

# femme

*spring 2018*



**taylor swift**

*a celebration of creative women*

£4



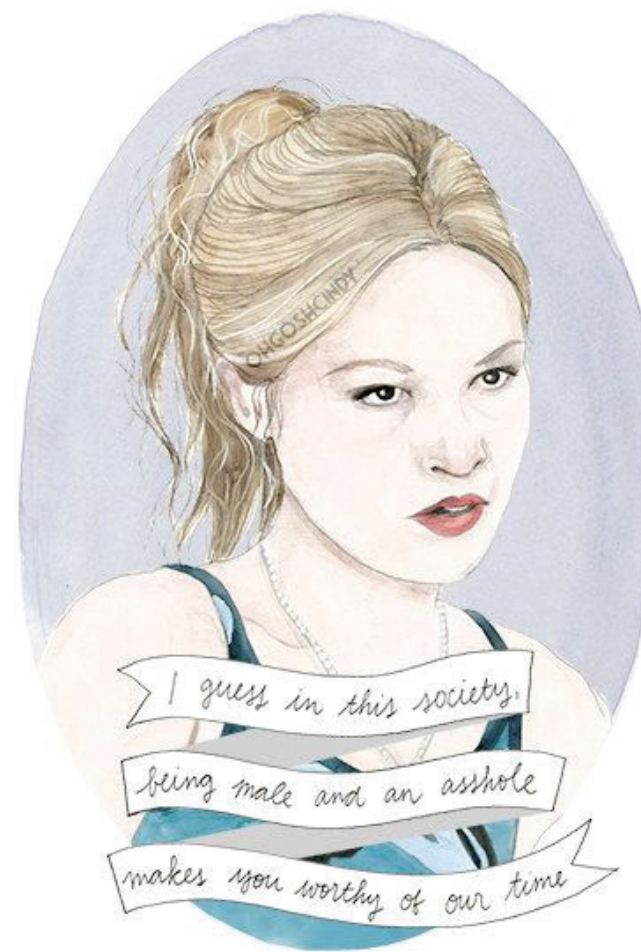
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**ALEXACHUNG**

# letter from the editor



In its most simple definition, Femme is the French word for woman. Femme is not simple, femme is a strong woman who cares about the world around her.

She understands that being interested in fashion and beauty doesn't make you any less important. You can wear a pink suit and still have the right to be taken seriously. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

We live in a country run by a woman and that's brilliant, but it's also the same country who headline a meeting between two incredibly successful female leaders as 'Legsit' choosing to discuss their legs instead of their policies and the countries they run. Women who speak their mind are 'bossy' but men are outspoken. How many times is a man asked how he balances work with being a father?

Femme understands that being a feminist means wanting equality between men and women, and it's not a dirty word that means angry women who hate men, we are women who want and deserve to be equal to our male counterparts. Our ethos here at femme is that we are a celebration of women, every single word you will read on our pages come from the fingertips of a woman. Every piece you read will center around inspirational and creative women who we believe should be celebrated.

We talk about Taylor Swift, who's album Reputation released in late 2017 was filled with revenge anthems to all the people who wronged her. It includes the brilliant 'Look what you made me do', which fans speculate is about her long time war with Kanye West. We also look at the up and coming fashion bloggers who now have more influence on the style of the millennial generation than actual fashion houses and celebrities. More and more fashion houses are using 'influencers' in their shows to try and appeal to this new online generation.

Femme also speaks in detail about film and why women in Hollywood still need more leading roles, with well-rounded characters rather than the generic stereotypes of the 'girlfriend' or the 'sidekick'.

Being a woman in 2018 means fighting back, speaking out and not giving in.

Keep being a brilliant woman.

*Ruby Naldrett*

Ruby Naldrett, Femme Editor-in-Chief





# inside this issue of **femme**

## **fashion and beauty**

- 12. The women who will always inspire our style
- 16. How Glossier became a beauty game changer
- 19. Fenty beauty advertorial
- 20. The fashion bloggers who will change the way you dress

## **music**

- 24. The best female albums of 2017
- 26. **COVER STORY:** Taylor Swift
- 31. The artists to watch out for in 2018

## **film and arts**

- 34. The TV to look forward to this year
- 35. **Review:** Hidden Figures
- 36. Why we need more female leading roles in Hollywood
- 38. The eight books to read before you're 25

## **and finally...**

- 42. The Motherhood controversy
- 45. How to be successful like her: Oprah Winfrey
- 47. The women who changed the world in 2017



# meet the team behind femme



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**Favourite Quote:**  
“With freedom,books,flowers  
and the moon, who could not be  
happy?” - Oscar Wilde

**Female Icon:**  
Audrey Hepburn

**Style Icon:**  
Sienna Miller

**Favourite Actress:**  
Keira Knightley

**Favourite Film:**  
When Harry met Sally

**Favourite Book:**  
The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath

**Favourite TV Show:**  
Grey’s Anatomy

**Favourite Artist:**  
Oasis

**Favourite Song:**  
Champagne Supernova - Oasis

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**Favourite Quote:**  
“For beautiful eyes, look for the good  
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words of kindness; and for poise,  
walk with the knowledge that you are  
never alone.”-Audrey Hepburn

**Female Icon:**  
Taylor Swift

**Style Icon:**  
Selena Gomez

**Favourite Actress:**  
Tatiana Maslany

**Favourite Film:**  
(500) Days of Summer

**Favourite Book:**  
All the Bright Places, by Jennifer  
Niven

**Favourite TV Show:**  
Desperate Housewives

**Favourite Artist:**  
Catfish and the Bottlemen

**Favourite Song:**  
Sweet Disposition - The  
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ognise how resilient and striking the  
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**Female Icon:**  
Oprah Winfrey

**Style Icon:**  
Negin Mirsalehi

**Favourite Actress:**  
Millie Bobby Brown

**Favourite Film:**  
Spy

**Favourite Book:**  
Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

**Favourite TV Show:**  
Stranger Things

**Favourite Artist:**  
Jasmine Thompson

**Favourite Song:**  
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“Above all we must realise that each  
of us makes a difference with our  
life. Each of us impacts the world  
around us every single day. We have  
a gift of our life to make the world a  
better place, or not to bother” - Jane  
Goodall

**Female Icon:**  
Jane Goodall

**Style Icon:**  
Marzia Bisogin

**Favourite Actress:**  
Jennifer Lawrence

**Favourite Film:**  
Alice in Wonderland

**Favourite Book:**  
Froth of Daydream, by Boris Vian

**Favourite TV Show:**  
Friends

**Favourite Artist:**  
Catfish and the Bottlemen

**Favourite Song:**  
Catfish and the Bottlemen - Oxygen

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**Star Sign:** Cancer  
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**Favourite Quote:**  
“Your vibe attracts your tribe.” - Anon

**Female Icon:**  
Ashley Graham

**Style Icon:**  
Camila Coelho

**Favourite Actress:**  
Taraji P Henson

**Favourite Film:**  
Get Out

**Favourite Book:**  
The Solitude of Prime  
Numbers, by Paolo Giordano

**Favourite TV Show:**  
60 Days in

**Favourite Artist:**  
J Cole

**Favourite Song:**  
Loyalty - Kendrick Lamar

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Femme Mag



# this issue we remember

*emmeline pankhurst*  
1858-1928

Here at Femme we are all about celebrating incredible women, and each issue will be dedicated to a different inspiration of ours. This issue we are celebrating the life of Emmeline Pankhurst.



**“i'd rather be a rebel  
than a slave”**

Emmeline Pankhurst was the leader of the British suffragette movement, and it's because of her that all of us women are able to have our say in the general election and vote on political matters. 2018 will mark the 90 year anniversary of both women winning the right to vote, and the sad death of Emmeline.

In 1903, she was one of the founders of the Women's Social and Political Union, whose members were known as the suffragettes. She was arrested numerous times during her life as a women's rights activist, after encouraging women to stop being silent. They smashed windows, they started fires and they went on hunger strike in prison. They weren't going to give in until they got what they so desperately wanted.

We also spare a thought for the equally incredible activist Emily Davison who died after throwing herself under the king's horse at the derby, as an attempt to garner publicity to their cause that had been so widely ignored.

Exactly 100 years ago, thanks to Emmeline and her astonishing army of suffragettes, the Representation of the people act was passed giving women over 30 the right to vote. Although not quite what they had all wanted it was still a groundbreaking achievement.

Emmeline was not just an incredible leader, she was a mother too and her daughters both joined the women's rights movement. Years of hunger strikes eventually took their toll on Emmeline and she became very ill, she passed away on the 14th June 1928 just after she finally saw women given over 21 equal voting rights to men.

In 1999 she was voted one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century by Time magazine. In 2015, the film Suffragette was released with Academy Award winner Meryl Streep playing the roles of Emmeline.

She died a hero and we, as a nation of strong, independent women, owe so much to her. RN







fashion  
and  
beauty





jane



audrey



bianca



katharine

# the women who will always inspire our style

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*The decades may come and go and bring new fashions with them but  
these four women will always remain our style icons*

As Yves Saint Laurent once said; "Fashion fades, style is eternal." The French designer was of course right. Fashion comes and goes in cycles, one day you'll be telling your friends how much you hate kitten heels and the next month you'll be lusting after the newest Dior pair. Recently we've seen the eighties reappear on the British high street after women swore they'd never wear shoulder pads and metallics ever again. That's how fashion works, however, style is different. Style is looking at a photograph and the clothing being timeless. Here at Femme, we're all about timeless style so here is a list of four women who will always inspire our style and why.

*by ruby naldrett*



## audrey hepburn

If you ask a woman who her ultimate fashion icon is, she will most likely say Audrey Hepburn. Her impeccable style is one that has truly stood the test of time. And her most famous role is of course, that of Holly Golightly in the 1961 adaptation of Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. That little black Givenchy dress she wore is one of the most iconic looks of all time, and it recently sold at auction for £467,200 - the highest paid price for a dress from a film ever.

It's not just on the screen that Audrey inspires a whole cross-generation of women. Off-screen, her classic look of cropped tailored trousers and a sweater is one that is still seen on hundreds of thousands of women walking down the street. Whether they know it or not, they have been inexplicably inspired by Audrey, and her style legacy still fills the pages of magazines, the rails of shops and touches the silver screen every single day.

In popular culture, *Gossip Girl*'s Blair Waldorf is heavily inspired by Audrey's style, so a whole generation of fans emulated Blair's look, so in turn, are inspired by Audrey. More recently, Emma Stone's character in *LaLa Land* look was influenced by Audrey's earlier looks and her wardrobe in *Roman Holiday*.

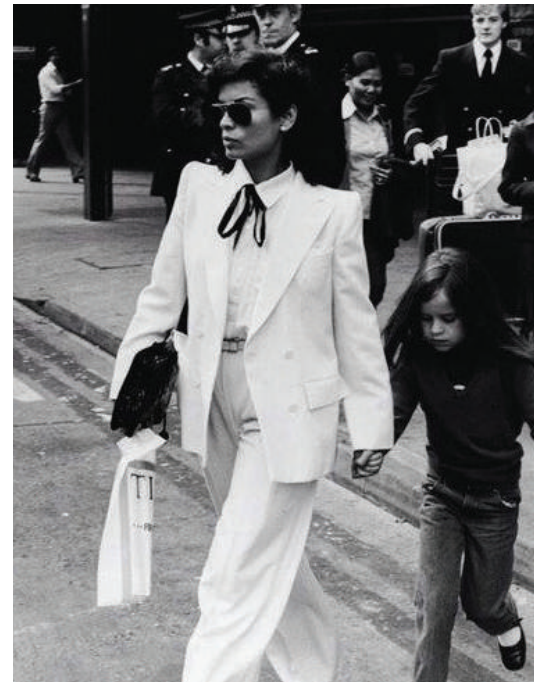
To get Audrey's look, go for classic shapes like cigarette trousers, fitted sweaters, cropped jeans, sleeveless shirts, cocoon coats and of course, the little black dress. Simplicity is key.

## jane birkin

Before Alexa Chung, there was Jane Birkin. The British born actress is one of the main inspirations behind the Parisienne chic fashion movement of the recent years. Her style throughout the seventies was effortless but so great. The classic blue jeans and t-shirt everyone is wearing? Jane Birkin did it first. One of her most iconic style legacies which have stood the test of time is the basket bag. If you take one piece of style wisdom from Jane, make it a wicker basket to carry your essentials in.

Jane has been a muse to fashion designers, for example, the iconic Hermès Birkin bag is named in her honour. After Hermès chief executive, Jean-Louis Dumas, met Jane on a plane and saw her struggling to carry all of her belongings in her basket he created the Birkin bag for her. It has gone on to be one of the most iconic bags of all time and can cost as much as £300,000. Another fashion designer inspired by Jane is Bella Freud, the designer created her best-selling *Je t'aime* Jane sweater in her honour and it's been worn by everyone from Alexa Chung to Kate Moss.

For Jane's look, a pair of loose-fitting light wash jeans are vital, a white t-shirt and a basket bag. She also experimented with soft gingham prints and for that true French look a beret for that true *Jane je ne sais quoi*.



## bianca jagger

The first wife of Rolling Stone Mick Jagger is most known for her incredible style during the seventies disco scene. A frequent visitor at New York's infamous Studio 54 nightclub (she even turned up on a horse for her birthday!) Bianca Jagger favoured jewel-toned colours, rich fabrics, faux fur, diamonds, and of course platform shoes. She even chose to clip her Rolling Stone's backstage pass to the strap of her platforms instead of ruining her outfit.

Her style was more dazzling and exciting than the hippy population of the seventies. She was bright, and glamorous and exciting. She was also a huge fan of tailoring and was extremely brand loyal to her favourite Halston. She often chose to wear a three-piece suit over an evening gown. Her style was androgynous yet also incredibly feminine, it had a layer of mystery to it that many women are still so desperate to emulate today.

Key Bianca inspired pieces are rich fabrics such as velvet in equally rich jewel tones, a tailored suit, platform sandals, a faux fur coat and anything covered in pearls and diamonds.

## katharine hepburn

A true icon in the menswear as womenswear movement, actress Katharine Hepburn is one whose style influenced a whole collection of women. If you like Diane Keaton's style in the cult classic *'Annie Hall'*, we have Katharine Hepburn to thank for that. Her incredibly chic and glamorous way of wearing clothes which were traditionally worn by men in an era where women wore skirts and dresses, paved her way towards becoming a serious fashion icon.

Her career spanned over several decades and although fashion trends came and went during this time, Katharine remained true to her personal style. She was somewhat of a pioneer because of her style and in 1986 she was awarded by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, in recognition of her huge influence over women's fashion.

Any woman wanting to take style inspiration from Katharine should, of course, start with a great pair of trousers. Tailored shirts, waistcoats, and coats were also favoured by the actress, but despite her style, she always kept her hair and makeup soft, in order to create a more feminine juxtaposition.

These are just four incredible women whose impeccable taste has inspired generations of women in terms of their personal style. When searching for your personal style, be sure to find what works for you, taking inspiration from one of these icons (or all four) may help you on your way to achieving your perfect look. RN





## how glossier became a beauty game-changer

*The beauty brand built by a girl boss, for all your dewy skin needs.*

Since its launch in the US in 2014, Glossier has rapidly achieved cult status in the beauty-sphere. So, when news landed that the brand was shipping to the UK, it was no surprise people were excited.

Glossier was set up by 32-year-old Emily Weiss, famous for her blog Into The Gloss that she founded in 2010 whilst working as Vogue's style director's assistant. Emily would post interviews that gave insight into the bathroom cabinets of celebrities including Kim Kardashian and Karlie Kloss. She was able to make a living from blogging alone thanks to advertisement money when the site grew in popularity.

Into the Gloss fast became a hub for beauty discussion and Emily started seeing a demand for products missing from the industry. "Let's create a brand that reflects what women want right now," she told Forbes of her thought process. They reported she raised \$2 million in venture capital funding ready to form a team. From there, with a focus on dewy skin and simple products (with the help of millennial pink branding), came along beauty game changer, Glossier.

The brand launched with 'Phase 1' which consisted of four skincare essentials: a skin tint, lip balm, priming moisturiser and face mist. Glossier's ethos is all about

stripping things back to basics with gentle formulas. "Treat your skin like silk. It's delicate! We purposely make all of our products 'for sensitive skin' because what skin isn't sensitive?" told Emily to Forbes.

Glossier later introduced 'Phase 2,' makeup staples with the same brand values - keeping the skin looking natural and glowy. "It's very counter to the pop culture message, which is heavy contour, cut creased lid, caked on, baked makeup," Emily explained to Fashion Magazine. The range includes a highlighter, brow gel, concealer, powder, cream blush, lip gloss and matte lip. An eau de parfum with base notes of ambrette, ambrox and musk, an oil wash, and body cream designed for "all day hydration", are the latest additions to the brand.

In 2015 Entrepreneur wrote that Glossier's sale revenues were already in "the multiple millions". Emily implied this is largely down to being "a socially driven brand" during an interview with Mashable.

Through the strategic use of their huge online following - their Instagram alone boasts 835,000 followers - where they advertise and socialise with customers, Glossier is revolutionary as the first digital beauty brand. "We're responsive in real time to our customers' needs and the changing needs of women," said Emily to Time.

But what makes Glossier successful also lies in one of the brands sentiments: Glossier is for all women who want to enhance their natural beauty. "Our girl doesn't need our products, but she chooses them because they make her feel great — simple as that," Emily mentioned to The Fader.

Emily's mix of girl power and ability to create products as great as they are Instagrammable to build her cult following, makes one thing certain: Glossier is here to stay - and our now glowing skin is very thankful.

## our top picks:

### 1. Boy Brow, £14

Thickens, grooms and fills in your brows whilst providing a natural look thanks to the soft pomade.

### 2. Milk Jelly Cleanser, £15

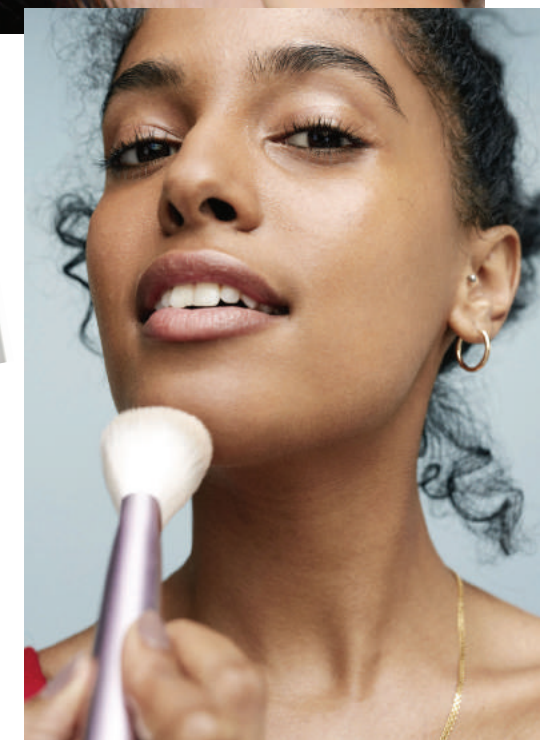
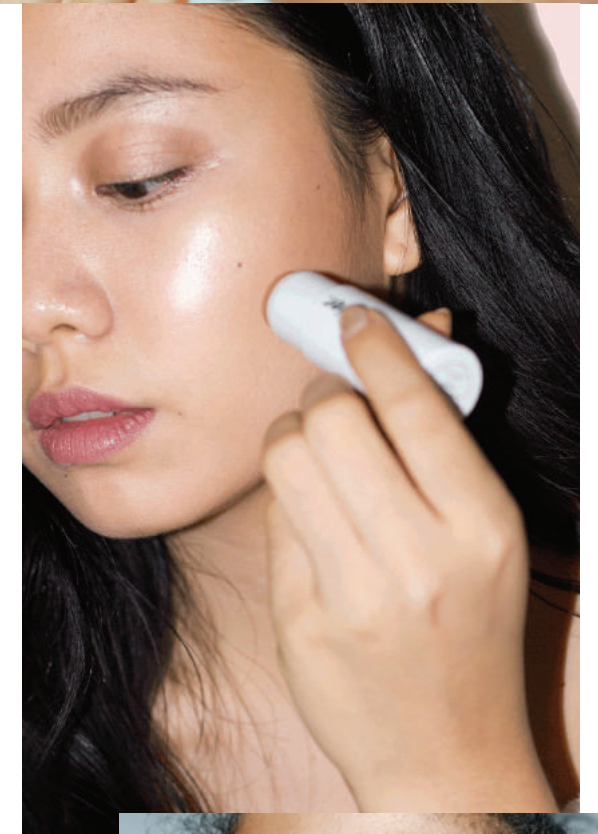
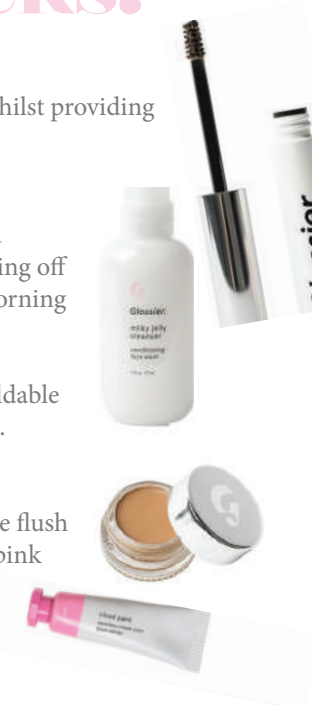
Designed to leave your face feeling soft and hydrated, this gel cleanser is perfect for taking off any makeup or washing your face in the morning

### 3.Stretch Concealer, £15

Creamy enough to give you a glow, but buildable enough to cover dark circles and blemishes.

### 4.Cloud Paint, £15

Dab the cream onto your cheeks for a subtle flush of colour. The shade range is inspired by a pink New York sunset.MR







a femme collaboration with fenty beauty

## shine bright like a diamond with *fenty beauty*



Fashion, music and beauty icon Rihanna dazzles the cosmetics industry with her makeup brand “Fenty Beauty”. Fenty Beauty is said to focus on a wide range of hard to match skin tones, so that “women everywhere would be included.” The formulas are said to work well for all types of skin combinations. Unlike most beauty products, Fenty

Beauty was made to feel lightweight yet offer full coverage. Fenty Beauty is set out to inspire and empower women. Rihanna claims that makeup has helped her become the influential icon that she is today. It is her weapon of choice, and her way of self expression. It is exclusively available to buy at Harvey Nichols (both instore and online).

### A few game changing products sold by Fenty Beauty:



**1. Pro Filt'r Foundation, £26**

The well known Pro Filt'r foundation which provides over 40 different hard to match skin tones.

**2. Killawatt Highlighter, £26**

The Killawatt cream highlighter, which is available in 6 different colours. Truly a killa highlighter!

**3. Lip Gloss, £16**

The OG of Fenty lipgloss, Gloss Bomb. A nude lipgloss unicorn, said to look good on all skin tones.

**4. Match Stix Trio, £46**

The Match stix trios. Contour, highlight and conceal your way to a new level of Fenty Beauty.

**5. Invisimatte Powder, £24**

Last but not least. Invisimatte! Said to absorb all that greasy shine and the look of pores, Rihanna believes that to be photo ready 24/7 is to be shine free. VL





# the fashion bloggers who will change the way you dress

*meet the lesser known fashion bloggers  
who inspired us in 2017*

With thousands of Instagram influencers, it is very easy to fall down the black hole of Insta-hell. When you finally look up from your phone, you realise your towel is still wrapped around you and it has been hours. And you still have no idea what to wear. Well, do not fear, ever, we have done the research for you. This is our guide of the best-ever fashion bloggers who will keep us boss ladies inspired...being a successful woman does not mean we cannot be fashionable.

*negin*



**Who?**  
*Negin Mirsalehi*  
**Why?**  
She has got it all: good looks, style and a masters degree in business and marketing. If you ask us she is the goddess of Instagram. Her style is casual yet so undeniably chic. She takes a different spin on prints and materials, mixing and matching them effortlessly.  
**@negin\_mirsalehi**

*chanel*



**Who?**  
*Chanel Files*  
**Why?**  
What should we say about her? Let us make it really simple: she makes every trend wearable. And by every trend, we really mean every trend, from gingham to culottes to crazy, bold colours.  
**@chanelfiles**

*sazan*



**Who?**  
*Sazan Hendrix*  
**Why?**  
Sazan Hendrix is an LA based blogger and Youtuber. Her outfits are simple, yet timeless. Do you want the best designer look-alike flats or bags? Or maybe want to know how to style leather mini skirts? Or you are pregnant and struggling with outfit ideas? She is YOUR girl.  
**@sazan**

*isabella*



**Who?**  
*Isabella Rakonic*  
**Why?**  
Isabella is a Croatian based blogger and law student. If you are a girl who likes to break the rules of fashion, she is the one to check out. Her outfits combine volume, prints and feminine flounces.  
**@isabellaclaires**

*gabi*



**Who?**  
*Gabi Gregg*  
**Why?**  
Gabi is an absolute beauty on the inside and out. If you ever thought you cannot wear something because you are curvy, this girl will change your mind. She translates the popular trends into easy-to-wear looks.  
**@gabifresh**

*tanisha*



**Who?**  
*Tanisha Awasthi*  
**Why?**  
For those looking for plus size fashion inspiration, Tanisha Awasthi is the perfect muse. Her outfit ideas are great for those with big hips and bust who are unsure how to wear the latest trends.  
**@girlwithcurves**

*katarina*



**Who?**  
*Kataraina Juric*  
**Why?**  
If you are someone who is not a big fan of crazy prints and colours, Katarina is the right girl to follow. Katarina Juric is a German based blogger and with her incredible simplicity, she keeps her style sleek and pulled together.  
**@katarina\_ju**





music



# the best female albums of 2017

2017 has been a huge year for female musicians: old favourites have made a long-awaited return with Taylor Swift knocking Ed Sheeran off the top spot for best-selling album of the year, and new artists have made their mark on the industry. Here's our round up of 2017's best releases:



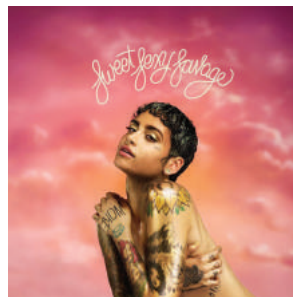
*Melodrama by Lorde*

From the electric single 'Green Light', to raw ballads ('Liability' and 'Writer in the Dark'), Lorde's second album is a pop triumph. She beautifully describes the confusing but thrilling emotions of early adulthood.



*Reputation by Taylor Swift*

Sonically cohesive pop magic that captures Taylor in love, with an exception for feisty tracks rebelling against the Kimye backlash ('Look What You Made Me do' and 'This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things').



*SweetSexySavage by Kehlani*

The singer establishes a catchy, R&B sound in her debut album. But Kehlani's honesty elevates the LP - 'Piece Of Mind' is an ode to her battle with self-worth (Tryna forget all the unnecessary/ Thoughts from my head, man, it was pretty scary).



*Something To Tell You by Haim*

The sister trio once again deliver a perfect formula of soft rock and retro for their second record. Song's such as 'Nothing's Wrong' are reminiscent to the likes of Fleetwood Mac.



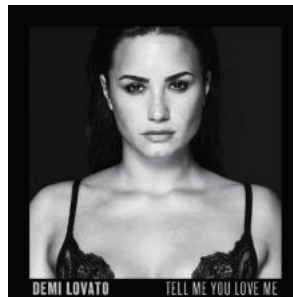
*Rainbow by Kesha*

After facing a publicised, grueling sexual assault case, Kesha bounces back in an album of empowerment and artistic versatility. 'Hunt You Down' has an upbeat country feel, 'Hymn' is an addicting pop anthem for outcasts, and 'Praying' is an emotionally driven ballad.



*Ctrl by Sza*

Ctrl is striking for it's unapologetic R&B tracks. "Let me tell you a secret/ I been secretly banging your homeboy/ Why you in Vegas/ All up on Valentine's Day?," sings Sza on the revengeful album opener 'Supermodel.'



*Tell Me You Love Me by Demi Lovato*

Lovato effectively takes on a sultry, R&B sound for her sixth album about heartbreak and yearning. Her vocals shine in the gospel inspired title track and slow tempo songs, making this record a stand out.



*Dua Lipa by Dua Lipa*

Her first album earns Dua the title of pop princess, especially after delivering women with words to live by in 'New Rules' (One, don't pick up the phone/ You know he's only calling 'cause he's drunk and alone). MR

# DUALIPA

## THE SELF-TITLED TOUR NORTH AMERICA

### NOVEMBER 2017

MON	20	BOSTON, MA HOUSE OF BLUES
WED	22	TORONTO, ON REBEL
THU	23	MONTREAL, QC METROPOLIS
FRI	24	NEW YORK CITY, NY HAMMERSTEIN BALLROOM
SUN	26	CHICAGO, IL HOUSE OF BLUES
TUE	28	SILVER SPRING, MD THE FILLMORE SILVER SPRING
THU	30	NASHVILLE, TN CANNERY BALLROOM

### FEBRUARY 2018

FRI	02	DALLAS, TX SOUTH SIDE MUSIC HALL
SAT	03	HOUSTON, TX HOUSE OF BLUES
MON	05	DENVER, CO OGDEN THEATRE
TUE	06	SALT LAKE CITY, UT THE DEPOT
THU	08	HOLLYWOOD, CA HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
FRI	09	PHOENIX, AZ THE VAN BUREN
SAT	10	SAN DIEGO, CA HOUSE OF BLUES
TUE	13	SAN FRANCISCO, CA THE MASONIC
THU	15	PORTLAND, OR ROSELAND THEATER
FRI	16	VANCOUVER, BC VOGUE THEATRE
SAT	17	SEATTLE, WA SHOWBOX

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# the old taylor is dead

i

*You can release the best-selling album of the year just to find people are still picking you apart and trying to diminish your success. Taylor Swift knows this better than anyone.*

*by Millie Richardson*

November saw the release of Taylor Swift's highly anticipated sixth album Reputation. But with it came a predictable onslaught of backlash, made up of old rumours and criticisms about the singer with new angles.

People seem to find amusement in brushing aside the fact that Taylor has released the critically acclaimed, best-selling album of 2017. Instead, they focus on picking her apart – as if calling her a snake and liar for a whole year previously, wasn't enough of a blow. These criticisms can come from an incredibly misogynistic place and maybe it's time we realise what a hard time Taylor is being given.

Let's start with the oldest problem in the book people have with T-Swift: why does she only write about boys? You don't see people making these comments about other successful musicians like Adele or Ed Sheeran, so why do people think she's oversharing? Her ability to be vulnerable with her feelings by turning them into art through music should really be praised. And ultimately, using this as a reason to discredit Taylor is redundant if you've taken the time to listen to her albums. They contain themes varying from friendship to eating disorders to her admiration for her fans – so no, she doesn't just sing about love. And let's not forget when she wrote a tear-jerking ballad about the passing of a boy with cancer, titled Ronan, with proceeds going to charity.

People also seem to have a problem with Taylor and her love life, believing it is their duty to be a commentator on

her personal life, dissecting her relationships and attacking her for dating purely for new material. Take her romance with Tom Hiddleston last year, people suggested it was fake and said she moved on "too quickly" from Calvin Harris. Since when did it become illegal for women to have relationships?

Then last year, Taylor haters were clapping their hands when the feud between Kanye West and Taylor was revived although she publicly forgave him for interrupting her acceptance speech for Best Female Video at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. They seemed to be friends until Kanye released the controversial song 'Famous' in February 2016, featuring the lyrics, "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex/ Why? I made that bitch famous." Taylor's team denied her giving consent to the lyrics and said in their statement, "Taylor was never made aware of the actual lyric, 'I made that bitch famous.'" Fast-forward to July 2016, and Kim Kardashian tweeted a snake emoji before posting a clip on her Snapchat of Kanye and Taylor's phone call where he read only the line about having sex to her.

Cue the endless stream of snake emoji's commented on Taylor's Instagram and aggressive tweets calling her a liar, attached with #taylorswiftisover. This was whilst ignoring Taylor's bite back in her post about Kanye failing to ask permission to call her a "bitch" - a highly demeaning term to call your "friend".







Kanye then rendered it acceptable to use a wax figure of Taylor's naked body in his music video. She was placed among other celebrities that included Rihanna led next to her abuser Chris Brown – but Taylor is still the problem here, right?

August of 2017 Taylor released 'Look What You Made Me Do', the lead single from Reputation. The lyrics, "I don't like your little games/ I don't like your tilted stage" and "The old Taylor can't come to the phone right now/ Why?/ 'Cause she's dead," hinted it was about Kanye. Articles immediately started popping up taking a dig at Taylor, claiming she "won't stop talking about Kanye West". So are we suggesting Kanye can take credit for her fame based on an incident seven years ago, but Taylor can't respond? It doesn't sound remotely fair. But let's continue celebrating the problematic man who openly endorsed Donald Trump and called sexual assaulter Bill Cosby innocent, it makes perfect sense.

On the topic of sexual assault, remember in August 2017 when Taylor won her case against former radio DJ David Mueller for groping her in a meet and greet in 2013? Well, lots of the public decided to call it a publicity stunt for Reputation's release, or equally as worse, chose to be silent in supporting her. This response completely disregarded how Taylor's victory in the trial encouraged individuals to stand up and report their assault. Taylor even acknowledged her privilege in being able "to shoulder the enormous cost of defending myself" and donated to organisations that help victims of sexual assault. Yet, many of the self-proclaimed feminists out there are you guessed it, nowhere to be found. Anyway, Taylor wasn't even the reason for the trial, she was countersuing for one dollar after Mueller tried to sue her for \$3 million over false allegations she made him lose his job.

Another complaint people have enjoyed making to Taylor around the release of Reputation, is that she should be singing about politics - as if her music has ever been the place for political discussion. People aren't asking this of musicians like Sam Smith, but as usual, it's different when it comes to Taylor...

Shouldn't it be okay for music to be an escapism from the world of politics? And it certainly seems odd to apply it as a reason to claim Taylor is a white-supremacist. This is to the point where her lawyers had to threaten to sue a blog in a letter of "yet another unequivocal denouncement by Ms. Swift of white supremacy and the alt-right".

But maybe the cruellest part of all the hate Taylor is in the firing line of, is that she genuinely seems to be a good person. Last year, Taylor was listed as the third most charitable celebrity in the world by DoSomething.org.

Now take her love for her fans: Taylor constantly interacts with them online, has paid for their tuition fees, medical bills, sent them gifts and holds free meet and greets. But what really stands out is when Taylor invites fans to her home for album listening parties before the public hears it, named 'Secret Sessions.' I experienced this first-hand during her 1989 Secret Session London in 2014, where she hand-picked us online to attend. I was surprised to find she had even learnt our names. People can accuse Taylor of many things, but you certainly can't accuse this woman of not being gratuitous.

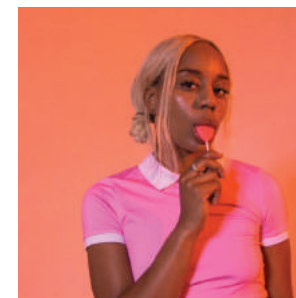
"I got smarter/ I got harder in the nick of time," sings Taylor on Reputation, and thank God she did because her ability to prevent masses of hate from getting in the way of her being a great musician shines through on this album. And if you're a hater, please rethink, then listen to 2017's best album. MR





## artists under the radar

We love discovering emerging talents at Femme as it really sweetens our Monday mornings at work in the City or makes us dance at the club over the weekend. Not a day goes by without some kind of music playing in the background while working on our magazine for you. These artists may not have topped the charts (yet) or dominated the stage of a sold-out gig, but they all have something unique to offer and are all worth getting to know.



**taliwhoah**

Being the daughter of two reggae musicians T. Adekale and K. Harmonix, we couldn't expect better from the Tottenham born girl.

The freshly released "New Wave Order" EP is a stunning showcase of her blooming talent and the latest single "Alright" is the perfect self-empowering soundtrack for when you hit the rock bottom.

With new music on the way, Taliwhoah is about to make big moves in 2018.



**ella mai**

Known as the girl who sung on Instagram, Ella Mai is full of confidence and has an affinity for classic Nineties and R&B.

Known as the girl who sung on Instagram, Ella Mai is full of confidence and has an affinity for classic Nineties and R&B.

She drew the attention of Dj Mustard, L.A. producer responsible for hit of the like of Rihanna's "Needed Me", and signed her up for 10 Summers label.

Since then, she has released three EPs, showing off her starkly emotional yet expressive voice, and the duet "She Don't" with heavily-tattooed Ty Dolls Sign, which resulted in millions of views on YouTube and more music in the making.



**daina**

Music has always been a constant in her life. At times, Dainá would teach dance moves to young kids and follow the rhythm, more often she would sit down in her room and compose the track from the beat to the lyrics. She is a 360° artist who has recently found her way to promote music and jump on a stage by herself.

Participating to the Washington edition of YouTube Black Festival, Dainá put up a quick show for her fans. Her unmistakable 90's inspired fashion style, perfectly laid edges and the voice of somebody who is ready to rock the world have triggered a domino effect.

Although still unsigned, Dainá is now collaborating with British producer August Twelfth, who handles the technical parts of her verses.



**stefflon don**

East London meets Jamaica via Rotterdam in charismatic rapper Stefflon Don. Her voice falls in and out of tough British edges and soft drawling Patois.

A ferocious blend of dancehall laced hip-hop and sexy R&B-pop, she raps with wit and ferocity about female empowerment and street life.

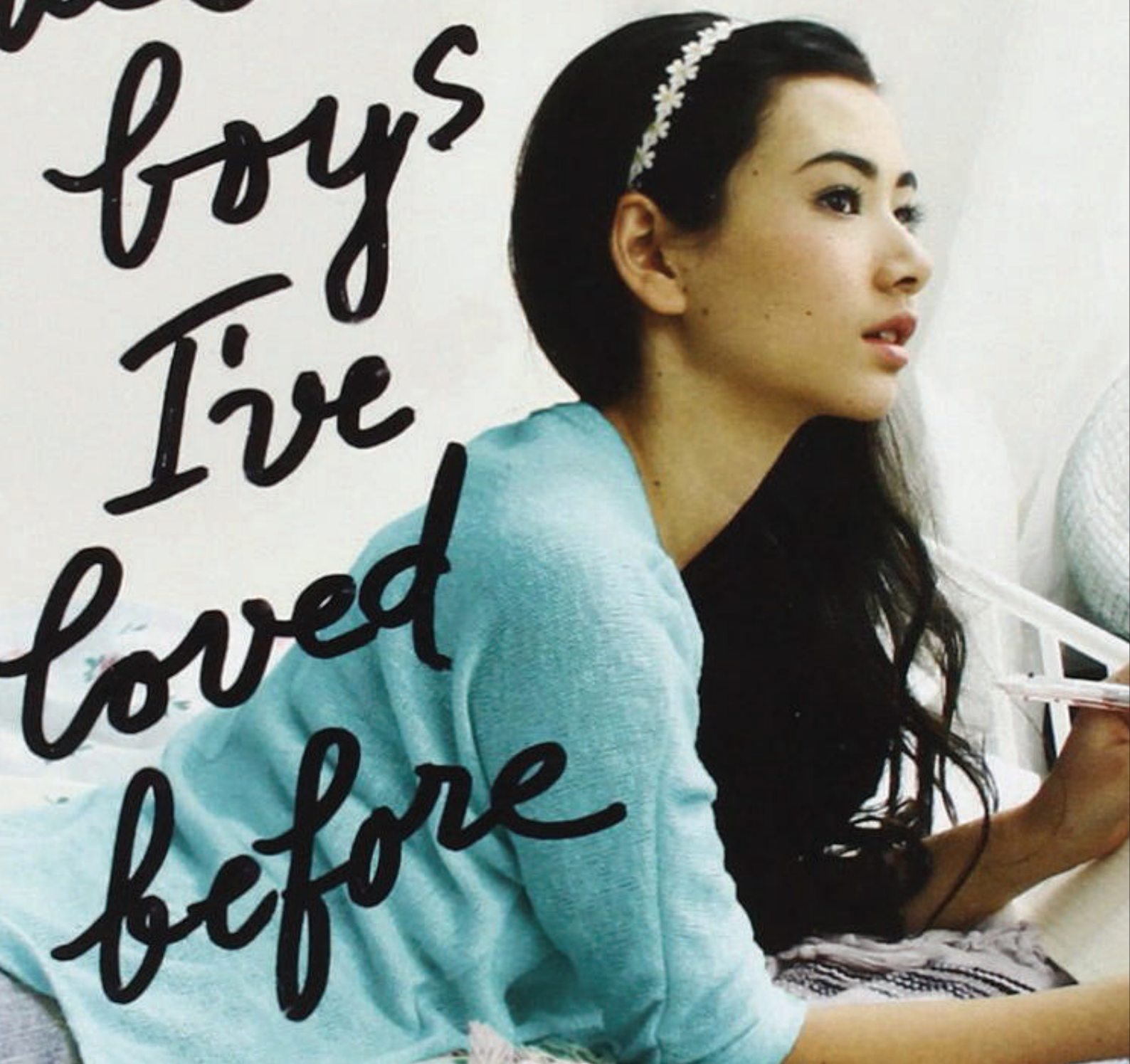
Her saucy beat brings the crowd to the dance floor and Stefflon Don is about to turn upside-down the UK scenario with her latest "Ding-A-Ling" featuring Skepta. "If your main focus is on being the best, you can break anywhere", she says. We hear you Steff! FR



From the author of *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

To  
all the  
boys  
I've  
loved  
before

Jenny  
Han



film  
and  
arts



## the movies and tv shows to look forward to in 2018

Long weekends at home, on the sofa, getting your hands warm with a cup of hot chocolate means tv season is here. And the new year will only bring more excuses to keep you stuck in front of the screen.

Orange is the New Black returns, but that is not the only must-see.



*orange is the new black*

The season five final episode left us short-breathed as the Litchfield prison riot was brought to a crushing end. But will Netflix bring back the drama? With the exception of season one, which was released in July 2013, all the others have arrived sometime in June. Although the American entertainment company has not yet confirmed a date, our guess is June 2018. Jenji Kohan, writer and producer of the comedy-drama, has already revealed some hints as to what shape season six could take. She explained they might alter its timeline to incorporate real-world events as the increased incarceration issue, under Trump's presidency. The all-female team of producers, writers and creators are still working on plot and script for the upcoming season, but we can't wait to see what they've got on the agenda for us. Let's get the popcorn ready!



*red sparrow*

One of our favourite actresses is coming back as a deadly seductress on the big screen. Jennifer Lawrence in the role of Dominika Egorova, a prima ballerina, who faces a serious injuries that brings an end to her ambitious career. She quickly turns to Sparrow School, a secret intelligence service that trains exceptional young people to use their minds and bodies as weapons. Egorova becomes the most dangerous Sparrow's pupil when she comes to term with her new abilities. We are all here for women power of any form!



*ocean's eight*

A fierce cast of eight women take over the New York's annual Met Gala. A criminal mastermind (Sandra Bullock) and other seven female thieves (including Rihanna, Anne Hathaway and Cate Blanchett) try to plan and get away with the robbery of the century. The movie is set to be released on 8 June 2018, not long to go before we can watch what these women are ready to do to nab some hideously expensive jewellery. FR

## the race to space

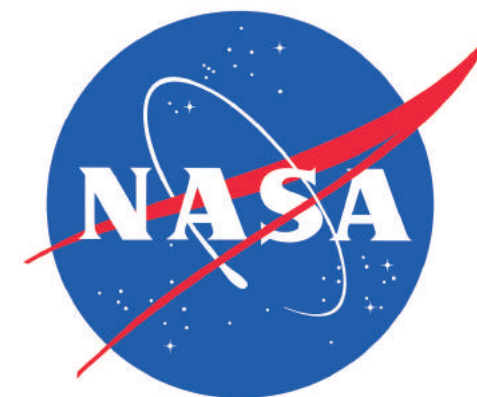


*A review of the award winning movie Hidden Figures*

Hidden Figures tells the story of three young women of colour working at NASA in 1961. Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), born with the mind of a genius, rode all the way through school with a scholarship granted to her in 6th grade. She works in NASA's Space task Group as one of many black female "human computers".

Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), another "human computer" with the goal of becoming NASA's leading black female engineer and Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer), unofficial supervisor of over 30 "human computers" with the hopes of being NASA's first black supervisor.

These ladies served behind one of NASA's greatest operations, the launch of Friendship 7; sending astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The launch sent the nation's confidence skyrocketing and turned the Space Race around to America's side.



**"Just because it's the way,  
doesn't make it right"  
- Dorothy Vaughn**

The movie shows the hard hitting truth on how black women dealt with racial and sexist abuse within their society. It is truly empowering to watch, as each hurdle was overcome with pure knowledge, persistence and sassiness.

While there are three main characters, the movie tends to follow behind Katherine Johnson's more so than the other ladies. Her story speaks to those who are juggling single motherhood and a full time job. With no man in the picture, she relies on her mother to help her with the three children while she is battling her way into a white male dominated field. As a character she is very enticing, her knowledge knows no bounds and is set to roam free within NASA's Space Task Group. As you can imagine her being a mathematical genius had got her some unwanted attention in the very beginning as men stared on in jealousy. It is easy to empathise with her, as in the beginning of the movie you saw parts of her childhood and how she excelled in school.

Her snappy remarks and humour bring an uplifted feeling to the story, it shares a message to viewers; no matter how hard life gets, there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

Dorothy Vaughn, hardworking and stubborn, receives a lot of racial backlash from her white supervisor (Kirsten Dunst), after asking her for a long deserved promotion. The Racism that comes from her supervisor is not the conscious or malicious kind of racism that you would expect, yet it still hits the intended mark.

A strong, independent women that is easily role model material is character Mary Jackson. She is feistiest and funniest of them all, after what is by far the best scene of her battling a judge to allow her into all-white night classes in order to become the an engineer at NASA.

Hidden Figures was directed by Theodore Melfi, and while this movie doesn't break any cinematic boundaries or push the boat out into any new directions it still delivers the intended impact. The ladies crossed the gender and race lines to inspire the generations to dream big. VL



# who runs the world? girls



*Leading roles are still limited for women in hollywood, and we're asking why.*

I grew up watching films like Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and all of them had the same reoccurring theme; the lady was the damsel in distress and needed a man to come and rescue her. Being so young at the time of seeing these films, it shaped the way I thought about society and how I, a lady, should act. I went through my younger years thinking that one day I would be saved by a handsome prince, a girl can dream, but I hope you understand my point. I was so entangled by what I was watching that I spent nearly every waking moment wondering how to impress these boys in the class, what could I do to get them to notice me. Let me tell you, the way Sleeping Beauty does it doesn't work. It was never a question of how could I be equal to the opposite sex.

*by victoria locke*

I was constantly told that I was never going to be bigger, faster or smarter than my male counterparts and if I was, it had to be kept quiet so it didn't offend their ever-growing egos. Sadly, I was ok with this. I was so influenced by what I watched on TV or on my computer that I didn't stop to think why?

Whenever a charity fundraiser came around the girls were always in charge of the baking, we made cupcakes, cookies, brownies, the lot. Now, just because I was going along with whipping up these delicious desserts did not mean that I was any good at them. What was supposed to be a cupcake turned into something that resembled ashes from a dying fire.

The boys, on the other hand, got to set up football goals and fill buckets up with water balloons. Pelting the innocent when they couldn't score from the Halfway mark on the pitch.

Looking back at my childhood, I realised that instead of trying to make the football team or putting my hand up to join the math club, I sat back and let my male counterparts take charge. It wasn't "cute" to be strong, to think outside the box that society had drawn for us. If it wasn't for these things influencing me, I would have turned out a much stronger woman.

It is in today's society that we, as women, have realised what is so wrong with this male dominating culture.

Movies are watched by millions all over the world, by people of all ages. It is this that makes them so influential. To see a movie and notice if a woman was in it she would be "co-starring" next to a man, and this, in a perfect world, would have worked out great.

An example of this is the movie franchise, Fast and Furious which has been releasing films nearly every year since 2001. As years went by both audiences and actresses realised that the franchise had not yet lost its "macho 90s vibe", as it puts male characters story on a pedestal, leaving the women stranded in a petrol wasteland.

In a recent interview actress Michelle Rodriguez threatened to leave the franchise if they did not improve the roles of female actors. Michelle took her words onto Instagram, "F8 is out digitally today, I hope they decide to show some love to the women of the franchise on the next one or I just might have to say goodbye to a loved franchise."

I grew up watching Fast and Furious. I remember seeing all the pretty women in the passenger seat next to these macho men. That's all they ever were, passengers.

Being so young and so easily influenced by all around you, it is easy to see how a girl can think that this is all she will amount up to, a passenger.

We all know about James Bond and his solo adventures, which are interrupted by a woman in his bed who he then has to save later on in the movie. Well in Skyfall, released in 2012, there wasn't much of a change to be seen. The 2012's "Bond Girl" was Naomie Harris, who played Miss Moneypenny. Being 14 years old at the time of the release,

I still had my head wrapped around the fact that we, as women, were around purely to stroke men's egos. This movie doesn't paint the image that women are meant to be anything more than a disposable camera.

Going into the audition for the new "Bond Girl", Naomie Harris claimed that she only went in "for a laugh" as she didn't think she had the "right... assets" for a traditional "Bond Girl".

See Miss Moneypenny was a receptionist at the start of the film. She was promoted to secret agent alongside Bond, then accidentally shot someone, so was demoted back to the receptionist. This, just in case viewers didn't get the hint, is why women can't be as good an agent as James Bond.

Not all is doom and gloom for today's influential movie society. Wonder Woman is back! In the 2017 adaptation, Wonder Woman is the leading role, surrounded by forgettable faces. Gal Gadot is an inspiring leading actor, as while filming the movie she was pregnant. She showed that you can still take on motherhood whilst killing it career wise.

Whilst it is a step forward for females to be cast in lead roles, there is a problem of the unrealistic standards set by these characters. The women are usually, white, beautiful, and on display at all times.

However, it doesn't draw from the fact that Hollywood is trying to bring in more female leading roles. We've seen this in the case of Atomic blonde, Star wars: rogue one, Bad moms, and Hidden Figures were all female lead movies.

Moana was the first Disney "princess" where there is no love interest, and the film strictly relied on her achieving her goals; to save the island. Her gender does not limit her possibilities. I was brought up on Disney so to see this change, it is a big step for equality.

From my own experience, I understand how important it is to see empowering women on the big screen. These women/characters become your role models and shape the way you see yourself and the world around you. VL

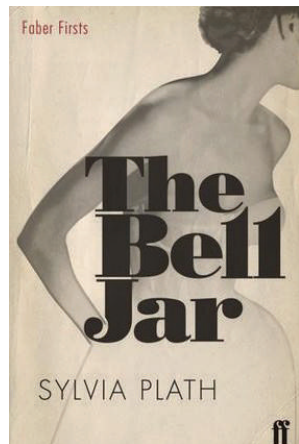
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**"I wanted to show that women are empowered and strong, and don't have to be saved by some male hero, but they can take care of themselves using their intelligence and their power."**  
- Gal Gadot



# the books to read before you turn 25

Books can be a huge and integral part of your life, so it's important that you're reading the good ones. We have compiled a list of eight books that you need to read before you're 25. Not only will these books change your life, they're also all written by fantastic women.



## The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

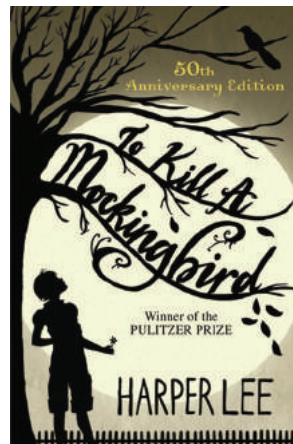
Written in the same year Plath killed herself, *The Bell Jar* is a brilliant story of growing up, finding yourself and coping with mental illness. Aspects of it will ring true for many people, it's one of those books you'll still be thinking about months after you finished it.



## The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

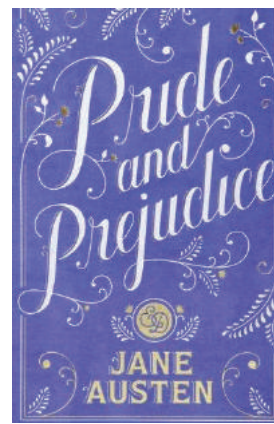
Set in a dystopian world where women are forced to become 'handmaids' and bear children for richer infertile couples, the handmaid's tale is a terrifying tale of extreme patriarchy and the women who suffer at its hands.



## To Kill A Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

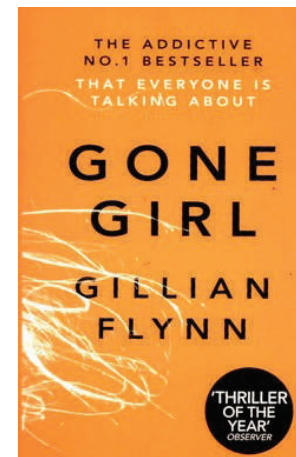
A classic tale of empathy, told through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout. *To Kill A Mockingbird* lets us know that you never really understand a person until you walk a mile in their shoes.



## Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen

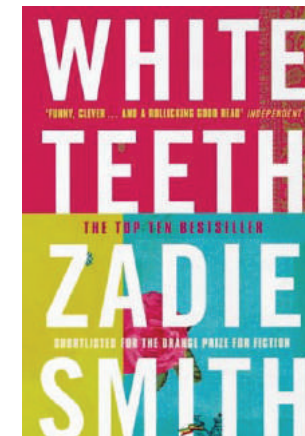
Jane Austen was a trailblazer when she wrote about women marrying for love rather than marrying a cousin for money and security in the classic *Pride and Prejudice*. It's quietly feminist and just utterly brilliant.



## Gone Girl

by Gillian Flynn

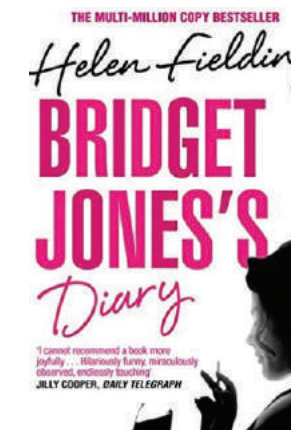
Flynn's thriller about a woman's mysterious disappearance might seem an odd choice for a list like this, but read it. The cool girl monologue is chillingly brilliant and you'll be able to relate to it more than you'll care to admit.



## White Teeth

by Zadie Smith

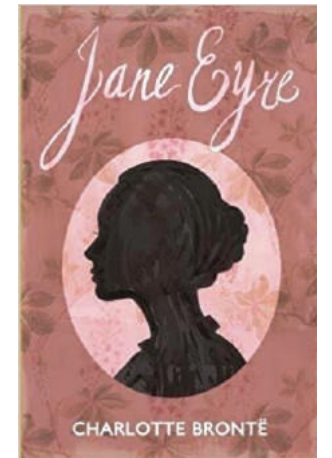
Zadie Smith has a gift when it comes to story-telling and her debut novel *White Teeth* was one of the most talked about ever. It follows the lives of wartime friends and she covers love, friendship and war.



## Bridget Jones's Diary

by Helen Fielding

Another perhaps controversial choice, but every woman must read *Bridget Jones's Diary*. It's a right of passage and you'll fall in love with the hapless and hilarious Bridget even more than you did in the films.



## Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Charlotte Brontë's classic love story is one that has really stood the test of time. If you didn't read it at school, you need to pick it up and experience the beautiful love story between Jane and Mr Rochester. RN

**“I declare after all, there is no joy like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than a book! When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.”**  
**-Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice**



everything  
I know  
about  
~~parties~~, ~~dates~~,  
~~friends~~, ~~jobs~~,  
~~life~~, love  
dolly  
alderton

and  
finally...





## can women really have it all?

*It is the age old question, can a woman really have a thriving career if she becomes a mother?*

*by lucija duzel*

It's either a career or children, you can't have it all. Women hear this continuously as they grow up. It leads to so many questions, but no straight answer. It is quite an unfair thing to say to any woman, because what if we want both? If men can be both fathers and have a successful career, we can too.

But first, let set some things straight. This is not just another article desperately trying to convince you to be a mother. Or one that tells you your life is going to be filled with love and joy. Or that being one is the answer to all of your problems. Because it really is not.

This is about showing you it is possible to combine both professional success and family commitment.

Why? Firstly, having a child is a sacrifice. It is the single most selfless act. Secondly, when a woman becomes pregnant she gives up her body, then once the baby arrives: her sleep and even her food at times. She has to run around and care for everything and everyone.

How do I know? Just look at my mother. She had three at the same time. She had to do everything three times over. For her, neither peace of mind nor sanity have been a priority for the past 21 years. She has had several jobs and still has; a MasterChef, schedule organiser, cheerleader, comforter, mentor and detective. But, there is one job she had to sacrifice – her career.

Of course, some manage it. Mrs Fila, a mother of one and part-time lecturer at the University of Zagreb managed to juggle both. "I was lucky because my job was quite flexible and I could bring my son into work, whether it was in university or art exhibitions I had to present," she said. "Everything is possible, but you have to balance it out."

"The most difficult part was when my child would get sick and the teacher calls you to pick him up, it always had to be me. It was never my husband. And if you are in the middle of something it gets quite tricky."

Being a mum is a 24/7 job, but so is being a dad. Men are still conditioned to believe that their primary obligation is to be the breadwinner. On the other hand, women are led to believe that their primary family obligation is to be the caregiver. And while this may be logical, we should expand our horizons.

Many men might consider the choice to spend more time with their children instead of working long hours selfish. They are always praised for having sacrificed their family life to make progress in their career. Yet women are criticised and called "bad mothers" for doing the same thing.

Fathers believe that there is little interaction possible with a new-born baby. However, they can get a lot of benefit from caring for the baby. Time spent with the baby in the early weeks and months should provide a positive foundation for the developing relationship as the child grows, making fatherhood more rewarding and enjoyable.

Also, it has been proven that fathers who are involved in their children's lives from day one significantly increase their child's physical and mental development. Hands-on fathers also suffer from less stress. "Fathers can attune to their babies, to become familiar with them, their likes and dislikes, and therefore increase their confidence with the baby," Helen Hans, a postnatal leader with the UK's National Childcare Trust told *The National*.

**"when a woman becomes pregnant she gives up her body, then once the baby arrives: her sleep and even her food at times. She has to run around and care for everything and everyone."**

Men are more "rough and tumble" with their children and encourage more risk-taking behaviour. Women tend to use simple words to adjust their language down. But, men use more complicated words which help to broaden the child's vocabulary.

"Babies who have benefited from paternal interactions from an early age get on better with their peers," Dr Lin Day, the founder of Baby Sensory development classes, said in a recent interview. "They're academically more successful, stay in school longer, use drugs and alcohol less frequently and are less likely to get involved with crime. They may also be better equipped socially and psychologically than infants who receive very little attention from their fathers."

It is the time that we raise awareness about these issues. And the reason this is an issue is because women tend to forget their careers and throw them away. If both parents had equal roles, this would give mothers the chance to focus on their careers. It is not something to throw away. There is so much more we can do than just being mums, for instance being bosses.

As working mothers, we promote equality in our marriage or partnership. And while some might think that if you work full time you will spend less time with your children, that is actually not the case. According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics married women who work full time spend 2.1 hours per day on primary childcare on average, while married women who were not employed spent 3.1 hours each day on childcare. As a working mum, you will be aware that you have limited time to spend with your children and this will make quality time with them more valuable.

Not to get too Utopian and make it seem it is all going to be pretty in pink. The harsh reality is that it is going to be difficult, and you will face plenty of obstacles, and there will be times where you will want to give everything up, and where sleepless nights will take over. But then you will remember why you started (as cliché as it sounds) and you will be alright.

It is sad that some believe that motherhood and a career cannot co-exist in the eyes of 43 per cent of mothers according to *The Atlantic*. We can have it all, and we should have it all. Especially in this day and age. If your child asks you if she can be a brain surgeon and a mother, your response should be "Of course you can". At least that would be a start. LD





STARRING KATE MOSS



SCENT OF A DREAM

Charlotte Tilbury

THE KEY TO ATTRACTION

# how to be successful like her: *oprah winfrey*

**She's smart, world famous and incredibly succesful... but Oprah Winfrey started from nothing, and here's how she earned her success.**

Success - it's a term that everyone defines differently. For some, it is working until their bank account resembles a phone number (or at least half a phone number), for others, it is landing their dream job, and for the rest it is happiness. Oprah Winfrey is a woman who has achieved all three.

She is one of the most powerful people in the world. With a net worth of \$3 billion, she is one of just two black billionaires in North America (the other is Michael Jordan). Her 25-year career as host and producer of The Oprah Winfrey Show changed the TV business.

Surprisingly, her first screen job ended quickly because she was deemed "unfit for TV". Quite ironic since she is now praised for popularising the confessional form of the talk show, which has since become common across cable networks. Whoever's lips spoke those words probably still tears up whenever they hear Oprah's name.

But it was not always like this. As a child, her outfits were made of potato sacks as her family could not afford clothes. This earned her the cruel nickname of 'Sack Girl'.

And she was sexually abused by her cousin at the age of nine, a pattern that continued with other family members later in life.

"Anybody who has been verbally abused or physically abused will spend a great deal of their life rebuilding their esteem," she told 3,000 students at Ball State University in Indiana.

This may help explain why she succeeded as a talk-show host. It is no surprise that her guests confess their biggest fears and secrets to her. Whatever has happened to them, Oprah has probably experienced worse and therefore can bond with them.

Her talents became visible quite early. At the age of three, she could read and she would perform mock-interviews with her doll. 'The Preacher' was a second, much kinder



nickname she earned in church because she was a talented speaker. The gift was always present, it just needed the right environment to bloom. That environment came when she moved in with her father.

He was a soldier; strict and disciplined. He drilled her in reading a book and writing a report week-in, week-out. Oprah soon became the best student in the class. At 17 she won a beauty contest and was awarded the title of 'Miss Fire Prevention' - this was her breakthrough. She visited a Nashville radio station and, as a joke, read the news. She was offered a job on the spot. Her career was born.

After years of hard work, she was crowned a media mogul, and she still is one. Success comes to those who work hard. Oprah definitely did. Her bank account looks like at least two-thirds of a phone number. She got her dream job. And despite the fact she does not have children and is unmarried, a beautiful bright smile never leaves her face; proving everyone wrong! LD





# global heroines

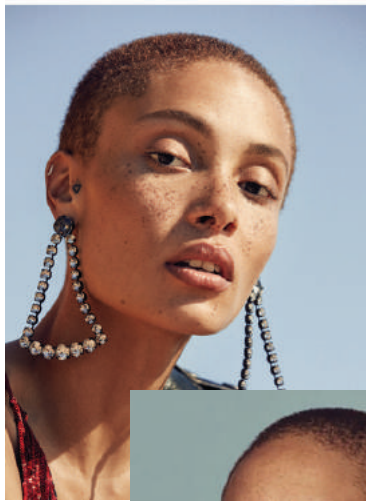


*We have to love and protect each other, seek to understand each other and stand up for each other*

2017 was the year women came together in an unprecedented show of unity. The Women's March, in Washington, which paved the way to other 700 marches worldwide with almost five million participants taking over the streets (making it the biggest human rights demonstration in history), showed how powerful women's voice can be when they speak as one. We want to honour these incredible women who have somehow empowered and inspired us over the last 12 months

*by federica riondino*





adwoa

**the model on a mission**  
A young voice defining an entire generation

This has been Adwoa Aboah's year. Not only her modelling career took off, fronting the runways for Dior, Miu Miu and H&M, but her Gurls Talk has become a global phenomena.

The British bold girl founded the digital platform back in 2015 after years battling herself with addiction and depression. She aspires to empower young ladies, breaking taboos while talking about sex, mental health and body image.

She says, she has found this new space for activism and inclusivity-promoting beauty within fashion and does not want to miss the chance of representing a generation that has no time for what is not authentic and honest. She feels part of something big and the best part is that we are all in together.

**“Here’s to strong women. May we know them, may we raise them, may we be them.”**



gretchen

**the sexism slayer**  
A best-selling author freely talking about workplace sexism

Gretchen Carlson's former boss, as well as CEO of Fox News network Roger Ailes, has been forced to step down from his role following her sexual harassment claims.

Co-host of a pretty popular and controversial American morning program, Gretchen has received so much support and information from other women who had faced harassment that she felt compelled to pen Be Fierce, in which she examines the causes of such issue and the ways to combat it.

Her next move is to testify against forced arbitration clauses, which play a major role in preventing lawsuit and keeping stories of harassment hidden.

She says, “If it helped my daughter to be a stronger woman and my son to see what I did, it was all worth it”.



julia

**the activist**  
Putting an end to Female Genital Cutting

Julia Lalla-Maharajh could not believe what had started as a patriarchal practice has become a social norm, which puts 4 million girls at risk every year.

The London based activist set up Orchid Project in 2010, to stop the global omertá status around the partial or total removal of genitals, often practiced in the sub-Saharan countries, and has been awarded and OBE this year for helping thousands of communities to end the procedure.

Her charity was born to share information about the barbarian tradition and raise money to fund programs to educate women about their rights and choices regarding the topic.

She says, “I have been known to run after world leaders to help this cause, I once stopped Justin Trudeau and told him Canada should invest in stopping FGC. My vision is a world free from FGC and I believe this can happen within my lifetime, if more people get engaged with the issue globally”.



sarah and rania

**the revolutionary**  
Brave women changing the face of finance around the world

In a country where women still do not have the right to drive, a third does not have a job and cannot leave the house without the presence of a male relative or husband, their achievements represent already a victory for Saudi women.

Sarah Alsuhaimi and Rania Mahmoud Nashar have been respectively named first female in-chief of Saudi Arabia's stock exchange and CEO of Samba Financial Group, one of the largest national bank in the country.

Their roles are significant representation of a changing nation, while the number of ladies entering work begins to grow.



angela

**the investor**  
The business angel

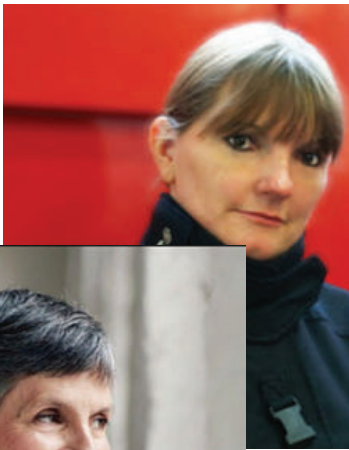
Angela Lee was appalled by the lack of women in the investing landscape, felt this was limiting the economy scenarios and that is why 37 Angels was founded.

It is a network that trains women to invest in early stages start-ups.

With bootcamps across the globe, from New York to Tokyo, Angela aims to provide all the needed tools to anyone who wants to be part of the financial sector, and in four weeks go from pitch, pick and deal done.

She says, “ My bootcamps welcome anybody, from former and expert investors to small family business representatives, and we try to create a safe, transparent and efficient environment to invest and create revenue for our business just as much as theirs”.

**“she needed a hero, so that is what she became.”**



cressida and dany

**the lifesavers**

The reassuring eyes of women who have seen people die

She stepped into her role on April 10 and on the same day attended the funeral of PC Keith Palmer, killed during the terrorist attack in Westminster. Cressida Dick is the first woman Metropolitan Police officer. She says, “take some inspiration and positivity out of the tragedy”.

A few months later, she had to manage a complicate situation with cold blood, the terrorist attack at London Bridge had happened. About her, colleagues have said “brilliant”, “competent”, “authoritative”. She wanted to save as many people as she could and that was the bottom line.

Dany Cotton had been appointed first woman commissioner of the London Fire Brigade a few months earlier, but when the Grenfell Tower housing estate was burning down on June 14, she had to quickly assess the danger and send firefighters into the blaze, managing a quick response.

She says, “Looking at the building engulfed by the flames and knowing I had hundred-plus firefighters inside at any one time, made me feel sick”.

In the meanwhile, survivors might praise her efficiency and colleagues' bravery for a lifetime. FR





**miu miu**  
THE FIRST FRAGRANCE





STELLA McCARTNEY