

Nicky Hilton

'I DON'T OWN ANYTHING PINK'

Way before the Kardashians, the Hilton sisters made the headlines as the original It girls. Now Nicky has written a book of her style tips. *Grazia* went shopping with her – and, guess what, it wasn't all labels and bling...

WORDS OLIVIA PALMOUNTAIN
PHOTOS FIONA GARDEN



Nicky checks out the affordable delights of Accessorize, one of her top shops and (inset) with big sis Paris

OLDER BY TWO YEARS, it was Paris Hilton who stole the limelight in the early noughties, with her outrageous antics and a starring role in reality show *The Simple Life* with Nicole Richie. Meanwhile, Nicky, now 30, has always taken a more subtle approach, but, with a name like Hilton (as in, heiress to the hotel chain) and an estimated \$20m fortune, the world was never going to let her live incognito.

And so when *Grazia* was invited to spend the day shopping with the socialite as she prepares to release her new book on style, it was an opportunity not to pass up.

We meet in London at Matchesfashion.com Townhouse. Refreshingly, there's no PA or beefy security man in tow when Nicky walks in wearing nude Louboutins and a white Topshop mini smock dress.

We're here to discuss Nicky's new trend bible, *365 Style* – a memoir of tips, tricks and tales. The 3 of the title represents the most common occasions a woman dresses ▶



'SITTING ON MY ASS WAS NEVER AN OPTION. I'VE ALWAYS EARNED MY OWN MONEY'

SHOPPING, NICKY-STYLE

Above right, Topshop: 'Put on quirky sunnies and instantly you feel good.'

Right, Matchesfashion.com Townhouse: Nicky wears REDValentino swan-collar lace dress.

Below: 'I like to invest in classics. You'd wear this Burberry trench season after season.'

Bottom: 'This Burberry dress is amazing, but you could find a similar look cheaper elsewhere and wouldn't have to watch it go out of date.'



hearts, kitties and a million other sweet designs. My style has evolved but I still like to have fun,' she says.

Later, over a lunch of fattoush and grilled chicken, she opens up about life in the spotlight. She and Paris have been the subject of many headlines, including when Nicky married Todd Meister in Las Vegas in 2004. Their marriage was annulled three months later after they claimed it was done on a whim. 'When I was younger, I was shocked by what was printed about me,' she admits. 'But now I only care about what the people who know me think.'

Nicky, who has modelled for years and once had a clothing line, says, 'It was never an option to sit on my ass. I've always had to earn my own money. So many of the people I grew up with are utterly spoilt – it's such a turn-off.'

This might seem, er, rich coming from a ridiculously wealthy Hilton, but Nicky appears level-headed and kind. She's also adamant that her privileged background won't stop her dating Joe Average – except she's been in a relationship with billionaire banking heir James Rothschild, 30, since 2012. They are said to have met at Petra Ecclestone's £12m wedding that year. James is the reason why Nicky now spends a lot of time in the UK. Was it love at first sight? 'Maybe,' she blushes. 'I love the UK, especially the country. James has a house in Bury St Edmunds and we go there all the time, it's just beautiful. He has an organic garden and we go on amazing walks. It's a perfect retreat.' Nicky is also a fan of British style. 'The UK is more fashion-conscious than the US. I love how British girls dress. They take more risks.'

When we meet, the couple are about to set off for Glastonbury, before heading to the South of France, The Hamptons and Ibiza – where Paris has a DJ residency at Amnesia. Former party girl Nicky definitely still knows how to live it up. ■ *Nicky's book, '365 Style', will be published in September by Harlequin, priced £12.95*

for in her life; 6 references the staples for the season and 5 is about accessories. 'It's a method I came up with to organise your closet and ensure it's on trend,' says Nicky. 'I've had a unique perspective on this industry, from being a model to designing, and I want to share the knowledge.'

Think Hilton style and Paris in her candy-coloured, Harajuku-esque creations probably springs to mind. But Nicky is the antithesis of her sister. 'I'm this California transplant living in New York City, so my style is very eclectic. It's a mix of bohemian Cali beach girl with that downtown NY leather vibe.' Does she like Paris's look? 'Our styles are night and day,' she says. 'Paris is all pink and glitter, super-girly. I don't think I own anything pink! But it works for her. Paris is unapologetic; she doesn't care about labels or trends. If she likes it she buys it.'

Despite the fact Nicky likes to shop in swanky Knightsbridge, she's not in the mood to spank her platinum card today. She's a fan of the high street and we pick up pieces in Topshop and Accessorize. 'I'm obsessed with Accessorize's quirky socks,' she says. 'The cutest ones are covered in



Hair and make-up: Rachel Singer-Clark using By Terry skincare and Bumble and bumble haircare. Location courtesy of Matchesfashion.com Townhouse. Other photo: Getty