Every woman knows that emphasizing her lashes brightens her eyes and makes them look bigger. No matter what your age, it gives you a more dramatic, seductive, pulled-together look." A-listers, of course, have always known this. Twiggy, Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor were all famous for their fluttery fringes, and Nenoiu asserts that no modern starlet, from Katy Perry to Gwyneth Paltrow, would dare grace a red carpet without a set of extensions or at least falsies.

FALSE START

Faux lashes are not only fueling the growth of a \$1-billion eyelash-enhancing business, but their sales have also steadily climbed while other cosmetic categories have been flat. Although much improved, the glueon technique is not new. It dates back to about 1916, when the film director D.W. Griffith commissioned a wigmaker to fashion the first pair of false lashes from human hair and gummed them to leading lady Seena

Today, there's a dizzying array of lash choices: various shapes, shapes, lengths, colours, adhesions and embellishments (think rhinestones and feathers that would be on Lady Gaga's beauty counter), not to mention the longer-lasting option of extensions. A set of the latter runs from \$75 to \$200 and can take two hours to be professionally applied. But with proper care, they can boost your blink for up to two months. Once reserved for special occasions, "for a huge number of our clients, they've become a part of their regimen, like getting their hair or nails done," says Lexi Boyd, a lash extension technician and manager at Noir Lash Lounge in Vancouver.

GROW A PAIR

Lash-enhancing serums are another way to give your eye area a boost. If you can't splurge on Latisse—the prescription prostaglandin treatment that promises longer, fuller lashes within 16 weeks-there are dozens of over-the-counter choices that condition and fortify for a potentially fuller look. One of the most

If you think makeup trends are only about colour, exciting is from science-driven skincare brand Prevage. Not only does its Prevage Clinical Lash and Brow Enhancing Serum contain pro-vitamin B5 to prevent breakage and vitamins A, C and E to protect against environmental aggression, it also features an ingredient you're probably more used to seeing in your moisturizer. "We use a clinicaly proven peptide," says Aurelie Felix, a senior scientist for Elizabeth Arden. "It enhances the hair follicles in order to extend the growth phase of the lashes' life cycle." The best part? No scary side effects like eyelid irritation. Look for similar peptide-based products from Indeed Labs and Mary Kay.

MAGIC WANDS

Despite all of the new ways to augment your gaze, mascara isn't going anywhere. According to market research company NPD, nine in 10 women between the ages of 18 and 54 wear it—and high-tech tubes have batted their way into our makeup bags. "With the newer technology, [the mascara] lasts longer, won't clump or flake and you only need one or two strokes," says Nenoiu. "You can get any look you want, from volume to length to separation."

Although newly engineered brush shapes are partially to thank for the improved performance, the formulas have also changed, says Deb Coleman Nally, research and innovation director for Maybelline New York (the brand's latest offering, The Rocket, launches in January).

"We can deliver up to 24 hours of smudge-free wear and get a higher intensity of black pigment using film-formers integrated with creamy gel textures," she says. That's a far cry from the mixture of kohl, honey and crocodile dung that ancient Egyptians applied to their lashes with sticks, or even the first commercial mascara, a cake-y mascara launched in 1917 made of soap and pigment and applied using a moistened comb.) Other notable newcomers are focusing on wand wizardry, including Cover Girl's Clump Crusher, Guerlain's Maxi Lash (available January 15) and Givenchy's Noir Couture.

So what's next in the quest for a Bambi-like fringe? Colour. "State-of-the-art ingredients are enabling us to achieve bright, intense shades," says Coleman Nally, "So it's going to be a huge trend." Look out, lashes!

Michelle Villett is a P&G Beauty and Grooming award winner and founder of beautyeditor.ca

LASHOUT

With a few of today's high-performing lash enhancers, you get attention-grabbing eyelashes worthy of a close up -NATASHA BRUNO

UP AND AWAY Make eyes look wider and brighter with gorgeous upswept lashes. For maximum deep curl, an eyelash curler is essential. And yes, use before applying mascara. Revion Diamond Collection Eyelash Curler, \$10, revlon.ca



DOUBLE GLAM

Create a dramatic full-lash effect with these double-lavered lashes. They're the perfect beauty accessory for an evening out. Ardell Double Up Lashes in 201 and 204. \$8 each, at fine retailer: ardelllashes.com

INSTA VOLUME Get high-impact

lashes in a flash. The flexible bristles create easy, fastglide volume by coating lashes evenly in a single stroke. Maybelline New York The Rocket Volum' Express Mascara, \$10, at drugstores and mass retailers, maybelline.ca



This multi-tasking mascara offers a formula that nourishes, revitalizes fortifies and protects lashes from breakage. The unique and highly manoeuvrable, three-ball brush is also designed to achieve serious curl and definition no matter the lash length. Givenchy Noir Couture Mascara, \$35 exclusively at Sephora, sephora.ca



Amplify without clumping. CoverGirl's lashseparating curved brush helps deposit colour to each and every lash, allowing for buildable volume from root to tip, so you can go full Kardashian if you're so inclined. Lashblast Clump Crusher Mascara, \$11, at mass retailers, covergirl.ca

Complete your look from brow to lash. This serum is vitamin-rich and helps condition fragile and brittle lashes. Plus, it improves the appearance of thinning eyebrows-how perfect for today's requisite tailored brows! Apply at night, three to four times a week. Prevage Clinical Lash and Brow Enhancing Serum, \$115, at Shoppers Drug Mart, The Bay, Sears, Pharma Plus, elizabetharden.ca



THE FIX

what you need to know about

NO-CHIP MANICURES

Tired of short-lived manicures that barely last 24 hours before chipping?

■ JANINE FALCON



Wedding day, honeymoon, vacation away—if you want a salon manicure to last longer than a few days, a soak-off gel mani is your best bet. Also known as no-chip or long-wear, this nail-colour route delivers a strong, ultra-glossy finish that can last for two weeks or longer without chipping.

NAME DROPPING

Popular brands include OPI Axxium, OPI Gel Color, Artistic Colour Gloss, Gelish and Entity One. Thanks to savvy marketing and public relations, Creative Nail Design's (CND) Shellac, a gel-polish hybrid rather than gel, has become an umbrella term for this type of mani—the way the Kleenex brand

THE PROCESS

The no-chip manicure involves a light, gentle buff of the natural nail surface to remove the shine, then thin applications of coloured gel. Base coat, two coats of colour, plus a topcoat are cured, layer by layer via fluorescent or LED UV nail lamp. Fluorescent UV lamps take two minutes to cure each layer. LED UV lamps use light-emitting diodes to cure LED-sensitive soak-off gel, and usually do so in less time, between 30 and 60 seconds per coat. Removal requires soaking nails in acetone (the main ingredient in most nailpolish removers) until the gel lifts off easily with the gentle help of a rounded-tip cuticle pusher.

UV-EXPOSURE FACTS

Some of us with weak nails have embraced soak-off gel for its hardy, protective shell. But concern about additional UV exposure makes others cautious. The real deal: UV nail lamps are nothing like tanning-bed lamps. In fact, says educator Doug Schoon, "UV [nail] lamps are safer than sunlight. Sunlight contains far more dangerous wavelengths [that] these lamps can't produce or have filtered out." In a study co-authored by Schoon, fluorescent UV nail lamp exposure in the salon every two weeks is equivalent to about 2.7 UVA minutes daily in a two-week period, and 26 UVB seconds in a two-week period. Most people get more than that stepping out for lunch. If you're worried, the fix is easy, says Schoon. "Wear sunscreen if you're concerned, or put a cloth on the back of your hands."

AT-HOME SOAK-OFF KITS

DIY soak-off manicure kits are available at drugstores from companies like Nailene and Red Carpet Manicure. Prices range from about \$30 without a lamp (usually sold separately for about \$90) or all together for \$100, lamp included. Home kits require an application-learning curve to avoid getting gel on the cuticles. The process is more time-consuming than a salon appointment; a well-trained pro can apply with precision and speed and work on one hand while the other is in the UV lamp. Colour options are limited, and using more than one brand of gel can get expensive because, according to Schoon, "there is no such thing as a universal nail lamp." Each company designs its lamp to work with a specific gel formula. Using a non-approved lamp may not cure the gel completely. "Proper curing eliminates the possibility of adverse

DIY GELS

Are you in love with your good-for-two-to-three-weeks gel manicure? Good news: You can now treat yourself at home with the latest starter kits—great for those times when you can't squeeze a salon appointment into your schedule this holiday, or you can't justify the indulgence.

These DIY kits come well-equipped with tools and easy step-by-step instructions, making mastering a perfectly polished, insta-dry mani much easier than you thought. —NATASHA BRUNO

HIGH SHINE

Maintain glossy scratchresistant nails for up to three weeks with this easyto-use starter kit, which comes with prep and remover tools, cleanser, primer, a double-duty base-and-top coat and remover. Quo by Orly Starter Kit, \$40 (LED lamp, \$80, and nailcolours, \$10 each, all sold separately), shoppersdrugmart.ca



AU NATUREL

Keep natural nails healthy with this athome gel-colour system, complete with a brush-on cuticle oil to help hydrate and strengthen nails before and after your DIY-gel treatment. Sephora by OPI, \$189 (includes polish-curing LED lamp), sephora.ca



STRONG BOND

Give your gel manicure stavino power and pop. This starter kit's base coat has a built-in primer for maximum bond, and a top coat formulated with optical brighteners to combat yellowing. Kiss **Everlasting Gel Polish** Colour Gel Starter Kit, \$30 (includes one gel colour), LED lamp sold separately, \$35. walmart.ca







Ask your Beauty Advisor for a personal consultation available at



A YEAR IN REVIEW

From the man bun to @AngiesRightLeg, we distil the top 10 fashion and beauty moments of 2012—separating the good, the bad and the ugly JILL DUNN

1. STYLISH SIBLINGS

Mary-Kate and Ashley aren't the only siblings shaking up fashion. Solange and Beyoncé Knowles. Pippa and Kate Middleton. Virginie and Claire Courtin-Clarins. Cara and Poppy Delevingne. Charlotte Olympia and Alice Dellal. Dakota and Elle Fanning. These spirited sisters are dominating fashion front rows, street style blogs and magazine editorials. Many of these duos have their own fashion lines and/or act as fashion and beauty brand ambassadors. Sibling rivalry? We think not.

2. BEST "DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M BEAUTIFUL"

Samantha Brick's open letter about the pros and cons of her beauty elicited 5,727 retorts in the U.K.'s Daily Mail comments section (her pros included strange men gifting



her with flowers and bubbly; cons were that women "didn't want to hang out with someone more attractive" than they were). What followed was an international debate, on talk shows and around office watercoolers. about the merits of her beauty. Love her or hate her, there's no denving Brick was a beauty hot topic.

3. REAL-SIZE STYLE ICONS

The real tastemakers in 2012 were not waifs. Rather, diverse body types from Octavia Spencer and Melissa McCarthy at the Oscars to Adele at the Grammy's and Nicki Minaj at the American Music Awards got people talking. For the first time, these stars were getting the appreciation and celebrity real estate they deserved on best-dressed lists. And, many high-profile stylists and designers were clamoring for the opportunity to dress these leading ladies. Here's hoping it's a movement towards celebrating stylish shapes of all sizes—for good.



4. NEXT-LEVEL NAIL ART

Glass clusters, velvet, caviar, rubber and leather finishing touches (thank you Alexa Chung at British Fashion Awards) it's certain that manicures got dressed up in a whole new way in 2012. So much so that E! Network invented the "Mani Cam" diorama to document A-listers' handiwork on the red carpet, cementing nail art as an official accessory.

5. KOOL-AID HAIRCOLOUR

Pink one day, green the next: Haircolour got an extreme makeover this year. On the runways, we saw Los Angeles native Charlotte Free's pink hair and Prada's skittle-coloured strands. On the red carpet, celebrities like

Lady Gaga sported canary yellow, Katy Perry opted for bright purple and Pink wore pink, of course. Thanks to these statementmakers, YouTube is crowded with hair chalking, dip-dying and ombre tutorials for beauty DIY-ers.



It was a banner year for BB creams, a.k.a "beauty balms." This skincare-meetsmakeup hybrid is a whole new category that shook up beauty shelves and earned bragging rights for its multi-tasking formulas that do everything from prime skin and blur pores to provide colour and SPF coverage. First popularized in Asia, there were at least a dozen formulas launched in 2012.

7. THE HIPSTER HAIR TREND THAT WENT MAINSTREAM: THE MAN BUN

Women? We have the topknot, or better the sock bun. Men? They can now lay claim to the man bun. When The New York Times gives ink to the latest hipster hairstyle, it's about to go viral. From actors and artists like Chris Hemsworth, Gavin Rossdale and Colin Farrell to sports star Alexandr Dolgopolov, look for it at a coffee shop near you.



8. BEST PHOTOBOMB: @*ANGIESRIGHTLEG*

One would think that having Brad Pitt on your arm at the Oscars attracts enough attention. But Angelina Jolie upped the redcarpet ante with a thigh-high slit on her Atelier Versace gown. Every time the cameras flashed, she worked that gam. The spectacle sent paparazzi into a fury as she leg-bombed photos all the way up and down the red carpet (and on stage as she presented an Oscar). The leg-baring stunt inspired its very own Twitter handle (@AngiesRightLeg) with close to 42,000 followers and countless pose-hard memes.

9. THE GRUNGE REDUX

Rooney Mara's star turn as Lisbeth Salander in The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo was inspiration for a slew of designers from Givenchy to Proenza Schouler to even High Street stores like H&M. There's no denying the influence the film had on fashion with all of the tough-luxe dressing—leather, studs and black, lots and lots of black-that commanded attention on both spring and fall runways in 2012. The "Lisbeth" effect was evident in beauty too with vampy, mulberry-stained lips and short bangs going completely mainstream.

10. THE NEW AGE OF NEON

At first glance, you might think that 1980s-inspired neon in all its forms—handbags, shoes, belts, tops

and pants—was destined for the sale rack. But the flashy trend was a hit (thanks to Pantone's hero colour of 2012: Tangerine Tango?). Provocative, shocking hues were paired with neutrals. colour-blocked and breathed bold new life in to coloured denim for spring and summer.





PACK OF 2 PAIRS OF COZY SOCKS









ISM I IME YOUR FANORIE JEANS HAD A FRRIEND?

ISN'T IT TIME YOU HAD A FAVORITE T-SHIRT?







attention with every red carpet they graced, every Louis Vuitton shawl they rocked and every sky-high Giuseppe Zanotti stiletto they wore. Meet the Courtin-Clarins girls—sisters Claire and Virginie and their cousins, sisters Prisca and Jenna. Luckily, we got to play dressup inside their suite at the Crosby Street Hotel in Soho. We played with their furs (we're still coveting the Isabel Marant multi-coloured jacket), pristine jewels, Alexander McQueen clutches and custom Mugler frocks. They say things happen in threes—but in this case, we will have to disagree. Four is the magic number.

CLOCKWISE: The statuesque Courtin-Clarins girls pose for The Coveteur camera; a vintagelooking bike and gorgeous Bottega Veneta dress; Givenchy handbag and Giuseppe Zanotti shoes

THE KIT ON nstagra

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Of the style hazards that winter inflicts on us, drying skin is the most relentless. If the biting winds of January aren't extracting moisture from your skin, then your overheated office probably is. You'd think that the cover of winter clothes would protect against such indignities, but by mid-winter, I'm feeling positively scaly regardless of how much I bathe in moisturizer. Is there anything worse than pulling on a sweater and feeling the dry skin on your hands catch on the knit? Shudder. Obviously, it's time for a scrub.

The Kit beauty editor Deborah Fulsang is a believer in the value of a good buff. "A great exfoliator, whether for the face or body, can be life-changing," she says. "Not only does a scrub slough away dead cells, it will allow the treatment's characteristics or active ingredients do their work. Just make sure it has a fine-grain so it doesn't scrape at your skin."

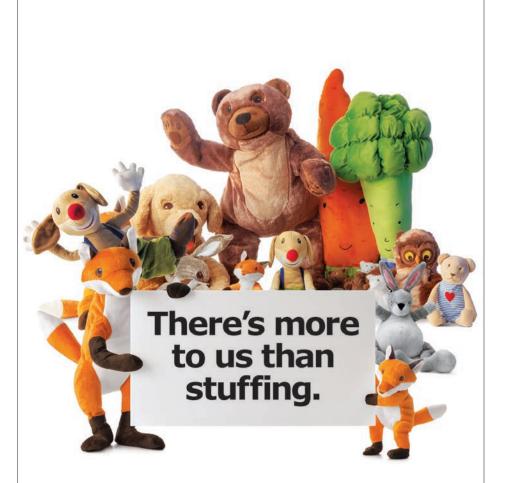
In the spirit of go big or go home, I book an appointment at Toronto's new Four Season's Spa for their 60-minute full body Snowbird Ruby Red Grapefruit Scrub (\$175). The spa itself is giant—30,000 square feet—yet it manages to feel comfortable and serene. The treatment rooms are quiet and dim, the perfect backdrop for nearly falling asleep while being attended to. Spa therapist Rachel applies the foaming scrub, made of essential oils and crushed walnut shells and, honestly, it feels too soft to be doing much.

Nevermind, it's profoundly relaxing to be buffed, rinsed and massaged and I don't even make a mental to-do list as I normally would during an hour away from work. After Rachel whispers to me that the treatment is complete and leaves the room so I can change, I reach down to push off the blanket covering me. For a brief moment, it feels like I'm touching a sheet, the skin on my legs is so smooth. Even my winter-roughened elbows are sleek and soft.

And sure enough, for the next week or so my after-shower moisturizer seems more effective. No surprise really, since it can now actually get to me rather than just resting on top of dry skin. Plus, a mid-winter spa splurge just feels extravagantly good. As Fulsang says, "There's something psychologically cleansing about a great scrub, too. You feel mentally renewed in mind and body when your skin has been smoothed and is glowing."

TIPS: Make the most of your spa time and don't be afraid to ask if you want the room temperature or music volume changed—up or down. Give yourself time after your treatment; post-spa mind fuzz doesn't

go well with an important meeting or conference call. Book those before you hit the massage table or on another day altogether. Ceri Marsh is a best-selling author and co-creator of the food and family website sweetpotatochronicles.com



Soft Toys for Education is back. For every soft toy or children's book you buy, the IKEA Foundation donates \$1 to help educate kids. Last year, we donated \$16 million to programs run by UNICEF and Save the Children, and with your support, we can do even better this year. Visit IKEA between November 4th and December 29th and give kids all over the world a gift that lasts a lifetime.

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- 3 **NEW!** Lancôme La vie est belle, Eau de Parfum, 75mL, **\$109**
- 4 NEW! CK ENCOUNTER, Eau de Toilette spray, 100mL, \$87
- NEW! Balenciaga Florabotanica, Eau de Parfum Spray, 30mL, \$63
- 6 NEW! Vera Wang Lovestruck Floral Rush, Eau de Parfum Spray, 100mL, \$105
- 7 NEW! Givenchy Dahlia Noir Eau de Parfum,75mL, \$124*
- 8 NEW! Marc Jacobs Dot, Eau de Parfum Spray, 50mL, \$79
- 9 Jean Paul Gaultier Le Male Eau de Toilette, 125mL, **\$97**
- 10 YSL L'Homme Eau de Toilette, 100mL, \$95
- **11 NEW!** Valentina Eau de Parfum Spray, 50mL, **\$96***
- 12 EXCLUSIVE! Taylor Swift Enchanted Wonderstruck, Eau de Parfum, 50mL, \$63
- 13 NEW! Montblanc Legend, Eau de Toilette, 100mL, \$75*
- **14 EXCLUSIVE!** Justin Bieber's Girlfriend, Eau de Parfum, 50mL, **\$58**
- **NEW!** Coach Poppy Eau de Toilette Spray, 50mL, **\$65***

