

THE Kit

BEAUTY &
FASHION

GIFT GUIDE ISSUE

The stress-free edition

STRIKE GOLD

The finest festive
embellishments



Jeanne Beker on
getting the best
deals in town
PAGE 3

WOW- WORTHY

From pretty clutches to dazzling accessories, as the holidays approach we rounded up Canada's cutest boutiques and favourite e-tailers to make finding gorgeous gifts easier than ever. (Psst! There's still time to avoid the lineups.)

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scents of the SEASON



RECEIVE 18,500 OPTIMUM POINTS
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everything at Murale.* That's a \$25 value!



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY

Pick up one of the luxuriously scented **Nest Fragrances**—Birchwood Pine, Sir Elton John's Holiday or Holiday Candles—and as your free gift, receive a votive candle featuring the newest scent: Woodland Truffle.
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exclusive

ANGELS ON EARTH

Buy \$79 or more of **Angel** scents from the **Thierry Mugler Collection** and receive a Thierry Mugler Holiday Token of Appreciation Cabas Bag and the Angel EDP Refillable Star (25 ml) as your gift with purchase.
\$96 Value

exclusive

PRETTY PERFECT

Take home any large EDP Spray from the **Valentina Fragrance Collection** and receive an exclusive Valentina Satin Body Lotion and a miniature Valentina EDP as your gift with purchase.
\$125 Value

exclusive

THREE'S COMPANY

Get a three-piece **L'Eau d'Issey Gift Set** as your free gift when you purchase a large-size fragrance or any two products from the same line. It contains a L'Eau d'Issey Shower Cream, Body Lotion and EDP Minispray.
\$117 Value

exclusive

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

With the purchase of any large-size fragrance or any two products from the **L'Eau d'Issey Pour Homme** line, receive a gift set that includes a L'Eau d'Issey After Shave Balm, a Sport Shower Gel and a Sport EDT Minispray as your free gift.
\$99 Value

exclusive

MARC YOUR CALENDAR

With any fragrance purchase from the **Marc Jacobs** collection receive an exclusive cosmetic case as your gift.
From \$79 to \$112

exclusive

GUILTY PLEASURE

Purchase the **Gucci Guilty EDT** or the **Gucci Guilty Pour Homme EDT** and receive a His and Hers Portable Spray Set as our gift to you.
From \$95 to \$118

SQUEAKY CLEAN

With any purchase from the **Clean Fragrance and Bath & Body Collection**, you get an exclusive paraben- and sulfate-free Dry Shampoo as a gift.
\$74 Value

exclusive

*Offer valid on the purchase total of eligible products using a valid Shoppers Optimum Card® after discounts and redemptions and before taxes. Maximum 18,500 points per offer regardless of total dollar value of transaction. Not to be used in conjunction with any other points promotions or offers. Offer valid in-store and online at Murale.ca from Saturday, December 14 to Sunday, December 15, 2013 at Murale only. See Beauty Master for details.

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CALGARY SOUTHCENTRE MALL
MONTREAL PLACE VILLE MARIE
TORONTO THE SHOPS AT DON MILLS

EDMONTON WEST EDMONTON MALL
OTTAWA DOWNTOWN (BANK & LAURIER)
VANCOUVER OAKRIDGE MALL

Murale
by **SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

what we want this week

5 WISE GIFTS

Take inspiration from the original Christmas offerings, with precious gifts that channel gold, frankincense and myrrh



1. RICH ELIXIR Filled with many natural extracts, this oil is a modern myrrh. **Nuxe** Huile Prodigieuse Love from Paris edition, \$45, at Ogilvy and Murale 2. REFINED & FRAGRANT Warm and woody like frankincense, this scent is packed with allure. **Giorgio Armani** Prive Bois D'Encens Eau de Parfum, \$240 (100 mL), at Holt Renfrew and Hudson's Bay 3. GOLDEN GLORY This

stunning necklace gives any outfit the Midas touch. **Express** necklace, \$35, [express.com](#) 4. GOLD DUST Show off your nails with the ultimate in golden shimmer. **Essie** Nail Polish in Shifting Power, \$10, at salons and drugstores 5. PRECIOUS METALS Made of gold-plated brass, this bracelet is totally gift-worthy. **Jenny Bird** bracelet, \$85, [jenny-bird.com](#)

—NATASHA BRUNO. PHOTOGRAPHY: ADRIAN ARMSTRONG



ASK JEANNE

Dear Jeanne, Out and about doing last-minute shopping, I see lots of sales have already started. In your experience, what should I buy now, and what should I wait to be reduced further? —Sandy

DEAR SANDY: As tempting as so many of the sales are right now, my rule of thumb is to wait until right after Christmas for the big bargains, if you can. If it's limited in quantity, grab it now, but there are always items that are reduced even further once the craziness of Christmas dies down. Some stores even sell products at a loss just so they can generate sales, and those deals are truly incredible.

I find that many traditional gift items, like perfumes, cosmetics, lingerie, accessories—and glitzy fashion fare that you'd wear to holiday parties—are reduced even further after Christmas, or just before, if you don't mind the stress of doing your present-shopping right down to the wire. Of course, there are no rules here; you just never know. Anything with a holiday sort of theme, like candles, tableware, blankets and perhaps sleepwear is reduced even further once gift-giving time draws to an end.

Jewellery is usually greatly reduced in January, as are fitness products, with so many people resolving to get into shape once the holidays are over. January is the big month for white sales, should you be in the market for linens. If it's fab winter wear you're craving, and you can hold on until just after Christmas, that really would be the time to go for it. But if you're looking to score something before Christmas, even waiting 'til the last weekend before the holiday would be your best bet.

I think what becomes increasingly tough is resisting all those appealing products and prices out there. It is mandatory to make a list and stick to it, or you might suffer from what I call "Santa Syndrome." (You've decided to get new makeup brushes for your sister, but then you see a lovely cosmetics bag on sale...and all of a sudden, you've got a bigger, double-barrelled gift.) That kind of overspending really can wreak havoc with your budget, regardless of all the great deals you may be getting.

The most important thing is not to start kicking yourself when you've already shopped and then see prices start to drop even more. Buying presents for loved ones should be as much of a joy as giving and receiving them!

Send questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Jeanne Beker is a contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of *Fashion Television Channel*. Follow on Twitter @Jeanne_Beker

JOE FRESH LACE PRINT SLEEP SET, \$29, [JOEFRESH.COM](#)



Bagged it

It's been a banner year for Alexa Chung. On the heels of her first book, *It*, and a makeup collection with Eyeko, this Brit It girl will be the new face of French leather goods brand Longchamp. The ex-TV presenter follows in the footsteps of another famous English rose, Kate Moss, who held the title for four years. —Brooke Halnan



Say cheese

Holt Renfrew is giving the holiday portrait a tech-savvy makeover with its Samsung photo studio. Shoppers can step inside, and snap a selfie (or two) for the chance to be featured in Holt's Northern Noel-themed windows throughout the season and win prizes, to boot. —B.H.

radar

The style news that got us talking this week

Lagerfeld hits London

When we're talking about Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld, bigger is always better. The designer has announced his first Lagerfeld store opening in London—and it's going to clock in at 2,700 sq. ft., making it the label's largest European boutique yet. The store will open in March and will feature dressing rooms where shoppers can take photos of themselves with filters inspired by Lagerfeld, as well as a digital guest book that lets customers leave a message for the Kaiser himself. —B.H.



JESSICA BIEL IN ELIE SAAB

An Aldo oligarchy

Step aside, Steve Madden. Aldo has replaced the fashion footwear brand to become online shoe retailer ShoeMint's long-term manufacturing partner, taking an equity stake in ShoeMint's parent company, BeachMint. The e-commerce site has big plans such as increasing its inventory from about 10 styles per month to 30. You'd better raise your shoe allowance; you're going to need it! —B.H.


Making the grade

It's an unusual collaboration: Famed red-carpet couturier Elie Saab is teaming up with London College of Fashion for a degree. The Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Design will be offered at the Lebanese American University, at the Beirut and Byblos campuses. The program will start in September 2014, leaving you just enough time to get your application in. —B.H.

CUTE & CURATED

These small, local boutiques gave us a major case of I-want-it-all, so we asked the owners to pick out the best things in their stores

BY VANESSA TAYLOR



183 LINCOLN ST.,
LUNENBURG, N.S.


Dots & Loops Handmade

THE CURATOR: Melanie Strong


THE STORE: Affordable and adorable, clean graphics and beautiful function.

THE GOODS: “We have a special love for anything to do with cats—you’ll find shirts, totes, jewellery, mugs, cards, prints, belt buckles, bags, books and more with every manner of feline.”


TWITTER @DOTSLOOPSSHOP
INSTAGRAM @DOTSANDLOOPS
SHOP IT DOTSANDLOOPS.CA



TOP TEA TOWELS
Hand printed on linen, these beautiful tea towels will satisfy your mom’s inner farmer. **BESPOKE UPRISING CENTURY FARM TEA TOWELS**, \$36




PURRFECT STUDS
These tiny kitty heads are the best gift for cat ladies of all ages. **FAZ EARRINGS**, \$18




BIKE LOVERS
The perfect gift for the avid cyclist (or engineer) on your list—dads, boyfriends and brothers will love it. **HELLODAYLIGHT EXPLODED BIKE TEES**, \$30

PATTERN PARTY
A printed silk chiffon scarf will be Mom’s favourite gift. **LEAH DUNCAN PRINTED SCARVES**, FROM \$70





GENTLEMEN’S GROOMING KIT
Mineral-rich sea salt is an age-old tonic for dry skin. Pair it with anchor hankies to complete the package. **SWEDISH DREAM SEA SALT SOAP**, \$7, **RC BOISJOLI ANCHOR HANKIES**, \$18



BEAUTY BAG
These screen-printed leather clutches are handmade in small quantities in Toronto. **FALCONWRIGHT BAG**, \$68



405 RONCESVALLES AVE., TORONTO

Scout

THE CURATOR: Leah Eyles

THE STORE: A small gift shop specializing in indie Canadian designers with a smattering of international designs.

THE GOODS: “Beautiful letterpress cards, handmade jewellery, unique housewares and handbags, as well as specially selected items for babies.”

WEBSITE IHEARTSCOUT.COM
TWITTER/INSTAGRAM @IHEARTSCOUT
FACEBOOK /IHEARTSCOUT
SHOP IT SHOPCASTER.COM/SCOUT

2541 MAIN ST.,
VANCOUVER



Much & Little

THE CURATOR: Sarah Savoy

THE STORE: A treasure trove of a shop that focuses on well-made, hand-crafted items.

THE GOODS: “We carry housewares and home goods, women’s clothing, personal accessories—gifts for pretty much everyone who appreciates simple, thoughtful design.”

WEBSITE MUCHANDLITTLE.COM
TWITTER @MUCHLITTleshop
INSTAGRAM MUCHLITTleshop
SHOP IT 604-709-9034



WAX LYRICAL
Hand-poured soy candles (made from sustainably harvested soybeans) smell divine and will impress your boss. **SYDNEY HALE CANDLES**, \$30



HOT COLLAR
This leather collar will make your furry friend the best-dressed dog on the block. **LEATHER AND BRASS DOG COLLARS**, FROM \$40



web
Browse through 15 great gift ideas for the guys in your life at thekit.ca/guys-gifts/

CLASSY SHAVE
This classic wooden brush and stand set feels as good as it looks. **OLIVE WOOD SHAVING BRUSH AND STAND**, \$80

ONLINE SHOPPING DEADLINES

There’s still time to shop the internet! Read on for the last-order dates with key e-tailers to make sure your gifts arrive before the holidays

CRAFT FARE
From home decor to jewellery to stationery, **Brika** celebrates modern craft makers and offers an assortment of goods that deliver a personal touch. **GIFT WRAP?** Free wrapping in brown tissue, with a notecard. **SHOP BY:** Dec. 15 from Canadian makers, at brika.com

THE ONE-STOP SHOP
Reading material isn’t the only thing you’ll find at **Indigo**, the book-meets-lifestyle store. Load up on ornaments, slogan-embazoned trinkets and baby wear. **GIFT WRAP?** Free gift wrapping. **SHOP BY:** Dec. 16 for Canadian premium shipments, Dec. 22 for next-day delivery in major urban centres, indigo.ca

FASHION FIX
Runway trends hit **Zara** racks before models leave the catwalk. Pick up a cute clutch or shimmering scarf for an on-trend gift your girlfriend will love all year. **GIFT WRAP?** Free shipping on orders over \$50 and eco-friendly packaging. **SHOP BY:** Dec. 16, zara.com

CANADIAN COOL
The international brand with Canadian roots (it was founded in Vancouver!), trendy **Aritzia** will keep even the fussiest niece happy. **GIFT WRAP?** They don’t gift wrap but all purchases come tissue-wrapped and boxed. **SHOP BY:** Ontario, Dec. 19; Quebec, Dec. 19; Alberta, Dec. 19; B.C., Dec. 19, for air shipping, aritzia.com

CHICEST CHAIN
Outdo the man in red with chunky knits and dazzling dresses from **J.Crew**. **GIFT WRAP?** Get up to four items gift wrapped for \$5; add a personalized message for free. **SHOP BY:** Dec. 16, jcrew.com

DECADENCE DELIVERED
Leading luxury retailer, **Net-A-Porter** delivers high-fashion clothing and accessories for every fashionista. **GIFT WRAP?** Complementary gift wrapping. **SHOP BY:** Dec. 19, net-a-porter.com

—BROOKE HALNAN

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Holiday BEAUTY

BOURJOIS
PARIS

Arrestingly perfect Bourjois Paris gift sets will put a sparkle in someone's eye—or add a little glamour to your own look.

THE LICENSE TO KISS SET

Not that you need any help under the mistletoe, but iconic **Bourjois Paris Effet 3D Lip Gloss** now shines through in miniature format. Treat your lips to go-anywhere, do-anything 3D volume and shine—with deep hydration that lasts up to eight hours. Don't be surprised when your plumped-up pout has them circling back for more.



\$14.99

THE HIGHLIGHT & DEFINE SET

Capture the magic of the season by playing with shadow and light. This limited-edition eye-enhancing Bourjois Paris set includes four double-ended **Khol & Contour Pencils** in Black/White, Pink/Grey, Blue/Silver and Brown/Caramel. That's eight shades for the price of four! Sculpt, shape and layer to your heart's content. The smooth, hypoallergenic formula lasts for up to 16 hours.



\$19.99

TOP TIP

Variations are endless when you outline the inner and outer corners of the eye or layer the colours over your whole lid.

THE DECADES OF BEAUTY SET

Take a trip back in time with this limited-edition Bourjois Paris beauty fantasy that brings the time-honoured traditions of this 150-year-old brand racing up to meet the present. Definitive luxury, pure glamour.

Souvenir De La Poudre De Riz De Java is reinterpreted with today's technology—a high-performance illuminating loose powder and an instant collectors' item.

Little Round Pot Eye Shadow in Beige Paillette is derived from the exclusive Bourjois Paris 1863 formula—fine, soft and beautifully blendable.

Little Round Pot Blush Cendre de Rose transforms your face with an ultrafine pressed powder that is chic, iconic and collectible.

Effet 3D Rouge Democratic brings long-lasting, enriched shine to glossy, plumped-up lips.

Volume Glamour Max Mascara is enriched with black pearl extract for deep black, luminous lashes with visibly boosted volume.

Queen Attitude Khol Kajal Liner is cone-shaped for precision, giving you a smooth, intense and perfect line.

Mini Nail Polish 1863 celebrates the beginning of the Bourjois Paris legend in a limited-edition mini nail polish.



\$39.99

Exclusively at

SHOPPERS
DRUG MART

the edit

web Get more striking ideas at thekit.ca



CRYSTAL CLUTCHES

Sure, good things come in small packages—but lavish textures and beautiful beadwork help —INGRIE WILLIAMS



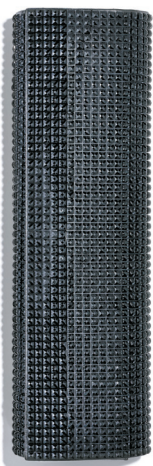
RETRO REBEL

Wherever you are on the punk-to-princess spectrum, criss-crossed chains with showgirl sparkle are an irresistible combo. **Rodo bag**, \$1,450, davidsfootwear.com



GOLDEN GIRL

Thanks to a faceted form, metallic snakeskin finish and hefty crystal closure, this beauty is amazing from every angle. **Marchesa bag**, \$2,350, holtrenfrew.com



BLACK MAGIC

This black purse beckons, with bold beads that instantly update its classic silhouette. **Aldo bag**, \$50, aldoshoes.com



FLOWER POWER

Blending gold and silver with geometric lines and organic shapes, this beaded clutch is a garden party all on its own. **Rita Tesolin bag**, \$485, ritatesolin.com

one minute miracle



PHOTOSHOP IN A TUBE

This mattifying, pore-shrinking, wrinkle-disguising skin luminizer is a godsend during party season when getting the requisite beauty sleep is a physical impossibility. Whether you're a selfie addict or subject to multiple family photos, pat this on alone or over foundation and you'll always be ready for your close-up.

—ALEX LAWS

Indeed Laboratories Nanoblur, \$20, Shoppers Drug Mart

OUTFIT ENVY

Nikki Reed

Looking comfortable yet elegant, the *Twilight* actress nails a dressy-casual vibe with chic wardrobe separates

—NATASHA BRUNO

why we love it

TEE UPGRADE

Creating a playful statement, this shirt's slight crop, oversized sleeves and appliqué revamp a basic ivory tee.

GO-TO SKINNIES

The ultra-dark wash makes these slim-cut jeans ideal to dress up or down, and the mild distressing adds a dose of cool edge.

EASY DOES IT

Simple jewellery complements the look without competing with the embellishment on the top.

BOXY BEAUTY

This neutral clutch ties in with the overall ensemble and the structured shape looks ultra sleek.

PUMP UP THE WOW

Beige pointed-toe pumps work double duty to elongate the leg and finish off the laid-back outfit.

TIP

Pair a cropped top with a mid to high-rise skinny jean. The higher waist conceals and gives a smoother, longer silhouette.



A CLICK AWAY FROM YOUR CLOSET

OUR FAVOURITE ITEMS FROM E-TAILERS WE LOVE

“This is the kind of shoe I dreamt about as a little girl. It's so delicate and pretty and I love the asymmetrical strap. It's on my list for all the spring events on my calendar: L.K. Bennett is a favourite of the Duchess of Cambridge. She's been photographed wearing them over and over again, proving that style and comfort can go hand in hand.”
—Christine Carlton, co-founder



L.K. Bennett Palma Glitter Knit Asymmetric Sandal, \$375

thekit.ca/theseptember

In collaboration with *The* **SEPTEMBER**

Handmade using genuine leather, this vibrant pouch deserves a place in your purse. Yaling Hou—who holds a degree in textile design and learned to sew at age 10—creates each one in her hometown of San Carlos, California. She encourages people to “view life as a continuous learning experience,” and takes inspiration from her 82-year-old grandmother, who still has an active schedule every day.



Flowie Small Leather Pouch, \$18

thekit.ca/brika

In collaboration with **BRIKA**



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