

FASHION & BEAUTY NEWS

WITH DEE O'KEEFFE

WEARING SHORTS: THE THREE GOLDEN RULES

> HOW TO GET SHORTY

This sparkly jumper from Littlewood.ie's Love Label (below, €34) is the perfect foil for anything that's on the skimpy side, making it an ideal buy for those of you determined to love-bomb the shorts trend — which is no harm at all provided you've got the legs for them. And on that subject, opaque tights are only capable of doing so much optically. If you have sausage legs, the tights fool nobody. Your three golden rules for wearing shorts are: 1) only pair with plain, black, 60 denier (minimum) tights, no other colours are allowed and forget 'fun' patterns; 2) they must be worn with something modest and high-necked à la the jumper pictured; 3) the mirror does not lie, if you simply haven't got great legs or are carrying a bit of weight why don't you just wear something else? Anything but shorts really.



> BOXING CLEVER

According to a new tongue-in-cheek book, *The Art of Being Middle Class* by Not Actual

Size (Constable & Robinson), there are seven pairs of shoes one needs: the ballet pump, the low-heeled slingback, the loafer, a pair of Havaianas, some Converse All-Stars, a Wellington boot and a brogue.

Well, I own a lot more than seven pairs of shoes, but I hardly ever wear anything other than my FitFlop boots and my flat black pumps — but I might if I could see what footwear I actually do own!

Which is why this shoe box, right, from designer Maria Oliveira caught my eye. It's cleverer than most thanks to its convenient and neat pull-out drawer. It's also breathable and makes for easy stacking and access to the shoes inside (€6, plus p&p). We're all a bit broke, but two or three of these boxes would make a cute and affordable Christmas gift for a shoe-a-holic. To order go to: www.b-linebeauty.com/B-Line-Boutique.



> FACE OFF IN 30 MINUTES

One of our favourite beauty brands has designed and priced a 30-minute facial to meet the economic times we live in and the busy lives we lead.

Hydraclean works in two ways; first, the skin is deeply cleansed using the Thermoclean-patented heated electrode which eliminates toxins, facilitating the manual extraction of blackheads (dependent on client's preference); second, a relaxing facial massage leaves the skin hydrated and luminous.

The facial will be available in salons nationwide from November/December, and costs €27. Call 0818 719 303 to find your nearest salon.

So is it worth it? Our tester says: "This was great value for money — a mask, a facial and even a nice shoulder rub all in the space of half an hour and for a very affordable price."



IS PLAYING T THE GOO REALLY SUCH

BEING A PARAGON OF WIFELY VIRTUE AND PUTTING YOUR MAN FIRST SEEMS TO BE THE TREND IN CELEB LAND, BUT IS IT A REALISTIC ASPIRATION ASKS VICKI NOTARO?

A FEW YEARS ago, the message for women in pop culture was an independent one. Destiny's Child sang about all the women who were independent (throw your hands up at me), The Pussycat Dolls told us we don't need a man and Carrie in *Sex and the City* balked at the thoughts of marrying her long-term love Aidan to the point where she came out in a rash when trying on wedding dresses.

This wasn't a crude case of man-hating, but an assertion that we could look after ourselves very well, thank you, and didn't need a relationship to define us.

Simultaneously, though, there was that much-rebuked strain of women whose sole mission in life was to marry a footballer and be looked after, a foil to the independents. WAGs were elevated to being somebody through association with a rich and famous man rather than due to their own prowess or achievements. Of course, some girls idolised their luxe lifestyles and developed their own ambitions to one day marry a Premiership player, but, after a while, anyone with WAG aspirations was to be mocked and pitied.

SUCCESS

Flash forward to 2012 and I believe there's been a shift. Not only is Beyonce not singing about being independent but now having a ring on it, she's ensconced in her role as wife and mother. There's a suspicion that women like Cheryl Cole and Katy Perry, who focused on their careers, might be responsible for their marriages breaking down — as if their success and busy schedules meant they hadn't time to be good wives, regardless of the fact that both of their ex-husbands are known philanthropists.

It also seems young starlets are tying the knot everywhere you look — 19-year-old Miley Cyrus said all her dreams had come true when her boyfriend Liam Hemsworth proposed, and former supermodel Agyness Deyn declared after her shock wedding to actor Giovanni Ribisi that she just "loved

being a wife". Actress Blake Lively has married Ryan Reynolds at the age of 24 and has spoken about wanting 30 children (let's hope she's exaggerating), while Natalie Portman and Anne Hathaway both had very traditional weddings recently.

Has there been a turn from the sexually independent, fun-and-freedom-loving young woman, and the career woman juggling success and a relationship towards a traditional model of perfection and domestic bliss?

The poster girl for this new brand of 'Good Wife' has to be Kate Middleton. The Duchess of Cambridge is arguably the most famous woman in the world right now, and millions of people tuned in to watch her marry future British monarch Prince William last year.

Similar numbers now follow Kate's life religiously. Her face sells magazines all over the world, her clothes sell out of high-street stores within minutes of her being photographed wearing them, and she's treated with a reverence I've never witnessed before.

GLOSSY

Kate can do no wrong and I'm as taken with her glossy locks and quiet elegance as the next person. However, it does trouble me that one of the world's most prominent female role models is a very subservient and traditional archetype, her entire being dictated by the fact that she is a future king's wife.

She seems happy and fulfilled, all the while being mostly mute and looking good on her husband's arm.

It's not just those who have to play by old-fashioned rules who choose to put their husband's lives before their own. Reality star Khloe Kardashian Odom famously shelved her entire existence to follow husband Lamar across the USA when his basketball team traded him from Los Angeles to Dallas, despite her unhappiness at moving to a city where she knew nobody and leaving her close-knit family behind.

Anyone who watches the Kardashian shows on E! will know that Khloe is entirely dedicated to making her man happy, and has even admitted in an interview with Oprah Winfrey: "I feel immense pressure from myself to be a

