

Miranda

Scanlan & Theodore dress, \$1200, from a selection at David Jones; Jonathan Aston sockettes, \$19; Christian Louboutin shoes, \$999, from David Jones; antique earrings, \$9950, from Keshett; on Kerr's left hand: Keshett bracelet, \$6950; on Kerr's right hand: antique bracelets, \$2950 and \$6950, from Keshett; ring, \$8850, from Keshett. Also shown: feathers from Dita Feathers; Sheridan bed sheet (sold as set only, used throughout), \$260; tulle, stylist's own.

WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE WITH OUR MOST BANKABLE MODEL, MIRANDA KERR. BY RACHEL SHARP. PHOTOGRAPHED BY SIMON LEKIAS. STYLED BY MARK VASSALLO

or someone who says she wears her heart on her sleeve, Miranda Kerr hasn't made things simple.

I arrive at the Darlinghurst, Sydney, studio location for our shoot/interview with every intention of writing a piece about her fairytale existence. After all, she's insanely beautiful, spectacularly wealthy for someone so young and is, by all reports, doted on by one of the world's most eligible bachelors (Orlando Bloom, for anyone who's been living under a rock the past two years).

Instead I walk headfirst into the gale-force whirlwind that is Kerr's present life, which is more manic than magic. She arrives more than an hour late, but with a pretty good excuse — her plane from Los Angeles was delayed; no Naomi-like diva antics here. She chirps a hasty "hello" and waves to the 20-or-so people waiting for her on set (including several security staff anxiously watching over millions of dollars-worth of jewellery on loan for the afternoon), before hugging her head booker at Chic Management, Danielle, indulging in the obligatory "Ooh — great shoes. Where are they from?" girlie moment, then bee-lining for the makeup chair.

There's a brief calm as everyone pauses for breath, before an amplified buzz kicks in. Kerr's trip to Australia is short, and her appearance and appointment schedule long, so the on-set vibe carries an extra air of post-plane-delay panic. While hair, nail and makeup artists work furiously, a phone is thrust into Kerr's hand for two interviews, back to back, about a Brisbane charity event her mum's involved her in later that week. Her phone chat is animated, but polished — this is a girl who, at the ripe age of 26, is an old pro at talking to the press.

Kerr is in and out of the clothes on set as fast as any model backstage at the runway shows. Whether through necessity, or comfort with her flawless physique, she shows no signs of being shy, stripping to swap dresses in front of half a dozen crew, who are probably too absorbed in the potential cover images flashing up on a laptop to notice the Victoria's Secret model's state of undress, anyway. The lingerie brand may appear to employ curvier-than-usual

models with bikini-tastic bums and busts, but in person, Kerr is gazelle-like; long arms and legs and a tiny frame that sees her swimming in our model sample-sized dresses until bulldog clips are applied at the back. Just 48 hours after *BAZAAR*'s shoot, Kerr became the subject of worldwide media speculation after paparazzi photos surfaced of her looking particularly thin in a corset. But the model denies being a slave to industry dieting pressure. "I eat mainly organic and stick to the 80:20 rule when I can — 80 per cent healthy and 20 per cent indulgence," she says, although her idea of indulging is probably very different to that of the rest of us, and includes the small serving of risotto she had for lunch on the shoot, or "a dark chocolate Lindt ball" every now and again.

Between serious poses in front of the camera, she laughs and sings along to the music blaring through the studio from her iPod (the too-cool-for-school playlist was compiled for her by a friend in the band Kings of Leon). She bubbles and smoulders and smiles, oozing energy on cue.

But when we finally sit down to chat, a clearly fatigued Kerr — wrapped in nothing but a white towelling robe provided for the shoot, swigging iced green tea out of a Fiji water bottle — apologises for her red eyes, the only sign that she hasn't slept since she left the US. As far as I'm concerned, the lady's still flawless.

One of the main reasons she's home is to promote her new organic skincare range, Kora by Miranda Kerr, to be sold exclusively through David Jones.

"Did you try it? You'll love it! They're all organic, they smell divine, and they're good for you," she says in her sweet, sing-song voice. She punctuates sentences with casual phrases such as "you know", "like" and "no worries", but she's clearly here for business, and is focused on preaching the Kora gospel, urging the crew to try her samples. "Isn't it good?" she asks photographer Simon Lekias as he rubs in some hand cream.

The key ingredient for the 15-product skincare line is what Kerr considers her "health secret", a high antioxidant ►



Chloé top, \$1,599; Bulb slip; \$149, both from David Jones; Sarina Suriano headpiece, made to order using Crystallized Swarovski elements, price on application; Tiffany & Co. earrings, \$35,100, and necklaces, \$49,100 and \$44,100; on Kerr's left hand: Tiffany & Co. bracelet, \$30,000, and rings, \$17,600, \$22,800, \$15,100 and \$46,100; Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co. ring, \$2850; on Kerr's right hand: Tiffany & Co. ring, \$23,900. Body note: Kora by Miranda Kerr Organic Rich Body Lotion.



See by Chloé top, \$499, from David Jones; vintage skirt, price on application, from **sass & bide**; Leona Edmiston tights (worn as sleeves), \$26; tiara, \$198, from **Grandma Takes a Trip**.

superfood called noni. “I’ve been drinking noni juice almost every day since my grandma introduced me to it 12 years ago,” she says. “If I don’t have it I really notice a difference in my energy levels. I mean, can you imagine getting off a 15-hour flight and going straight to work?”

“And it’s great for your skin, as well. It works on a cellular level to re-energise cells,” she adds with a serious face. “I couldn’t find a product on the market that had noni in it, so [I thought] ‘Why not develop my own?’.”

Three and a half years later, after working with a team of Melbourne specialists, followed by lots of testing and fine-tuning, Kora is poised for retail success. The name, she says, refers to “your core self”. When I point out that her core self is perceived by the public as living a fairytale existence, Kerr laughs and rolls her eyes. “Arrgghh ... the fairytale of 15-hour days, six days a week, two different countries a week, and no life. I pretty much get there, work, sleep, go, work, sleep, go ...

a supermodel also means she’s currently one of the highest earning in the business. And while her whirlwind bookings schedule may mean missing out on things like traditional Christmas reunions at her grandparents’ house in Gunnedah, New South Wales, where dozens of her aunts, uncles and cousins all gather around the grand piano to swap presents (and yes, Miranda, like her mother and several generations before her, can play), it does mean she can afford to jet them all to her side instead.

“I’m trying to figure out my work schedule and find out where I’ll be [for Christmas]. But I’ll definitely be with my family — my mum, dad, brother and my grandparents. No matter where I am, I’ll fly them over. It’s pretty much the only two weeks I have off.”

Does she wish sometimes that she could come back to Sydney and wander incognito around Bondi in a pair of Havaianas? “Definitely. One day I’d like to have a house, ideally in Australia

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“I wear my heart on my sleeve, so I’m telling you [honestly] — I’m tired,” she continues. “Before [LA this week], I was in NY for two days, and before that I was in Paris for just two nights for the Balenciaga show, and before that I was at Necker Island [Sir Richard Branson’s Carribean property] for work, shooting every day.

“I don’t want to harp on ... [but] I want people to realise it’s not what it seems on the outside. I work really, really hard and it’s challenging going through all of those time zones and having to be awake when you’re supposed to be asleep. I literally fly more than a pilot. A friend of mine sent me a picture of his backyard in Hawaii with “This is my backyard in Hawaii” [written on it] and I sent him a picture back, saying, “This is my back yard”, and it was the back of a plane seat.

“And the funny thing is I’m always [travelling] alone, but I’m actually never lonely. I have a little dog [her yorkshire terrier, Frankie] and she comes with me a lot of the time, but she can’t come to places like here.”

Those long hours and lost days in airports haven’t come without reward, however. Being so highly sought after as

— not too big or flashy, just a little solar-powered house — near the ocean, where I won’t have to wear shoes and I can have my vegetable patch out the back ...”

Kerr may crave a barefoot retreat, but she agrees one part of the supermodel’s existence is unquestionably princess-like: her wardrobe. “I’ve been given some beautiful clothes and shoes and handbags, wonderful pieces from Dior [her favourite is a pink dress she wore to a New York cocktail party in honour of designer Kris Van Assche recently] and the Balenciaga jacket I wore in the show is one of my favourite pieces — it’s a great colour. And those Balenciaga boots of mine today, did you see them?” she asks, referring to the chunky, flat black boots she’d worn with an Isabel Marant leopard-print mini and grey cotton tee for her arrival. A wardrobe to hand down to her daughter one day? “Yeah. Hopefully. Definitely!”

And with that, Kerr is whisked away by clock-watching staff. She may crave a simple life, but for now, Kerr is walking on a unique kind of wild side. ■

Kora by Miranda Kerr skincare products, from \$34.95, are available exclusively at David Jones.



Burberry Prorsum jacket, \$3995;
Ginïa shorts, \$70, from David
Jones; Cartier earrings, \$25,300,
necklaces, \$114,000 and
\$13,700, and bracelet, \$35,000;
Miu Miu shoes, \$835, from David
Jones. Also shown: Sheridan pillow
(on bed), \$100, pillow, \$90 for set
of two; fairy lights and snow from
Chas Clarkson. In this portfolio: hair
by Alan White at The Names
Agency; makeup by Jody Oliver
at DUM; manicure by Joanne
Papoythis for Zoe Vokis Concept.
Floral set design by Grandiflora,
www.grandiflora.net. See Buylines
for details and stockists.