

# HELLOOOOOO, GORGEOUS!

August 10, 2007

The beauty and fashion report dedicated to awakening the diva in all of us.



## COUNTDOWN TO NEW YORK FASHION WEEK: 25 DAYS TO GO!

Hellooooo again, gorgeouses! It's a delight to be with you again and I hope you've all had a fabulous week. I think sending from my Yahoo account has sidestepped the tech problems recently encountered with my Adceterettes; do give me a shout and let me know you've received this week's issue, will you, dolls?

Well, the rising mercury may have "summer" written all over it, but we fashion-forward types have definitely got fall on the brain. And since our last issue focused on fashion and TV previews, this time I thought we'd celebrate the back-to-school-shopping season by getting bookish and checking out some hot reads.

So is it me, or are beauty and style books becoming as ubiquitous as bra straps at a Britney lookalike contest? Not that I'm complaining, of course. That said ...

## Welcome to Book-a-Palooza!

Even though it's only August 10, there's a definite back-to-school vibe in the air, which for me means heading to two destinations:

1. Office Depot, for my annual binge on shiny new notebooks and the latest ultracool pens, and
2. Barnes & Noble, to snatch up an armful of gotta-have books so I can ... well, OK, leave them on a shelf for six months before I get around to reading them ... but it's the intent that counts, right?

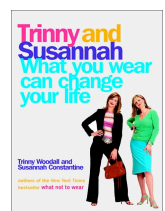
So, in the spirit of this special season (mmm, I can smell the new-book aroma now...), I thought I'd highlight a couple of my fave fashion tomes and give my girls a heads-up on some hot new reads that are just around the corner.

First, My Top Three Must-Read Fashion Books...

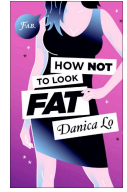
***What You Wear Can Change Your Life* by Trinny Woodall and Susannah Constantine:**

Hands-down, this is the most comprehensive guide to building a personal style out there, one I've consulted again and again. Trinny and Susannah, hosts of BBC's *What Not to Wear*, guide you through every aspect of your wardrobe, from cleaning out your closet to selecting the right colors (40 pages of color swatches!) to properly storing seasonal items. You'll even come away with tidbits on emergency beauty fixes and hiding figure flaws when posing for photos. An absolute must-have for any fabulista's library. (Excerpts of this and other Trinny-and-Susannah gems can be found on their [website](#).)

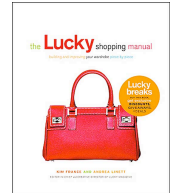
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**How Not to Look Fat by Danica Lo:** As I mentioned in my review of the [Manolo for the Big Girl](#) blog, I always sit up and take notice when plus-size fashionistas dish out advice—for who should know better about making the most of one's figure? In this demure slip of a book, Ms. Lo (a former plus-size model) imparts volumes worth of advice in a fun, ultra-casual format that occasionally strays into in-your-face territory (“We’ve all seen those women in ankle-length, puffy parkas. Don’t they look like they’re wearing garbage bags, sausages, and/or poop?”). While you’ll breeze through this compact tome in a couple of hours, you’ll take away a lifetime’s worth of pithy counsel.



**The Lucky Shopping Manual by Andrea Linett and Kim France:** Straight from the excellent brains of [Lucky](#) magazine’s editor in chief and creative director, this little honey encompasses all that’s fun and fabulous about shopping. My favorite way to enjoy this tome is just to open it to any random page and bask in whatever wisdom appears. For example, I just opened to a page in the Pants chapter and learned (1) the additional options (beyond the recommended basics) that belong in any diehard trouserphile’s closet, and (2) how to adapt a single pair of black satin evening pants for a winter look and a summer look with different tops, shoes, and accessories. Sure, you may want to read it straight through at first, but it’ll serve you best as a reference guide (“Hmmm, I need a new jacket. What does my little white book have to say?”)



Now for the “coming soon” list. Keep your eyes open in the coming weeks, when we’ll be seeing a trunkful of sure-fire hits gracing bookstore shelves:

**Asian Faces by Taylor Chang-Babaian:** I must admit that when my Asian galpals ask me for tips on how to play up their natural gorgeousness, I’m all but totally useless. So I’m delighted to inform that renowned Korean-American makeup artist Taylor Chang-Babaian has produced a tome dedicated solely to the needs of my Asian sisters, including many topics often overlooked by Western makeup artists. (*available now*)

**The Little Black Book of Style by Nina Garcia:** Yes, our favorite straight-talking judge from *Project Runway* (“It’s just no-o-ot aes-the-e-tically ple-e-easing...”) and fashion director of *Elle* will soon be enlightening us on the ways of the truly chic. (*Sept. 1*)

**Style A to Zoe by Rachel Zoe:** The famed stylist behind the effortlessly glam looks of Kate Hudson, Salma Hayek, Kate Beckinsale, Cameron Diaz, and Jennifer Garner is descending from Mount Olympus Fashion Week to share her wisdom with us real girls. (*Oct. 3*)

**Style 101 by the editors of *In Style*:** Not a lot of 411 out there on this one, but its subtitle is “What Every Woman Should Know About Fashion • Beauty • Home • Entertaining.” All in 200 pages? Sounds ambitious, but if anybody can make it work, our gurus at *In Style* can. (*Oct. 9*)

All of the above are available for pre-order on [Amazon.com](#); if anyone would care to help me out and provide a reader review, your fellow fabulistas and I would be eternally grateful! (I also have them on [my Amazon Wish List](#), if you’re already looking ahead to my birthday. Which is November 17. Or if you just want to give me a present. That works, too.)

## Christian Lacroix Hearts La Redoute



Never again will I be able to hear the name Lacroix without instantly thinking of Absolutely Fabulous —“Lacroix! Lacroix, dah-ling!” Now Edina’s fave designer is joining the affordable luxury crowd and producing a line of [fashion and housewares for La Redoute](#). Personally, I found the fashion side of the collection uninspired (one dress, one trench, various bags and shoes in flat black—yawn), but some of the home accents are quite intriguing. Like the the “[Alhambra](#)” screen pictured here—straight out of a chic Left Bank studio. Overall, the site is visually stunning, and it’s amusing enough if you have some time and don’t mind sitting through the Flash bits. But if you’re looking for a bevy of couture bargains, there are better destinations out there.

Now pour me another Stoli, would you, dahling?

# Product Reviews

All I can say is, you ladies had better start sending some product reviews my way, 'cause I'm running out of material over here. It takes a village gals; show some love for your sisters and share your wisdom!



## [Ulta Eye Shadows](#)

And now a moment of silence for the Ulta store that used to be 10 minutes from my house. [sigh] Okay, I'm back. Take it from me: if you're ever looking for a very specific shade but can never find just the right one, Ulta's your man. I love their formulations, I love their color selection, and I *really* love their buy-one-get-one-free specials! Among my fave shades are Elegance (greyish-plumish taupe), Summer (a perfect medium-toned peach, pictured), and Night Sky (deep blue infused with tiny sparkles—use with care!). Actually, maybe it's a good thing that my nearest Ulta is now a little further away ...



## [Sally Hansen Natural Nail Growth Activator](#)

I picked this puppy up when I was desperately seeking a remedy for my constantly splitting nails, and I have to say that I did notice results. It doesn't go on like a lacquer; rather, it's designed either to be massaged into the nails or simply allowed to soak in. After just a few days of twice-a-day usage, my nails were definitely stronger and less prone to splitting, leaving them free to grow, grow, grow!

That's it for me this week, ladies. I didn't want to close this week's issue without reminding you to visit the [blog](#) that I write for online lingerie shop [Graffiti Pink](#), which is in the middle of its Big Summer Sale! Tons of sweet delectables at up to 50% off. (If you do pick up a treat or two, tell 'em I sent you :-)

Also, if any of you are on [Facebook](#), please do hop on over and visit my page sometime; I'd love to add you to my Friends list!

As for this week's quote, I happened to bust out my *Coupling* DVDs the other day—which, if you've yet to discover, you're missing out on a truly amazing comedy—and thought I'd share just one of its more memorable lines:

“Having a bottom is like living with the enemy.  
Not only do they spend their lives slowly inflating,  
they flirt with men while we're looking the other way. “

Can I get an “Amen?”

**STAY GORGEOUS, GIRLS!**