

GEMMA SOAMES

## WARDROBE MISTRESS

**I** I'm having a party in June to celebrate qualifying as an architect. I'm 5ft 4in and a size 10, and want something mid-high and colourful, with great lines. I like volume and folds, and love some of the dresses by Moschino Cheap and Chic, and the Hervé Léger bandage dress, but have a budget of under £200. Help!

**A** Vivienne Westwood is pretty much the queen of ruches and folds: as seen on Alexa Chung (left), her dresses make the most of curves. In Westwood's cheaper Anglomania range, available at my-wardrobe.com, you can find jersey dresses for about £180 that follow these principles. All Saints has good Westwood-type dresses, and Karen Millen's (below) is also good. Or, if you're after something a bit brighter, try the fuchsia one (below) from Aqua Couture.

**I** I want to treat myself to an expensive handbag. I am looking for an edgy one with fab design details that can hold an A4 folder, has a shoulder strap, and looks great with everything from pencil skirts to skinny jeans. I want it to last for several seasons. I am into quirky designers like Alexander McQueen, but have a budget of only £200-£300. Any ideas?

**A** One of the most annoying recent trends has been the invasion of the ludicrously pricey bag. Smart shoppers now search out boutique brands. Jas MB does a navy leather tote, with optional shoulder strap and gold fittings, that I think would be perfect. It's £285 from brownsfashion.com, but looks a lot more expensive. For something simpler, Whistles launches a capsule range by Ally Capellino next week, with messenger-style bags from £125. Or, for a real steal at £35, Wallis's black woven slouch bag wouldn't look too out of place on Bond Street.

**I** I'm about to turn 25 and my parents would like to buy me jewellery. I'd love a pendant necklace, but can't find anything I like for under £250. I'm looking for one in gold, preferably without gemstones. It should be feminine and quirky, but with staying power — I want to wear this for ever.

**A** When it comes to "for ever" jewellery, forget fussy and focus on materials and design. Missoma (missoma.com) does several pendants starting at £175. They're relaxed, but with a "proper jewellery" feel. For something a little more "fashion", try Zoe & Morgan (below). It's a rock-chick take on fine jewellery.

Email your questions to wardrobe.mistress@sunday-times.co.uk



**Black and white dress** £140, from Karen Millen



**Fuchsia dress** £93, by Aqua Couture, from asos.com



**Gold-plated pendant** £180, by Zoe & Morgan, 020 7837 2280

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD



FASHION NEWS



## MILLINER'S ROW

Wedding season looms like a drunken man come midnight. It's time to get prepared. And, this summer, you'll be wanting a hat. As seen on catwalks from Luella to Marc Jacobs (above), go small, sweet and rather English. Two young British designers, Gina Foster and Victoria Grant, specialise in wearable pillbox shapes. And, better still, the hats do the talking, so you can recycle your dress all summer long. *Stripy hat*, £262, by Gina Foster; 020 7565 2211. *Buffon hat*, £219, and *tassel hat*, £320, by Victoria Grant; 020 7221 1395

## SKINTED



**NEW LOOK** Get ahead of the pack in a cosy leopard-print cardigan; £32

## MINTED



**CHRISTOPHER KANE** Cuddle up in cashmere; \$905, from brownsfashion.com

## STYLING TIP

TOO SCARED TO ABANDON YOUR TIGHTS NOW SPRING IS HERE? TRY ROLLING UP YOUR TROUSERS AND WEARING HEELS OR PUMPS. THAT SHOULD BREAK YOU IN GENTLY