



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

THE KIT

LESSONS IN GLAMOUR

Take your holiday style cues from Karlie Kloss, a master of red carpet sparkle

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TREND ALERT

MEGA MANI

Nail art goes next level

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MOST WANTED

DRAMA QUEEN

This ultra-refined scent is fit for royalty

page 3



SKINCARE

POWER FACIALS

These supercharged treatments go above and beyond to leave your skin looking #flawless

Total immersion

In Sanskrit, "tulasara" means moving toward balance; during Aveda's 90-minute Tulasara facial, it means approaching bliss. The experience begins with a unique—and intense—form of exfoliation: dry brushing the face to eliminate dead cells. Then it's all about cleansing and correcting, courtesy of specially formulated concentrates featuring licorice extract (to reduce discolouration) and glucosamine (to promote cell turnover). The main event is an ultra-hydrating extravaganza: chilled rose quartz gemstone rollers applied over a radiance mask to encourage antioxidant absorption—and glowy-skin bragging rights. —*Laura deCarufel*
TULASARA DUAL EXFOLIATION FACIAL, \$175, SELECT AVEDA SPAS ACROSS CANADA

Hyper hydrator

This cult French skincare line is all about max results—even if a serum smells like vinegar. Its latest innovation—a 3-D-printed nano-fibre mask patch—was inspired by medical treatments for burn victims. During the new Seconde Peau treatment, these patches are applied to strategically impart doses of pure hyaluronic acid, which gives skin cells marching orders to regenerate, synthesize collagen and smooth wrinkles. The patches are the cherry on top of a full glow-imparting facial, with exfoliating, masking and layers of serums and moisturizers—all applied with cool hands and cold water as per the brand's skin-soothing principles. —*Rani Sheen*
BIOLOGIQUE RECHERCHE SECONDE PEAU TREATMENT, \$300, ONEZONE STUDIO, TORONTO; PH SANTÉ BEAUTÉ, MONTREAL; KOLOR TWIST, CALGARY

Multi-tasker

A veritable buffet of powerful skin tools is deployed in this thorough facial treatment. First you complete a Q & A for the facialist to determine your skin's exact needs and formulate a blend of skincare boosters with peptides, antioxidants and hyaluronic acid. After cleansing, a pro peel is followed by LED treatment in the form of a light-up mask that sits over your face, calibrated to red (to boost firming collagen) or blue (to reduce blemishes). Then a pulsating device is pressed to the face to increase circulation and help with puffiness. Finally, cryotherapy in the form of cold wands are rolled around the eyes and forehead to reduce inflammation and tone the skin. Your wrinkles won't know what hit them. —*RS*
CLARINS SPA MY BLEND, \$230, RITZ-CARLTON TORONTO

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Dressing For The Holidays

The holiday season is the most stylish—and busiest—time of the year. Be prepared: Curate a gorgeous jewellery wardrobe so you always have the perfect finishing touch. Play with pops of gold for a chic office party look; dress up your New Year's Eve LBD with glam earrings; add relaxed elegance to a family gathering with refined silver statement pieces. After all, once your style is sorted, you can focus on having fun.

New Year's



1. **Three wishes for you** Black labradorite, amazonite, pink quartz and antique silver tone plating. \$125. 2. **Serein** ring in stainless steel adorned with pearls from Swarovski®. \$75. 3. **Parla** pearl long earring. \$95. 4. **Allure** wallet in genuine leather from Italy. Pebbled and pony effect in black and leopard with gold tone plating. \$195.



Model wears the **Genèse** sliding two rows necklace, \$225.

Office Party



1. **Lifestyle** stainless steel watch with gold tone plating and two leather straps. \$225. 2. **Rose des vents** gold tone plating star earrings. \$55. 3. **Alchimie** pyrite and antique gold tone plating 16" & 30" necklace. \$275. 4. **Desiree** silver and gold tone plating bracelet. \$75. 5. **Milady** 3 in 1 choker; can be worn as a bracelet, a necklace or an anklet. Leather and antique gold tone plating. \$65.



Model wears the **Nightlife** clutch with fringe, suede and Italian leather. \$345.

Family Dinner



1. **Complice** Tote in genuine leather from Italy. Pebbled and suede effect. Decorative removable leather tassel. \$295. 2. **Reflet** cubics zirconias and stainless steel ring. \$65. 3. **Skyline** stainless steel watch. \$225. 4. **Opulence** leather and antique silver tone plating choker. \$135. 5. **Apocalypse** black labradorite and antique silver tone plating bracelet. \$175.



Designer Caroline Neron wears the **Apocalypse** multi-row necklace with Swarovski® crystals and labradorite. \$495.



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CAROLINENERON.COM

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MOST WANTED

Precious pleasures

In the words of Drake: “Walk into the room and you can smell the Clive Christian scent.” Canada’s finest musical export knows quality when he smells it: The intricate, intense and expensive perfumes from this British house, originally named Crown Perfumery, first earned royal approval in the 19th century when Queen Victoria allowed them to be topped with a replica of her crown. When Scottish interior designer Clive Christian revived and renamed the company in 1999, he committed to making pure perfumes (no eaux de toilette, no colognes) and prioritizing natural ingredients. The newest, Cosmos Flower, was inspired by the gardens at Christian’s 300-year-old Queen-Anne-style country home, which he has filled with heirloom plants. The perfume’s

196 notes—some floral (jasmine, osmanthus), some gourmand (cocoa, plum)—release over the day for an ever-evolving olfactory experience. “As a broad rule, if nature gives it easily, it will come off your skin easily, and if it doesn’t, it will come off slowly,” says Christian, explaining that citrus is easily extracted; benzoin and sandalwood are more difficult. So while the price may be in the vicinity of a medium-haul flight, this symphony of scent will work hard to earn its keep. “Perfume is a bit like music,” says Christian. “If you’re not keen on opera and you go to the opera, you think, ‘This is okay.’ But if you start to understand the meaning behind it, you become a devotee.” —Rani Sheen. Photography by Hamin Lee



CLIVE CHRISTIAN COSMOS FLOWER PERFUME, \$688 (50 ML), SAKS FIFTH AVENUE



PROFILE

LASTING IMPRESSION

YouTube sensation Lizzie Velasquez on what beauty means to her

Lizzie Velasquez always leads with the positives. But as a 27-year-old woman with neonatal progeroid syndrome, a condition that affects her heart, bones and eyes and prevents her from gaining weight, she is no stranger to the type of bullying that dashes sunny outlooks—at 17 years old, she discovered a random YouTube video calling her “the world’s ugliest woman.”

Since that difficult day, the motivational speaker from Austin, Texas, has been determined to help others foster their self-esteem by sharing her story through TedX Talks, documentaries and books, and working with brands like Secret on anti-bullying campaigns. “Developing my self-confidence took many years and I think that’s perfectly okay,” she says with a shrug. “Some days are harder than others. That’s the time to show it’s possible to love yourself. You have to be the one to make that decision.”

Surprisingly, Velasquez has welcomed social media and the internet with open arms (she has more than 732,000 followers on YouTube) despite the fact that those platforms are well-known breeding grounds for nasty comments. The comment sections for her pictures and videos about her day-to-day activities are still peppered with attacks on her appearance, but she’s noticed that, increasingly, others are speaking up when digital punches get thrown. “The negative comments are there, but other people are saying, ‘Maybe you shouldn’t say these things to her—or to others.’”

Also tucked into the comments: compliments about Velasquez’s makeup, so she started making Get Ready with Me videos, during which she chats and does her makeup, taking a breather from the heavy stuff. “We can put these layers of makeup on and put all these different clothes on,” she says, “but when we go to bed at night we’re just the person we were born to be.” —Veronica Saroli



FROM LEFT: SECRET CLINICAL DEODORANT, \$10, DRUGSTORES; NARS VELVET LIP GLIDE IN TOY, \$34, NARSCOSMETICS.COM; TARTE RAINFOREST OF THE SEA EYESHADOW PALETTE, \$47, SEPHORA.CA

FASHION INSIDER

RAZZLE-DAZZLE ’EM

Meet the Angel making waves on the runway

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA

When model Jasmine Tookes scored a spot in the Victoria’s Secret show, she had no idea she had been given the honour of wearing the Fantasy Bra (and there’s an awe-turned-into-tears reaction video to prove it). This year’s iteration of the multi-million-dollar negligee, which notoriously closes the show, was dreamed up by cool-girl-favourite jewellery designer Eddie Borgo. We chatted with Tookes, the 25-year-old California native, weeks before she jetted off to Paris for the show—which airs on Global on December 5—about her runway inspirations and her mega-famous friends.

What was the first thought that went through your head when you found out you’d be wearing the Fantasy Bra? “I had absolutely no idea it would be me, so I just went into complete shock. I became very emotional and then I had to call my mom.”

What did she say when you called? “I actually FaceTimed her with Ed [Razek, chief marketing officer for Victoria’s Secret] and she was like ‘Why is Jasmine calling me with Ed on the line? Did she do something wrong?’ [laughs] And he said, ‘Guess what? Your daughter gets to wear the Fantasy Bra!’ and she just cried for a couple of hours.”

Who was the first Angel that really wowed you? “Definitely Tyra Banks. I was actually watching old Victoria’s Secret shows on YouTube last night—from 2000 to 2007—and she’s someone who really stood out to me. Her walk was fierce, and she was such a powerful force on the runway.”

You and your fellow Angels like Josephine Skriver, Romee Strijd and Taylor Hill have your own girl gang. What are your favourite things to do together?

“We haven’t done this in a while, but we used to have date nights at my house every Tuesday night and do a little Taco Tuesday. We would all sit around and play games like Monopoly or card games. Romee is amazing with food, so she always cooks up some healthy meals.”

Do you have any pre-runway rituals? “There’s so much going on backstage, so I really try to stay in my own head and blur everything around me. Then I take a few deep breaths, relax and tell myself that it’ll be such an amazing moment.”



Model Jasmine Tookes displaying the VS \$3M Fantasy Bra.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: H HALSTON SHOES, \$180, DRESS, \$149, THEBAY.COM; LINKS OF LONDON EARRINGS, \$2,195, LINKSOFLONDON.COM; TED BAKER LONDON JACKET, \$505, TEDBAKER.COM

PRO PICKS

ALL DRESSED UP

Get the perfect party look in three easy steps

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA

Party invites piling up and nothing to wear? We turned to Cameron Silver, fashion director at H Halston and founder of Los-Angeles-based vintage couture store Decades, to help build a totally chic holiday outfit in three simple steps.

1. Go heavy metal “Sparkle is a great way to celebrate the season without having too many bells and whistles. You want to make an entrance, but also invest in pieces that will have longevity, like a pleated lamé skirt. It could be paired with a cashmere twin set or a little tank top and faux-fur chubby. You’re buying something from the season that’s seasonless.”

2. Add a touch of bling “If you’re wearing lamé or Lurex for evening, throw in extra

drama with exaggerated accessories. I love a woman in giant hoops, like Jody Watley in the early ’80s, but a smaller pair never goes out of style. A chandelier earring is also terrific if you’re feeling like wearing a little black dress. Embellished accessories are your conversation starters, so you don’t want to compete with them too much.”

3. Step it up “I’m a big fan of sexy flats. If I were a woman, I wouldn’t want to have to wear heels! I like the idea of a dressier flat, a slipper or a menswear-inspired brogue. In the winter, it’s nice to turn to an ankle boot with an embellished block heel, too. You could wear these with jeans or a knit dress—you’ll be able to wear them a lot of ways.”

BEAUTY DAILY SHOW

Give the holiday season a repeated dose of joy with advent calendars created with grown-ups in mind



CHARLOTTE TILBURY CHARLOTTE’S LEGENDARY PARTIES, \$250, NORDSTROM



SAJE 12 DAYS OF WELLNESS, \$90, SAJE.CA



NYX PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP, \$75, NYX



DIPTYQUE, \$525, HOLT RENFREW



ARTDECO, \$86, SHOPPERS DRUG MART



BENEFIT GIRL O’CLOCK ROCK, \$59, MURALE



THE BODY SHOP 24 HAPPY DAYS, \$169, THEBODYSHOP.CA



SQUISH CANDIES HELLO 2017!, \$35, SQUISHCANDIES.COM

GIFT GUIDE

Ultimate holiday wish list

We polled four of the most stylish women in Canada to find out what they’re asking for this season—get inspired!

BY NATASHA BRUNO



Brittanny Ann Wachter, 29
Fashion designer and creative director of Brit Wachter, Montreal



Amy Rosen, mid-forties
Journalist, cookbook author and owner of Rosen’s Cinnamon Buns, Toronto



Surinder Bains, 62
Founder and owner of Miraj Hammam Spa, Vancouver



Devon Fiddler, 28
Founder and designer of SheNative Goods, Saskatoon

Best gift you’ve ever given			
“Custom garments and leather-bound books for my loved ones. I love making gifts to give to people.”	“Restaurant gift certificates to places I know people will love. I always include menu suggestions so they don’t have to think too hard.”	“Home scent fragrances by Esteban Collection Paris. There is nothing more welcoming for your Christmas guests than these delicious scents.”	“We gave a white and black SheNative Bucket Bag to my grandmother from our first collection.”
Ultimate holiday indulgence			
“Relaxing with my sweet family and baking and cooking.”	“I literally don’t stop eating chocolate for the entire month of December.”	“Oysters from the Brittany coast with my favourite champagne from Reims. Veuve Clicquot is typically on reserve.”	“Sugar cookies.”
Fave holiday tradition			
“I love winter adventures: being outdoors and taking in the beauty of my surroundings. It’s a great time to relax and enjoy where the year has brought you.”	“Making (then eating) latkes.”	“Perusing the magnificent Christmas windows at Galeries Lafayette in Paris before purchasing a block of Fauchon foie gras.”	“Christmas Eve dinner with my family.”
Top holiday cocktail			
“Mulled wine, extra spicy!”	“I also literally don’t stop drinking for the entire month of December.”	“Kir Royale.”	“Christmas sangria: white wine, ginger beer, apple cider, brandy, a few pears, plus oranges and pomegranate arils.”
Restorative beauty treatment you swear by			
“I love reiki! Also, infrared sauna and yoga.”	“Every winter, I head to Body Blitz (471 Adelaide St. W.) with a couple of my gal pals to catch up and take in the soothing waters.”	“Hammam and Gommage at Miraj Hammam Spa—and a thalassotherapy cure at my favourite spa on the island of Djerba off the coast of Tunisia.”	“I use a DIY coconut oil and honey face mask.”
Most memorable holiday moment			
“Midnight bonfires and skating on the farm with my little brother.”	“Spending time at the cottage with my extended family and walking out toward the ice shacks on a frozen Lake Simcoe.”	“Having an early dinner on Christmas Day with my Vancouver family, then leaving that evening for Paris and celebrating Boxing Day with my French family— <i>magnifique!</i> ”	“Sledding in northern Saskatchewan’s gorgeous Patuanak for the first time in 2010, and getting beautiful handmade beaded gauntlets for Christmas.”

HAIR HEAD MISTRESS

Just in time for holiday hair season, the reigning queen of celeb hairstylists, Jen Atkin, lets us in on her top five tips

BY RANI SHEEN

Meeting Jen Atkin in the flesh is somewhat unnerving, like seeing a Snapchat feed come to life—if you’re one of the millions who’ve watched countless hours (literally) of her streamed cell-phone videos from, say, Kendall Jenner’s living room or on set with Chrissy Teigen. Warm and chatty, Atkin documents the behind-the-scenes fun as she whips her clients’ hair into effort- less-seeming beach waves, just-so high ponies or gorgeously tousled low buns. A savvy business- woman, she’s spun her success into a product line, Ouai, a collection of hair accessories with jewellery brand Chloe and Isabel and a consulting partner- ship with Dyson, the esteemed home-gadget brand that recently entered the beauty space with its Supersonic hairdryer. When we meet to chat in the corner of an extremely loud, buzzy party in New York, held to fete said hairdryer (her Snapchat feed is full of playful clips starring a bemused Sir James Dyson), Atkin’s own hair is the embodiment of her signature style: centre-parted, lank but not flat, with just enough bend in the lengths. “Oh, I just got rained on,” she says. “And I actually only blow-dried the very top of it.” Effortless style, indeed. Read on for more of Atkin’s low-key hair wisdom.

- 1. Behind every party hairstyle is a great blow-dry** “My favourite thing to do is to get the hair nice and smooth, add some hairspray, and then blow-dry over that hairspray. You’re setting it, so you don’t have to deal with fly-aways. It makes a difference.”
- 2. Your hair dryer’s diffuser nozzle is your friend** “My generation was about curls, but you can actu-

ally achieve that effortless bend with a diffuser. The combo of mousse and hairspray with the diffuser is like heaven. You’d be surprised what your hair can do. I put the mousse on damp hair from root to end, and then for girls that want a little more balance, I do the wave spray from the shaft to ends. Then I take random pieces and do a flat-iron bend.”

3. Hair accessories can be simple and chic “I did a hair accessories line with Chloe and Isabel—easy things like circle clips that you can throw in your purse and dress your hair easily. I love the bun cover—that’s really cute: If your hair is really flat, you can push it to the side and it keeps your hair to one side, which gives the illusion of more hair.”

4. A sleek look doesn’t have to sacrifice volume “I love straight hair. How you do it depends on your hair type: If you have coarse hair, you’d want to use a finishing cream after you blow-dry, but if you have very thin hair, then you’d want to use a volumizing product. I actually use wave spray to give more volume on a blowout.”

5. When you’re styling your hair a lot, you have to take care of it “I tell my clients who get their hair blow-dried on a regular basis to make sure to take care of it, whether it’s with coconut oil or the Ouai treatment mask. It’s about making sure you add moisture to your hair because women over-dry our hair. If you’re going for a waved or curly look, you only need to dry it 75 to 80 per cent.”

JEN ATKIN’S TOOL KIT
OUAI SOFT HAIRSPRAY, \$32, SEPHORA.CA. DYSON SUPERSONIC HAIRDRYER, \$500, THEBAY.COM. CHLOE AND ISABEL BUN CUFF, \$63, CHLOEANDISABEL.COM



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE
Dear Bioderma Atoderm Huile De Douche: The battle between this season’s freezing outdoor temperatures and constant indoor heat makes my skin super dry, but thanks to you, this winter won’t be getting the best of me. When I apply your silky shower oil to my face and body, your coconut- and sunflower-derived ingredients provide all the moisturizing reinforcement I need. The best part is, your light scent and barrier-repairing formula is gentle enough for my ultra-sensitive skin. Truth be told, you’ve washed away my winter blues.
Happily yours, Carly Ostroff

BIODERMA ATODERM HUILE DE DOUCHE, \$20, DRUGSTORES

STAR SPOTTING
If you follow Jen Atkin on Instagram (@jenatkinhair), you know that she’s responsible for some of the most followed heads of hair in the world. We asked her about some recent inspo-worthy shots.

Jessica Alba “If you go to #nomorehairdents, you will get so much inspiration. Every day there are pictures of Jessica Alba with two of my gold circle clips.”

Chrissy Teigen “We were trying to go for a retro look for a skit she was doing. I pulled out the diffuser, some mousse and a little retro curling iron. People ended up loving it.”

Bella Hadid “For a sleek ponytail, like the one I did last night for Bella, the blow-dry is important. There’s a difference when she does a pony herself.”

A-list Atkin clients, clockwise from top: Cara Delevingne, Kendall Jenner and Lily Collins.

ESSENTIAL HOLIDAY BEAUTY

This season, give yourself the gift of effortless glamour



KISS THIS

If more is merrier, Yves Saint Laurent Beauté's multitasking two-in-one lip and cheek mousses will be the jolliest must-have on your wish list. **Yves Saint Laurent** Babydoll Kiss & Blush 23 Rose Imprudent and 22 Pêche Irréverent, \$45 each



HAUTE HOLIDAYS

Revamp your party look in a flash this season with Bobbi Brown's va-va-voom golden shadows and rosy lips. **Bobbi Brown** Party to Go Lip & Eye Palette, \$50

UNDER THE MISTLETOE

From gold-flecked and goddess-like to darkly sensual, Lipstick Queen has the perfect shade to suit any holiday party mood. **Lipstick Queen** lipsticks in Sinner Deep Red, Bête Noire Possessed Intense, Ice Queen and Saint Deep Red, from \$32



HOMME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

L'Homme Prada is the perfect gift for the man in your life. Neroli and patchouli mix with Prada's signature notes of iris and amber to create an irresistible scent. L'Homme **Prada** Eau de Toilette, \$118 (100ml)



SHE LOVES ME

Certain scents leave an impression. Such is the case for La Femme Prada, which blends together ylang-ylang, vanilla and tuberose for a memorable floral finish. **Prada** La Femme Eau de Parfum, \$165 (100ml)



ALL HANDS ON DECK

Reach for Deborah Lippmann's brilliant kit to easily create the ultimate holiday manicure. **Deborah Lippmann** Manicure Essentials Kit, \$68



BETTER TOGETHER

Foreo's trio of skin care essentials makeup for late holiday nights by targeting crow's feet and under eye bags, while also cleansing impurities. **FOREO** Pamper Yourself Beauty Essentials IRIS, LUNA play + Gel Cooling Eye Mask, \$159



CELESTIAL SCENT

With notes of tropical fruit, caramel and bergamot, Mugler's Angel Shooting Star is nothing short of heavenly. **Thierry Mugler** Angel Shooting Star, \$138 (50ml)



BURNING UP

Fill your home with with the enchanting notes of pomegranate, pine, cinnamon and vanilla that mingle in Nest's seasonal scented candle. **NEST** Fragrances Holiday Scented Classic Candle, \$56

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by **SHOPPERS DRUG MART**



TREND ALERT

Rock on

Out-of-this-world crystals and stones are powering the next wave of nail art

BY RANI SHEEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HAMIN LEE | MANICURES BY RITA REMARK

THE LOOK ROSE QUARTZ
Promotes self-esteem, trust, love

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint translucent pink base. 2. Mix pink polish with acetone on foil; dab on nails. 3. Repeat step 2 with white polish. 4. Paint thin white veins with striping brush. 5. Top with coat of sheer white. 6. Finish with matte topcoat such as Essie Matte about You.

ALYNNE LAVIGNE RING, \$220, ALYN-NELAVIGNE.COM. EXPRESS JUMPSUIT, \$90, EXPRESS.COM

Crystals are beautiful, mesmerizing and have the power to make our day—and so does a fresh manicure. Rita Remark, lead nail artist for Essie Canada and the brand’s lead global educator, has been meditating on this connection for a while. “I started to see rocks and crystals everywhere, whether it was a marble countertop or a necklace with a beautiful crystal on it,” she says, while on set in Toronto for this shoot. “Whenever I see a pattern forming, I have to copy it onto nails.”

Remark, 28, was introduced to the power of crystals when friends gave her a rose quartz to help her feel grounded while working amid the frenzy of New York Fashion Week. Now on her eighth season, she works with designers such as Band of Outsiders, Wes Gordon and Jonathan Simkhai to dream up the nail looks for their shows. She was also a backstage fixture at dearly departed Toronto Fashion Week. “Toronto is my home,” she says. “I really had a comfort zone with the designers—it was like family.”

Wherever she’s working, Remark is always looking to move her craft forward. “A lot of nail art is high-contrast and intentionally jarring—this is more subtle,” she says. “It’s also like a wink-wink to something that’s natural—some people only like ‘natural’ nails. Crystals are as natural as it gets.” These looks are surprisingly easy to DIY because the designs are haphazard and imperfect. “If one nail has more gold than another, it really doesn’t matter,” says Remark. “It feels right.”



THE LOOK HOWLITE (above left)
Promotes awareness and stress-release

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint cream base. 2. Use a striping brush to paint very thin wavy black veins overtop. 3. Finish with shiny topcoat.

BAZZUL DRESS, \$275, BAZZUL.COM. BEAUFILLE RING, \$350, SALES@BEAUFILLE.COM



THE LOOK TURQUOISE (above right)
Promotes luck, protection, self-acceptance

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint aqua base, such as Essie In the Cabana. 2. Sponge on metallic teal and pastel green splotches. 3. Add a few drops of taupe polish to a cup of water, and spray with hairspray. 4. Dip each finger in, pull out, allow to dry. 5. Clean up cuticles and skin with remover. 6. Finish with matte topcoat.

BAZZUL DRESS, \$275, BAZZUL.COM. MARMOD8 RING, \$90, ETSY.COM/SHOP/MARMOD8

THE LOOK AMETHYST GEODE (right)
Promotes inner peace, balance, intuition

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint sheer lilac base. 2. On separate pieces of foil, mix dollops of deep purple, grey and off-white polish with drops of acetone. 3. Dab purple mixture on with paintbrush. 4. Add flecks of grey and off-white. 5. Paint full coat of sheer pink. 6. Use tweezers to apply uneven pieces of gold leaf. 7. Finish with topcoat.

MELANIE AULD BRACELET, \$170, MELANIEAULD.CA. MEJURI RING, \$130, MEJURI.COM

ALL CRYSTALS COURTESY OF THE RUSSIAN STONE, THERUSSIANSTONE.COM



THE LOOK AGATE
Promotes healing, confidence, courage

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint grey base, such as Essie Chinchilly. 2. Dab black blob near edge of each nail. 3. Trace outline of each blob with thin off-white and pale blue lines. 4. Follow with thick wavy white line, thin navy, thick off-white and thin pale blue lines. 5. Dab gold glitter polish over black. 6. Cover with matte topcoat; sprinkle white sugar on top of white polish.

JENNY BIRD BRACELET, \$75, JENNY-BIRD.CA



THE LOOK ANGEL AURA QUARTZ
Promotes energy, balance, wisdom

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint clear base. 2. Add one coat sheer pink. 3. While it’s tacky, use tweezers to press on tiny triangles of iridescent gift wrap. 4. Repeat steps 2 and 3. 5. Finish with glitter topcoat, such as Essie Sparkle on Top.

THE LOOK ABALONE SHELL (above left)
Promotes compassion, gentleness, peace

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint black base. 2. Dab with iridescent charcoal, pearly pink, mauve, teal, rose gold and lime. 3. Use a striping brush to paint wavy black lines overtop. 4. Finish with shiny topcoat.

JOHN + JENN TOP, \$150, JOHNANDJENN COLLECTION.COM

THE LOOK PYRITE (above right)
Promotes wealth, power, vitality

HOW TO DO IT 1. Paint one coat of copper, such as Essie Penny Talk. 2. Cover with topcoat and use tweezers to press on pieces of tarnished gold leaf from a craft store. 3. Add another layer of shiny topcoat.

DANIEL CHRISTIAN TANG RING, \$100, DANIELCHRISTIANTANG.COM

All that glitters

Turn up the holiday decadence with these party-ready looks



AFTER-WORK COCKTAILS

Bring the drama with ultra-feminine details in spades. Think lady-like lace, a sprinkling of sparkle and a plunging neck line—a total head-turning combination.



BLACK-TIE BASH

This sexy take on the season-ubiquitous slip dress pairs perfectly with sculptural extras. Contrast is key with shoulder-dusting earrings and a sweet clutch that doubles as an art piece.



THE OFFICE PARTY

The 9-5 uniform of a bow blouse and micro-pleat skirt has all the makings of a nighttime ensemble with look-at-me accessories and festive hues in the mix.



EXPRESS DRESS, \$98, EXPRESS.COM.
ZARA BAG, \$119, ZARA.COM.
DE BEERS DIAMOND JEWELLERS RING,
\$2,550, DE BEERS DIAMOND
JEWELLERS. CLUB MONACO SHOES,
\$349, CLUBMONACO.CA



TED BAKER TOP, \$329, TEDBAKER.COM.
SCOTCH AND SODA SKIRT, \$159, SCOTCH-SODA.COM.
MARNI BRACELET, \$300, FARFETCH.COM.
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MARC JACOBS
DIVINE DECADENCE



FIRST PERSON

When snow falls

Sometimes fashion offers new ways to dream. Montreal novelist Heather O'Neill remembers a very special Christmas dress

ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA GULSHANI

I was the scruffiest mix-match-dressed kid. I was raised in Montreal by a single dad, and it's very hard to ever look spiffy or feminine when you don't have a mother or much money. I wore ragged hoodies and corduroy pants with patches on the knees. I wore T-shirts that I embellished with iron-on letters. They said things like Rainbows Forever and Unicorns Are People Too. Those were some of my first poems.

But on Christmas, I needed fancier attire. I didn't have a sprawling extended family that descended on the apartment for special occasions. I really only had my dad—but he made such a big deal out of holidays that it made up for our lack of relatives. Once, he left shoe prints made with gold paint leading from the window to the Christmas tree to make it look as though Santa had snuck in. Then he left gold teeth marks on the cookies I'd left out. I held them up in utter awe. Even once I stopped believing in Santa, we still spent hours decorating the apartment with coloured paper garlands, pine-bough wreaths and a set of angels playing the trumpet that we placed on top of the television. But our most respected tradition was dressing up for our Christmas meal.

One year, when I was nine years old, I went into my room to prepare for our feast. I pulled on my wool stockings and immediately felt like a cat burglar. I crept around my room in exaggerated strides like the Pink Panther. If it were up to me, I would have always gone around wearing only tights and an undershirt, like a boy in a Russian dance school.

I didn't often wear a dress. They were difficult to wear in winter under snowsuits. And when the weather was warm, I always seemed to have occasion to be upside down, hanging from the monkey bars or doing cartwheels. That day, though, I took out a white wool dress that had ruffles on the sleeves. My dad had bought it for me at a year-end sale at the Bay the year before. I pulled it over my head and stood in front of the mirror nailed to the wall in my room.

Then I went to my jewellery box, a white plastic miniature armoire, which, when the lid was lifted, began to play the *Moonlight* Sonata. The first notes filled the room, changing the atmosphere the way the few initial snowflakes do. I put my hair up with rose-shaped barrettes I kept in one of the small drawers.

I was delighted with my appearance. I looked like one of the girls from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, like I was waiting for a train to take me off to some rich relative's to live out the war with chain-smoking fauns. I

felt like Madeline from the picture books, waiting for Pepito, the boy who is a very bad hat, to come over.

I headed out to the kitchen to meet my dad, carrying a box with a small giraffe I'd bought him at Jupiter, the five-and-dime store on the corner. The glass animals were one of the few items I could afford, so I had carefully surveyed the menagerie. This one's head looked so lonely at the top of its long neck that I had to bring it home.

On an ordinary day, my dad would be wearing overalls covered in dabs of paint and a pair of rubber boots with newspaper tucked into them for insulation from the cold. He wore a black toque balanced on top of his head. Since he worked as a janitor for a long block of buildings, this was appropriate attire. Around the house, he relaxed in his boxer shorts and undershirt with his socks pulled up to his knees. He got his hair cut in the neighbour's apartment. She was very pretty and always walked around in her bare feet, chain-smoking and complaining about her ex.

But for Christmas, my dad put on an old black suit he kept in a bag the rest of the year, so that moths wouldn't destroy it. He also had a suitcase filled with colourful ties.

He had bought them when he was a young man—when he believed he had all sorts of possible futures. This year, he had chosen a dark blue tie with sparrows that he wore over a shirt with butterfly collars. His cologne made him smell like expensive candy.

Getting dressed up lightened my dad's mood. He put a pot of mashed potatoes on the stove, then did a jitterbug across the kitchen floor. As he often did when he was happy,

he spoke about all the girls who were crazy about him growing up. A neighbour had told him that he looked like Marlon Brando. When he was 20, a girl told him that he had the bluest eyes in all of Canada.

Our tiny kitchen, with its red-tiled floor and blue melamine table, wasn't usually a place where fancy affairs



happened. But on Christmas Day, it was a ballroom, the Queen's parlour. Christmas always makes one's household the centre of the world. It's as though the star of Bethlehem is right over your house, shining a spotlight on it, whether you live in a mansion in Westmount or a small apartment above a pizza restaurant.

That night, as I stood in my kitchen wearing my blossom-white dress, my dad exclaimed it suited me perfectly. He said that I was the best-dressed kid in the neighbourhood and I put all the other nine-year-olds to shame. It was always his opinion that we had the best of everything, especially on Christmas. He declared that our fake Christmas tree was the most fantastic for miles and that nobody on earth could pry his gravy recipe out of him. I accepted the validity of my dad's claims. I was so impressed with our life on Christmas—I didn't ever want to be anywhere else.

My dad handed me my gift. He'd bought me a small family of mice made out of rabbit fur, all dressed in Edwardian outfits. How wonderful, I thought, the mice had also dressed up for Christmas! I looked at each of the members of the small family in delight. The little girl mouse held a parasol over her head and seemed to gaze straight at me, as though, even though she had been born humble, she expected the world.

“I was delighted with my appearance. I looked like one of the girls from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, like I was waiting for a train to take me off to some rich relative’s to live out the war.”

Q & A

FULL CIRCLE

Aurora James isn't just making shoes—she's making a difference

BY CARLY OSTROFF

Aurora James thinks about karma, juju and those types of things. So it's little surprise the 29-year-old Toronto-born designer travels the world to support local workshops in order to produce Brother Vellies, her collection of ethically conscious handcrafted footwear and accessories, which sells at high-end retailers like Nordstrom. We called up the Brooklyn-based CFDA Vogue Fashion Fund winner to talk about working with Jeanne Beker, getting knocked off by Zara and what's next.

Why did you start the company [in 2013]? “I was travelling in Africa and started paying attention to some of the artisanal work that was being done there. I realized a lot

of people were shutting down their companies and having to go do other work because there wasn't opportunity for them to sustain their cultural techniques. I wanted to find a way to preserve that.”

What's the meaning behind the name? “Vellies is actually South African slang for the word ‘veldskoek,’ which translates to field shoe—a traditional African shoe. It was the very first style I made in Africa, and I wanted to pay homage to that in the name. Then, ‘brother’ was something that started as a joke in the workshop, because when we looked at different traditional shapes in South Africa, they would always say ‘that's from my brother in the north’ or ‘that's from my brothers in Kenya.’”

Your collections' pieces are manufactured all across the world. How do you choose where to make specific items? “I usually try to stick with shoe shapes or artisanal skills that are traditional to that area. For example, our clogs, which are a big part of our fall collection, are hand carved in Morocco from wood that's grown in Morocco. They're carved in Marrakesh and assembled there, so it's just a part of their heritage.

We do a lot of beading work in Kenya, where beading is traditional to the Masai people. I wanted to be able to pay them for doing their traditional artisanal work and to keep that culture alive. I work really closely with them on choosing beading patterns so that they're really excited about it as well.”

Why do you believe in manufacturing from beginning to end instead of line production? “We really try to make sure that everyone we work with knows how to make an entire shoe from beginning to end. You can take a lot of things away from someone, but the one thing you can never take away from them is education. Knowing that the people in our workshops have the skills to make an entire shoe, means that regardless of whatever happens to me or to my company, God forbid, they will be able to go on and do something entrepreneurial on their own. A couple of people have ended up leaving our workshops and starting their own projects, which I'm incredibly proud of.”

One of your first jobs in the industry was working for iconic fashion journalist Jeanne Beker. What was one thing you learned from her? “About a year ago when I was in the [*Vogue*] Fashion Fund, we did an interview

BROTHER VELLIES SANDALS, \$112, SHEARLING MULES (NORDSTROM EXCLUSIVE), \$803, BAG (NORDSTROM EXCLUSIVE), \$1,274. NORDSTROM.COM



together. We were both crying on the phone because I met her when I was working at a gym. We would talk every day when she came in, and that's how I started working at *Fashion Television*. I really wanted to thank her for that opportunity because I basically got kicked out of Ryerson University, and she still saw something in me that other people weren't seeing. She was one of the first people that taught me if you're true to yourself and honest to people about what your intentions are, you'll find people that believe in you and want to support you.”

Your mom is a big part of your story. What's the biggest lesson she taught you? “Early on, I remember encountering a fake handbag, a knock-off Louis Vuitton or a Gucci. She explained to me what a knock-off was, and she said it was an example of stealing someone else's art. She said you have to think about why people feel compelled to buy it and what it actually means. She always made me think more about fashion versus the idea of just consuming it.”

“My mom explained to me what a knock-off was, and she said it was an example of stealing someone else's art.”

And now you've had your pieces knocked off. “I've been knocked off a lot of times, most notably by Zara. Now they've produced more shoes of that particular style than we have, which is crazy. It's sort of an example of the worst side of fashion. Just because you want something doesn't give someone else the right to steal it for you.”

Your line continues to expand. What can we expect next? “I visited Haiti in the spring and I was really overwhelmed by what they were going through. They were still trying to pick themselves up after natural disasters that they've had over the past 10 to 15 years, so the fact that they were just struck again was really hard. I'm trying to figure out something we can do there that will help them rebuild their infrastructure. We're working with a group of people there and we've just managed to donate 10,000 seeds, so that they can start planting more crops. As soon as I figure something out, I'll let you know!”



Brother Vellies founder and creative director Aurora James.

FASHION INSIDER

Straight to the top

Mega model Karlie Kloss's career—and ambition—are in overdrive

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA

It's nearly impossible to reach top-tier model status—we're talking about the Linda, Cindy and Naomi kind of celebrity—but Karlie Kloss is doing her very best to earn it. The 24-year-old *Vogue* regular and face of Swarovski is leading the newest generation of globe-trotting It girls: You can find her jetting off to Europe to DJ a party, sitting front row on the fashion week circuit (if she's not already walking the show) and making hitting the gym seem exceptionally chic with her #fitnessfriday posts.

Despite her hectic schedule, the model launched Kode with Klossy in 2015, a scholarship-based non-profit that seeks to close

the gender gap in the tech sphere. "I've had the opportunity to meet so many strong women in technology this year," she says. "Their innovation and perseverance motivates me every day to work harder and do better. We still have a long way to go until there is equal representation, but I'm hopeful that women will continue to rise together."

As the holidays approach, Kloss is focusing on a little R & R. "Although my schedule can be crazy busy, I always try to make it home to see my parents and sisters," says Kloss, a native of St. Louis, Missouri. "I love making them feel special with thoughtful gestures, like a handwritten note or homemade baked good."

STYLE STAR

When you're Karlie Kloss, making the best-dressed list is routine business. The model cites Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and her mom as timeless style influences, but has tried to take some riskier inspo from her friends in high places, like Taylor Swift and the late Oscar de la Renta. "I'm lucky that I get to work with some of the most creative and inspired designers of our time," she says. "My style has evolved from learning from them." Here, Kloss shares some of her fave red carpet looks from the past year.

1. "In Cannes, I was inspired by Brigitte Bardot's timeless look. I wanted a look that was chic and bold for the red carpet. I thought a futuristic metallic dress would pair nicely with a soft blowout and light lip."
2. "The best part of this look was that I was able to sneak in wearing sneakers under these long flowy pants."
3. "I love that this look was sweet and sexy at the same time. The event was honoring Mrs. Prada, and I felt lucky to wear her gorgeous designs."
4. "I love nothing more than wearing designs by my dear friend Jason Wu. I love how this look juxtaposes feminine and masculine style. I decided to pair the tailored blazer with a cropped leather top to make it more flirty."

Karlie Kloss in Proenza Schouler and Swarovski jewels, May 2016.



1. In Louis Vuitton, May 2016.



2. In Rosie Assoulín, February 2016.



3. In Prada, November 2015.



4. In Hugo Boss, September 2016.

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