

Personal Shopper: Grown Up Grad Looks for Katie

Katie writes: So I have a bit of a dilemma. I turned 25 this past June and I've realized that my wardrobe is in a sort of no-man's land. It consists almost entirely of quirky t-shirts and jeans. I'm started grad school in the Fall and I'll be acting as a teaching assistant, so I'd like to give my look a little more polish. I'm only 5'11" but I have an hour-glass figure so finding clothes that flatter my body type is always a challenge. I usually wear a 12 or a 14.

Also, I have no clue how to accessorize. All of my jewelry is either plastic stuff left over from High School or high end pieces that I got for various graduations and milestone birthdays; nothing in between. Could you help me find some grown up garb that's still fun? Thanks so much!

Hi Katie! It's Trajano here to act as your trusty style-sherpa. I've put together a slew of great basics that will serve as a chic foundation to what I'm sure will blossom into a stunner of a wardrobe. First let's talk about dressing your body shape. You've got curves, but you're on the shorter side so you want to avoid the following: crew neck anything (will make you look boxy), horizontal stripes, shirts that cut you off at the widest part, low rise skinny jeans, and anything with a lot of ruffles or volume around the chest. Things to look for: scoop or v-neck tees (these will elongate the neck line), A-line and empire waist shirts and dresses, jeans and pants with a trouser fit and either a slight flare or straight leg. You want to highlight your body's best features, not hide them. Another tip on fit - get your pants hemmed to the right length or shop in the petites section - nothing makes you look stumper than inches of bunched fabric around your ankles.

The items I picked out are examples of what I talked about. Since you're embarking on a new part of your life I suggest you actually tackle a live and in vivo shopping quest. Use these items as a guide and begin to build your adult closet. Try things on, if you don't like the way they look or fit, try on more stuff. You might find you look totally killer in turquoise or that you hate tweed, but you've got to get in the trenches to complete your sartorial epiphany. When you're building an outfit make sure the fit is just right and that you've got some color, texture, and pattern to keep it visually interesting.

Aaaaaand finally accessories. This is your homework assignment young style padawan. I've put in some examples of modern and versatile items. But accessories are perhaps the most personal pieces in a wardrobe. Look for items that say something about you. If you are crazy about animals look for fun studs shaped like your favorites. Try on the long and layered necklaces, or maybe you'll prefer a cleaner look with slim chains and small pendants. Pick up a bunch of fun scarves for a song at thrift stores, use them as belts, headbands, and tie them around your neck. Choose out some studs and long earrings, bangles and cuffs, and a few necklaces that appeal to you. Neutrals and metallics are a good start for shoes. Those small touches are what make your look unique

Tops:

- 1 - Halogen Elbow Sleeve Scoop Neck Top (\$39)
- 2 - Carlton Ruched Side Tee (\$30)
- 3 - Cha Cha Vente Top (\$44)
- 4 - Boden Wrap Jersey Top (\$54)
- 5 - INC Cap Sleeve Empire Waist Printed Top (\$60)
- 6 - Ivory Cornelli Embroidered Top (\$60)

Bottoms & Dresses:

- 7 - Gap 1969 Perfect Fit Boot Jeans (\$70)
- 8 - Banana Republic Sloan Fit Black Tweed Flare Trousers (\$90)
- 9 - Boden Flippy Wool Skirt (\$118)
- 10 - Gabriella Rocha Cadden Dress (\$41)
- 11 - Banana Republic Gemma Wrap Dress (\$98)

Accessories:

- 12 - Kate Spade New York Revelry Red Necklace (\$45)
- 13 - Juicy Couture Endless Summer Multi-Locket Coral Necklace (\$78)
- 14 - Tarina Tarantino "Classic" Sapphire-Color Large Jasmine Post Earrings (\$25)
- 15 - Sorrelli "City Neutral" Multi-Crystal Delicate Drop Earrings (\$20)
- 16 - Belle Noel 14k Yellow Gold-Plated Honey Stud Earrings (\$20)
- 17 - Bandolino Envia Pump (\$60)
- 18 - Blowfish Blyth Boots (\$60)
- 19 - Kenneth Cole Reaction Slip Gloss Ballet Flat (\$69)



<http://www.outblush.com/women/personal-shopper/personal-shopper-grown-up-grad-looks-for-katie/>



Essential 10 - Wardrobe Edition

Here's a list of 10 things no woman's closet should be without - the crucial basics that are the foundation of a chic and modern wardrobe. Just from these few pieces you can build a great look for work, the perfect date outfit, meet the parents brunch appropriate apparel, and everything in between. Factor in your favorite scarves, earrings, bangles, and belts and you have infinitesimal options for looking fabulous. It's worth it to splurge on essential pieces - these old reliables never go out of style.

1. **Go-to Pair of Jeans:** The **Honey style** by Joe's Jeans (\$168) is a great example of a staple jean - simple, timeless, and well made.

2. **Pencil Skirt:** The pencil skirt creates a classic, slimming silhouette. This **Theory Delion Skirt** is superbly tailored and will accentuate your curves in the best possible way.

3. **The Little Black Dress:** This **Vivienne Tam matte jersey dress** (\$189) is adorable, and will look as fresh and chic in ten years as it does today. Be sure to find an LBD that compliments your body shape and highlights your best features.

4. **Black Dress Pants:** These **black dress pants** (\$80) by Banana Republic come in three different fits and lengths so you'll be sure to find the pant that fits you best.

5. **Go with Anything/Go Anywhere Top:** Find a top in a color and material that you love. This **BCBC empire blouse** (\$118) in cranberry is a top you can wear with just about anything just about anywhere.

6. **Trench Coat:** How can you say no to something that keeps you warm and makes you look like an intriguing she-spy? Right - you can't. Say yes to this **Michael Kors hooded trench** (\$141).

7. **Basic Tees:** Pick up some well-made tees in basic colors like these **Banana Republic Classic Tees** (\$24).

8. **Cashmere Sweater:** Find a cashmere sweater in a color that makes you shine. The midnight blue of this **CeCe cashmere v-neck** (\$89) is rich hue that compliments many skin tones.

9. **Just Right Chinos:** These **Favorite Cut Chinos** by J. Crew (\$40) would be perfect with a cute tank and flip flops in the summer or a cowl neck sweater and riding boots in the winter. These are the pants you live in on the weekends - all year long.

10. **Ballet Flats and Perfect Pumps:** The **Ciao Bella Frankie flats** (\$47) in pewter are cute, comfortable, and versatile. A hot pair of heels rounds out the list - these **Delman Pumps** in brown patent leather (\$125) are simple and sexy (and they'll make your legs go on for days, which is never a bad thing).

<http://www.outblush.com/women/fashion/essential-10-wardrobe-edition/>

Wedding Dressed: Formal

Here comes the bride/groom/life partner/spouse, all dressed in white/black/fuchsia/sustainably harvested bamboo silk... Weddings these days are anything *but* traditional, but as a guest, it's best to play it safe when you're getting dressed to head to the ceremony. Besides the unbreakable "Thou Shalt NOT Outshine the Bride," commandment, what are the rules of wedding dressing? We're here to help. Over the next several weeks, we'll be giving you guidelines of appropriate attire for different kinds of ceremonies & receptions, along with reasonably priced dresses, shoes, and accessory ideas. Please RSVP.... We'd love to have you!

This is in some ways the easiest affair to dress for, as the happy couple will request "black tie apparel" on the invitation. So you know you need to get out the sartorial big guns. But while the parameters may be clear as crystal, this kind of shindig is also the least budget friendly. We've tried to keep the options less than \$500 and more classic in style so you can get a few spins out of these pricier pieces. Number 10 is an exception - it's there to salivate over, people only wear these kind of dresses to weddings where the guest list is full of Rockefellers and Hearsts.

Bottom line: Ball gowns, baby! Time to channel your inner Academy Awards attendee.

- 1 - [Black Floral Evening Dress](#) by Xscape (\$218)
- 2 - [Green Satin Cowl Neck Gown](#) by A.B.S. by Allen Schwartz (\$206)
- 3 - [Satin Off the Shoulder Ruched Dress](#) by Nicole Miller (\$264)
- 4 - [Chiffon Tiered Gown](#) by Adrianna Papell (\$248)
- 5 - [Strapless Bow Detail Gown](#) by ABS (\$395)
- 6 - [BCBG Strapless Gown](#) (\$398)
- 7 - [Cap-Sleeved Taffeta Gown](#) by Tadashi Shoji (\$428)
- 8 - [One-Shoulder Metallic Dress](#) by David Meister (\$488)
- 9 - [Stretch CDC Gown](#) by Nicole Miller (\$550)
- 10 - [Ruffle Front Silk Gown](#) by Valentino (\$5,590)



<http://www.outblush.com/women/fashion/dresses-skirts/wedding-dressed-formal/>

Aspire/Acquire Spring Spectacular: Orange

[Punxsutawney Phil](#), you stinkin' liar. 'no six weeks of winter', our sweet ass. We love hot chocolate and warm sweaters and curling up by the fire with our honey as much as the next girl, but it's getting old FAST. We are so ready for spring! With that in mind, we're counting down the days until March 21st, the official first day of spring, with some fabulous Aspire/Acquire posts featuring ideas for spring fashion and frolicking. Bring on the warm weather!

Orange - it's warm, it's bright, it's all over the place for this spring. Often people tend to relegate bold colors to accessories only, but a strong punch of color is rarely a bad idea. Our aspire specimen is [Vivienne Westwood's Fulfillment Top](#) (\$270). The soft draping would look fab under a blazer for work or paired with your sexiest jeans and pumps for a night out. But, if you adore the color, but not so much the price our acquire option might be your cup of sweet tea. The [Ecote Silk Laceup Tank Top](#) by Urban Outfitters (\$30) has a slightly flared cut and small details that add a great deal of visual interest. Today's Spring Spectacular is brought to you by the color orange and the feeling awesome.

And, as always, if you've got something you love that's out of your reach, [email us](#) and we'll find you some more budget-friendly lookalikes for a future [Aspire/Acquire](#) feature!



<http://www.outblush.com/women/fashion/tops-tees/aspireacquire-spring-spectacular-orange/>

Aspire/Acquire Spring Spectacular: Bronzer

Punxsutawney Phil, you stinkin' liar. 'no six weeks of winter', our sweet ass. We love hot chocolate and warm sweaters and curling up by the fire with our honey as much as the next girl, but it's getting old FAST. We are so ready for spring! With that in mind, we're counting down the days until March 21st, the official first day of spring, with some fabulous Aspire/Acquire posts featuring ideas for spring fashion and frolicking. Bring on the warm weather!

The day-glo cast of the Jersey Shore has given bronzer a bad rep. There is a world of difference between sporting a bit of a sun-kissed glow and making an effort to resemble everyone's favorite lyrical chocolate factory employees. We like to showcase a healthy glow in the spring and summer so today we're endorsing bronzer (in moderation). Our aspire choice today is **Givenchy's Le Prisme Visage Sun Visage Mat & Glow Soft Compact Face Powder** (\$53). It has nine different shades and three different textures that glide on in a velvety powder to create a warm glow. Our acquire pick is **Physician's Formula Shimmer Strips Custom Bronzer** (\$11). This comes in a few different shades (Riviera is pictured) so you can pick the one that best compliments your skin tone and it gives your face that same healthy shimmer. We also love a makeup that can multi-task; you can use each individual color in the set to create an equally dazzling look for your eyes.

And, as always, if you've got something you love that's out of your reach, **email us** and we'll find you some more budget-friendly lookalikes for a future **Aspire/Acquire** feature!



Aspire



Acquire

<http://www.outblush.com/women/beauty/makeup/aspireacquire-spring-spectacular-bronzer/>



Doubtblush: Vajazzle for shizzle

You may have noticed that we're hardly perpetual rays of sunshine around here, but even so, we seem to spend a lot of our time enthusing about one gewgaw or another. **Doubtblush** exists to make it clear that we do not, in fact, like everything.

Remember the **Bedazzler**? You could take a boring old acid dyed bolero jacket and elevate it to new depths of twinkling wonderment in a matter of minutes. Now, thanks to the ever more mind boggling advancements in the aesthetic arts, you can add the same element of shimmer and intrigue to your cha-cha. **Bedazzler +**

Vagina = Vajazzled. After getting your lady-lips waxed to a prepubescent sheen, a technician will adorn your crotchal area with a pastiche of Swarovski crystals. You could decorate your special purpose with anything from a **peace sign** to your beloved's name. Available at select salons in **D.C.** and **New York**. Be one of the first women to trick out your cooter like a Vegas street sign!

<http://www.outblush.com/women/doubtblush/doubtblush-vajazzle-for-shizzle/>

Personal Shopper: Movie Opening Ensemble for Maya

Maya's sartorial quagmire: Hi there! I've been a big fan of your blog for the past few years. I'm hoping you can help me with this request on such short notice. I will be attending a screening of an independent film I co-produced in 2 weeks. There will be a movie screening and a cast & crew party afterwards. I'm looking for some ideas of what to wear. Since it'll be in Santa Monica, CA I'm looking for something casual yet fun and refined. The movie's genre is western and film noir. I like mini's but nothing too short! I've been loving navy this season and am open to prints but don't usually go wild. My budget is \$200-\$250 for the entire outfit. I'd like to have some options, whether a dress, jeans or shorts. I love to accessorize and am even thinking about sporting a straw fedora. My style is Anthropologie meets Banana Republic. Hope you can help me out!

Hi Maya - it's Trajano and I am all about helping you get properly gussied up for your upcoming fabulous event. I tried to pick out some outfits that would give you room to play. The pencil skirt is a nod to the noir side of your film and could be paired with a simple top and funky accessories or a fun print and subdued earrings. The nude pumps (which you'll end up wearing a million times over if you go with that pick) also match the jeans and tank look. If you're more into statement necklaces you can swap something long and drapery out for the studs. The print on the dress is eye catching and would be super comfortable to wear all night long. Hope you find something you love!



<http://www.outblush.com/women/personal-shopper/personal-shopper-movie-opening-ensemble-for-maya/>

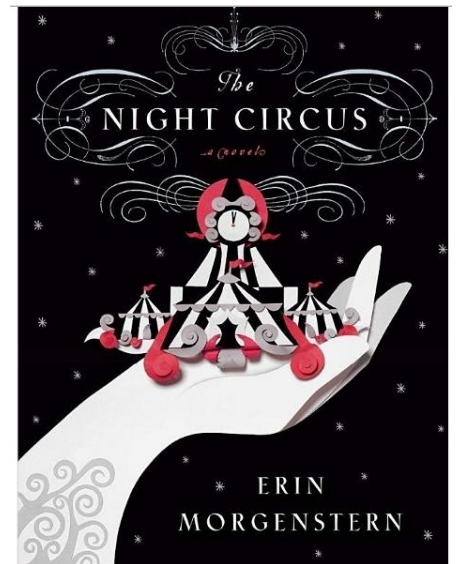
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

Oct 24, 2011 9:44 AM

There is magic, mystery and romance in Erin Morgenstern's debut novel *The Night Circus*. Celia and Marcos are two illusionists pitted against one another in a lifelong magical contest. She travels with the *Le Cirque des Rêves*, a place clearly not bound by the well known laws of physics, and he peddles his enchantments and fantasies from a distance. The book is written in the present tense, and from different narrative perspectives - either one can be difficult to maintain in a novel without a superlative command of both, which Morgenstern has. You get the sense of a woven story; so many threads intricately tucked and spun into and around one another. The tale is intriguing and dark but conversely charming and delightful. We have to say, it's not a book for everyone, some people will find the writing style off putting and the gentle unfolding of the plot a bit on the slow side, but the people who will fall into the world Morgenstern has created will wish it were a real, and pine for an invitation to stay forever.

Hardcover (\$14)

Kindle Edition (\$13)



<http://www.outblush.com/women/life/books-magazines/the-night-circus-by-erin-morgenstern/>

Doubtblush: Wreck the Halls - The senior citizen gift basket.... For a teenager

Dec 9, 2010 11:50 AM

We've all got a horror story about the time our mom gave us a box filled with tampons and a training bra in front of our entire family that one Christmas, or the time our new boyfriend gave us a membership to an S&M club, or, worse still, diet pills. In honor of the worst gifts we, the Outblush staff, have ever received, we present a special holiday edition of Doubtblush: **Wreck the Halls**, where we'll tell you the stories of the most awful gifts we've gotten, and find a modern counterpart to it.... You know, just in case you've got a White Elephant party coming up.

Trajano, here: My grandmother was infamous for two things - her inability to tell a joke successfully and giving terrible, terrible Christmas presents. She fell into the classic quandary of giving you what *she* wanted you to want. Of course these objects never bore even a passing resemblance to anything you'd actually desire, let alone be excited about opening up. The year she really outdid herself in terms of weird, awkward, and just plain bizarre was Christmas 1996. I received 50 puke-green washcloths, two dozen pastel mock turtle neck dickies, 12 pairs of control top panty hose, and three bulk-sized bottles of Gold Bond body powder. As nothing I could come up with would fully describe the horror of each subsequent unveiling I will offer up the comments my sweet Grammie Kit proffered as I unwrapped my treasures.

Washcloths: Ladies use washcloths missy, prostitutes do not. (Raises a single eyebrow like she knows something I don't)

Dickies: Dickies are the wooden spoon of a woman's wardrobe, they mix things up.

Panty Hose: Women in our family hide our stomachs and show off our tits (yes she really did say "tits" on Christmas welcome to my nightmare).

Gold Bond: Put it on all the leaky spots *whispers* keeps things fresh. (Winks)



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Olivia Stone Lady Bug Ring

Apr 19, 2011 8:34 AM

If one man's trash is another man's treasure, then one lady's gaudy bauble is another woman's bling. When it comes to jewelry we rarely discriminate - we're fond of dainty and sweet but we also dig big and bold. This amiable marvel falls into the latter category. The **Olivia Stone Lady Bug Ring** (\$98) manages to encapsulate the lighthearted glory of spring. A wee white lady bug makes her easy way across a cluster of tiny blue flowers. Wear it with your favorite airy dress and ballet flats and then frolic like a fawn from bar to bar drinking mint juleps and aviators.

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Coconuts Raye Wedge Sandals

Apr 15, 2011 10:25 AM

If wedges were to run for political office, we'd be their campaign manager. To put it simply, we heart them. There's not really a summer outfit out there that doesn't look sleek and modern when served up with a sizzling pair of wedges. A current favorite are these [Coconuts by Matisse Women's Raye Wedge Sandals](#) (\$65). The mixed hues of the metallic shoe are sexy in a surreptitious way, while the bold hues in the multicolor version remind us of [Carmen Miranda](#) is the best possible way. To be safe everyone should probably have one of each.

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Moschino Cheap and Chic Metallic Silk Chiffon Dress

Apr 15, 2011 10:14 AM

There should be a couple of items in every gal's closet that are just right. The jeans that you slide into and instantly make you feel lithe and leggy, a particular top that makes the girls look perky and ups your confidence, and a dress that celebrates your curves and makes you feel like a sex bomb. This [Moschino Cheap and Chic Metallic Silk Chiffon Dress](#) (\$206) is just that kind of frock. The petal pink metallic sheen is a unique color and would look equally good on a peaches and cream complexion or on a rich, dark skintone. The empire waist, a-line skirt, and simple ruching will show off your curves in many splendid ways. It's perfect for weddings, cocktail parties and that crucial third date (wink).

Editor's Note: Sadly, only sizes 10 and 12 are left in this style.

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Rest In Fabulous Peace, Elizabeth Taylor

Mar 23, 2011 10:58 AM

Elizabeth Taylor was a legend - an iconic beauty, an aromatic impresario, and a rare talent. If you only know her as from perfume commercials and tabloid breakups spend some time and get to know her on screen. She smolders in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, will make you want in a pony in *National Velvet*, and the costume changes alone in *Cleopatra* are worth the price of admission. She was the last big star from Hollywood's now long-since dead studio system, won two Oscars and was married eight times (most often to her favorite co-star, Richard Burton) - all in all she lived a full, marvelous, exciting life. Today we salute Old Violet Eyes, her style, her attitude, and her work.

If you want to emulate those startlingly lovely peepers, try *Dior's Stylish Move palette* (\$58) - five gorgeous purple-y shades you can play with to make you eyes shimmer with lilac allure. White diamonds, both a perfume by Liz Taylor and one of her favorite things to wear, are next on the list. These *Micropavé Diamond Earrings* (\$3,800) are stunning, if crazy-expensive. Finally, one of our favorite films of all time - *The Taming of the Shrew* (\$10). Elizabeth Taylor is a phenomenal badass as the eponymous shrew, Katrina. Her long-time love, Richard Burton, tames the bejesus out of her - you'll enjoy every second of their feisty battle.

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