

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THIS DAY

Style

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

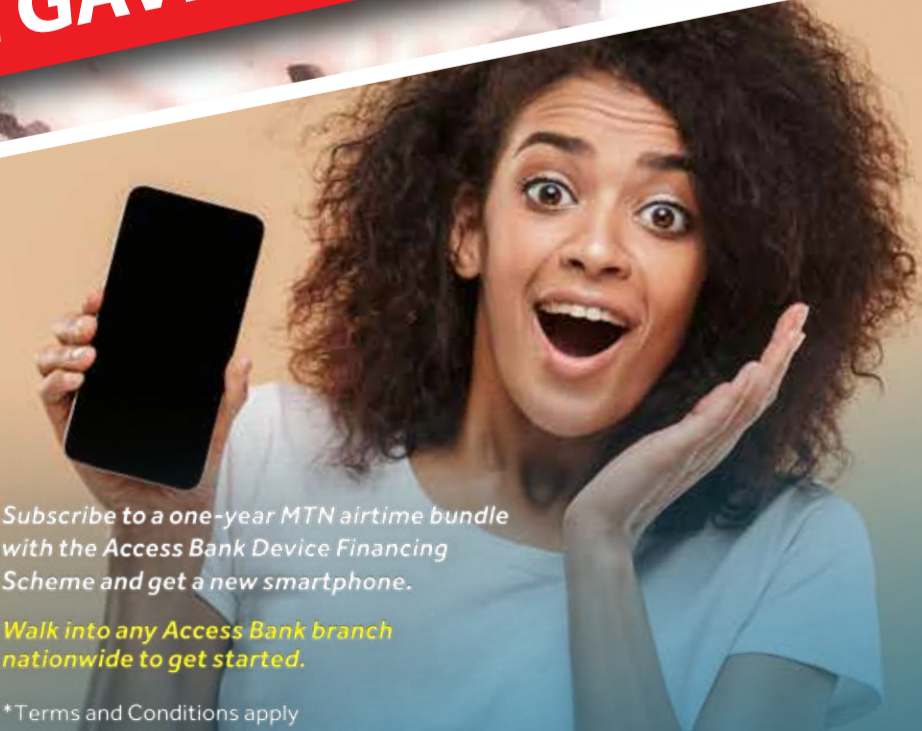
JUMOKE PEDRO @60

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COVER

One look at Jumoke Pedro, and you can see a certain calmness in her composure. But don't let it fool you into thinking she lives a life of carefree luxury—Jumoke is arguably one of the most brilliant and accomplished female lawyers in Nigeria today. In this interview with KonyeChelsea Nwabogor, she talks about her journey to the bench and her favourite part of turning 60.

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THISDAY STYLE

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There was a comment our cover personality, Lagos State High Court judge, Jumoke Pedro, made in her interview... 'Living life for a purpose'. To some, this might seem like a pretty obvious statement. Otherwise what is the essence of one's existence if there is nothing to live for. But that doesn't quite capture the true essence of that statement. You'd be amazed to find out that there are people who just live life from day to day without any vision or any plans. To them, life is just a journey they take to see what the next day provides. Some might say this is so because such people have no other choice due to the circumstances of their birth. The truth is, without fire within your belly, without goals to attain, without dreams to live, without lives to touch or without impacts to make... what truly is the essence of your existence? What will you be remembered for? How can you go

through life without having a purpose to live for? When are born, you grow and as you get older, you leave the bosom comfort of your guardians and begin to stand on your own feet after which you then provide a shoulder for others to lean on. That's the metamorphosis of life as we know it. These shoulders you provide is the purpose of your existence. The positive impact you make on those who 'lean on you'. The ones who will remember you for influencing them or their lives one way or the other. They could be your family, your friends, your colleagues or recipients of your acts or deeds. Whatever the case is, your purpose is achieved one way or the other because you have made a positive impact. Everyone should have a purpose and achieving this purpose should be their ultimate aim.

Ruth

FASHION DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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Scene and be Seen



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AMANDA DIOR & PEJU ADEWUSI

AZUKA OGUJUBA

USHBEBE

JBRONZE AND MONIQUE

THE FUNKY BRUNCH GIVES US AN EXPLOSIVE SECOND EDITION

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

The Funky Brunch just keeps getting better. After a successful maiden edition, the leading daytime event powered by Veuve Clicquot is even more explosive, hosting a bubbly gathering of influential and upwardly mobile folks in Lagos.

In a bid to create a more thrilling experience, Bespoke PR in Collaboration with Veuve Clicquot hosted its guest at The View Rooftop at Twin Waters, a lush venue overlooking the Lagos Atlantic. The music was non-stop with over 7 DJs supplying every genre of music while all the fun lovers sipped champagne and partied like it was the 90's.

The Bespoke PR founder and Style Entrepreneur, Efe Tommy shared "I am excited at the turnout especially because we are only in our second edition. You can tell that everyone is having a good time and that is what the Funky Brunch is all about"

The Funky Brunch is certainly a fabulous way to enjoy your Sunday afternoon.



EFE TOMMY ADABAMU

SHARON

BUSOLA AND ADEBOYE

BIWOYE FAGBADE

Scene and be Seen



GEORGE OMORARHO

KOD, MUDI AND MARK FRIDA

MAURIZIO ANCONA, MUDI AND MARK FRIDA

JOSEPH EDGAR, BASORGE TARIAH, MUDI, MENSA AND CHUKWUDI ONUIGBO

PASTOR BIODUN FATOYINBO

THE AMBASSADOR

MAMISEWA

ANOTHER MUDI OUTLET IN GHANA

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

Recently Clement Mudiaga Enajemo, creative director of menswear brand MUDI recently opened another outlet in Ghana.

The Event, which saw the Nigerian High Commissioner to Ghana in attendance to perform the opening ceremony, signed a befitting milestone in the growth trajectory of the brand Mudi Africa.

In his opening remarks, the High Commissioner thanked the Creative Director of the eponymous Brand, Mudi for not only in his own little way contributing to the mutually admirable economic cooperation between both countries but also for berthing the platform which further promotes African culture to the world.

Also in attendance was the highly respected Senior Pastor of the Coza Church, Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo, who blessed the outlet and also encouraged Mudi to remain steadfast in his calling.

The evening was befittingly rounded up with a classy and sumptuous dinner hosted by one of the pillars of Ghanaian High Society Joyce Wasama for Mudi and his guests in her lush and expansive mansion nestled within the luxurious cantonment Hills in Accra.



MUDI ENAJEMO

ACE PHOTOGRAPHER JOSHUA OMONEMU AND KKD

AZUKA



5 Minutes with **HELEN CHUKWU**

What really makes Helen Chukwu stand out from so many others in the business is the delicacy and honesty she brings to her vision of femininity, an approach that has captivated her many clients since her launch in 2011. With a newly opened store in Lagos to add to the others in Dubai and Los Angeles, it is clear that Simone has reached a new stage in her career and there is no doubt that she has now graduated from the ranks of emerging talent to established designer. In this interview with **KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR**, she talks about her foray into fashion and her recent launch in Lagos.

Tell me a bit about yourself?

My name Helen pretty much means light, so each day that passes for me is a quest to bring something bright to the table. I aspire each day to create something different, you know challenge the status quo. I draw a lot of my inspiration and learning as an individual from traveling and meeting new people. Family is also very dear to me, each and every one of them as well as my A-mazing team.

When did you realize you wanted to become a fashion designer?

Creativity and inspiration struck me at a very early age and I knew quickly that playing with dolls and playing dress-up meant something very different to me. Playtime became an expression of style and creativity where I would channel my newly found talents through ideas generating fabrics and trims. It never occurred to me that I would want to do anything else but be a fashion designer.

Did you ever have any doubts about going into fashion?

You know the funny thing is I studied Medicine initially, but few years in I realized that something was not right, that I needed to follow my passion, which is fashion, and since then it has been 'no turning back'.

What inspired the creation of Helen Couture?

While I was studying at Bellerbys College in Brighton UK, pursuing my Foundation Degree in Arts, I was also spending a great deal of time working in Dubai, Lagos and UK, at the same time pursuing my Bachelors in fashion design at Instituto Marangoni which I finished in the year 2015. I guess all of these learnings gathered and more summed up to give me the boost to setup something of mine that is Helen Couture.

You recently launched Helen Couture in Lagos, what was the highlight of the event for you?

The highlight for me was definitely the number of people in attendance. I was so worried about the traffic on Friday. But people turned out in numbers and I am extremely grateful to each and everyone that made it to the launch. Added to that, the support from family and friends was immense! The celebrities that made time to come as well! It's actually a boatload of things

What sets Helen Couture apart from its competitors?

When we create our garments we make them to suit the environments they will be worn in. When I say this I don't necessarily mean following trends in that clime but in a broader sense the technology present, what's on the news, the history, amongst many others. All these are put into consideration when making our garments and hence distinguish us from the pack.

Describe Helen Couture in three words?

Sophisticated - Luxury - State-of-the-art

What influenced this category of your fashion brand, Luxury?

Hmm, tricky one. First, before choosing the category I chose the target audience, women. In doing this, my plan is to clothe the goddesses & great women (women of substance), such that when you think of ethereal



garments as a lady the first name that drops in your mind is HELEN Couture. Having said that, it was only right to keep the brand in the luxury category.

How would you define your personal style and the style Helen Couture exemplifies?

That's a very fine line right there. Personally I am easy-going and don't necessarily have one particular style. Today, I may be wearing a top that's laced with pearls and fur, the next day you'll find me in a tracksuit. But my train of thoughts while creating a collection stems completely from the latter me, the pearl lady.

Where do you get your inspiration when designing your collection?

Asides traveling, I spend a lot of time doing research work with my team. As I have explained earlier we don't narrow our search to just trends but also current happenings in a general sense. This makes the output richer than just a mere trend-search, it also goes further to give different directions to the creation of the collection.

What advice do you have for aspiring fashion designers out there?

Follow your passion. It is far from rosy on the way but it's definitely going to be worth it at the end of the day. Also, you'll be sure to always have those crazy days where you want.



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THE SMART CASUAL DRESS CODE

KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

The Smart Casual look is one of the most common, yet confusing, dress codes. Its ambiguous nature makes it problematic when selecting an outfit. Here's a list of guidelines on what you should be wearing and how to style them. Before starting to plan any outfit you should always consider these three things: Where is the event held? If you haven't been, look up the venue. You can judge a lot by its décor.

The demographic of attendees - who will be there? Ask yourself whether what you're wearing would be appropriate for another dress code. For example, if it is bordering on 'cocktail', then reconsider.

N.B
- Lengths can be short but not too short.

- Attention to detail. Choose accessories that will take your outfit from day to night.

- Utilise jewellery to dress up a plain outfit.

- Smart casual is all about the separates - a dress isn't necessary all the time. Try a skirt or pant combination instead.

SHOES-
Avoid informal footwear and stick to heels. Shoes with a thicker heel are a great (comfortable) option for an event where a stiletto isn't appropriate. If you decide to wear a stiletto, chose something with a shorter heel height.

DERIN ODUGBESAN THOMAS



SKIRTS-
Pencil skirts to the knee are a classic option, but don't be afraid to experiment with other styles. Determine your occasion for the night and consider what would be appropriate and what you should leave for another occasion.

ANITA ADETOYE



DRESS-
If you opt for a dress, make it a simple one; keep your embellished cocktail dresses at home. Style it with accessories such as a bold necklace and a strappy pair of heels. If you're considering a maxi, take the colour and fabric into consideration.

LILIAN ESORO

JUMPSUITS-
Jumpsuits are a great way to make a statement and are an easy go-to look with little thought required. Whether it's patterned or plain, smart casual events are the perfect occasion to pull them out of your wardrobe.

KIM OPRAH



PANTS-
Tailored pants are a reliable go-to for when you're really lost on what to wear but stand out wide leg pants would definitely get you more attention. Start with a nice pair and build the rest of your outfit around them.

FIFI DILLY



BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

CREATING YOUR UNIQUE PERSONAL STYLE

Regardless of what life throws at us, it's important to be able to adapt while still maintaining a style that is all our own. And why exactly is this important? The impact of personal style goes far beyond making a good first impression; great style is also about approaching each day with confidence, and the ability to feel legitimately beautiful in what we are wearing. Believe it or not, the right wardrobe can make a difference in that department.

Take your lifestyle goals into consideration

The perfect wardrobe should not only represent your vision and creativity, but also be tailored to your lifestyle. Consider the persona you want to present to the world. You want your style to reflect your personality, but it also has to make sense in your field of work, your overall lifestyle, the city you live in and aligned with your long-term goals. Do you want a better job? Are you trying to make it in a particular industry? Think about adding a few sharp and appropriate professional pieces for interviews in that line of work. Or if you want to work in fashion, add more on-trend pieces.

Ask for help

When you're serious about your skin, you see a dermatologist. When you want the perfect photos on your wedding day, you enlist the help of a professional photographer. The same goes for style! Don't be afraid to enlist the help of a professional stylist if you can afford it. If you can't, again social media is a good place to start.

Trust your instincts and be authentic

The single most important thing when developing your style is to be true to yourself. Don't focus on the size or the designer label (this will only hinder your creativity!). Continue to experiment with different patterns, textures, accessories, and shoes. It all boils down to feeling good in your own skin—your style should reflect and celebrate your life, your individuality, and personality. Own your style, be proud of it, and embrace fashion as a way to express who you are and who you want to be. Pic - derin

Stock up on accessories

Accessories are, without a doubt, the easiest way to pull any look together regardless of the vibe you want to achieve. You can update jeans and a white t-shirt with a bold necklace or pair layered, delicate jewelry with a dress for a more feminine feel. A cool ear cuff or stacked rings can give you an instant edge, and pearls can make you look polished and lady-like in an instant. Add a patterned scarf, opt for edgy shoes instead of your normal black pumps, or pull out a bright clutch to add more personality.

Seek inspiration

Jot down the names of your favorite style icons and do a bit of research via social media to gather inspiration from their looks. Pulling different types of inspiration from several sources is a great way to figure out what you like and dislike.



ANITA ADETOYE



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JULEZ



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One look at Jumoke Pedro, and you can see a certain calmness in her composure. But don't let it fool you into thinking she lives a life of carefree luxury—Jumoke is arguably one of the most brilliant and accomplished female lawyers in Nigeria today. The wife of Former Deputy Governor of Lagos state, Otunba Femi Pedro, she has over the past 37 years, steadily climbed the legal ladder and currently sits atop it as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos State. At the age of 60, she is not thinking of slowing down. Instead, she hopes to continue to use her varied experiences to try to improve the Nigerian legal system. From serving the Lagos state judiciary, to empowering the girl-child, and raising awareness about women issues and their health to being an author and a grandmother, Jumoke is a woman worth her weight in gold. In this interview with KonyeChelsea Nwabogor, she talks about her journey to the bench and her favourite part of turning 60.

What was your path to the bench like? And what was the most unexpected aspect of being a judge, once you were appointed?

My path to the bench was very adventurous but also challenging. It required a lot of hard work, dedication and diligence. After my A-levels, I gained admission to study Law at the University of Lagos and graduated in 1980. After being called to the Bar in 1981, and my NYSC Service, I worked briefly as a Legal Practitioner at Akin Olugbade & Co- a firm of solicitors in Lagos, before taking up employment in the Lagos State Judiciary as a Magistrate in 1984.

I must add that I was fortunate to have joined the lower bench at that time because it was what paved the way for me to become a High Court Judge.

My 16 years as a Magistrate in the busy and eventful lower bench of Lagos State was a very unforgettable learning experience. I worked in virtually all the Magistrate divisions and courts within Lagos State- from Igboosere, Surulere and Ikeja. I worked at Ajegunle, Apapa and several other Courts. I was also able to rise through the bench to become a Chief Magistrate. In 1996 I was later appointed as the Registrar of Titles. I became the Chief Registrar of the High Court of Lagos State in 1999- a post I held for two years before my appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos State in August 2001.

The most unexpected aspect of being a judge is that it dawned on me how much of an impact our judicial decisions have on the lives of those who come to court. The courts remain the last hope for any litigant who feels aggrieved and seeks a remedy. I believe that - 'To whom much is given much is to be expected' - Luke 12:48.

Who or what influenced your career path?

Several people have influenced me over the years. Firstly, I was inspired to pursue a career in law by my parents. My father - Late Chief James Adebayo Oduwole was a strict disciplinarian. He wanted the best for me and was my cheerleader while my mother, Madam Layode Oduwole encouraged me throughout my years in school and in the legal field. My elder sister Mrs Ronke Adeseye a retired lecturer, also influenced me.

When I worked briefly at Polygram Nig Ltd, (a music recording company and a subsidiary of Phillips Nig. Ltd) immediately after my secondary school, there was a young and trendy female General Manager Chief Mrs Keji Okunowo who was also an inspiration to me.

As a magistrate, I was fortunate to have been mentored by the likes of Chief Magistrates Mrs. Marian Onafowokan and C.O Denton - both of blessed memory. I was also mentored and trained by late Chief Magistrate Ade Adeniran - who served as Registrar of Titles whilst I served as his deputy. As the Chief Registrar, I was privileged to serve meritoriously under four amazing Chief Judges notably, Hon Justices Samuel Ilori, Sikiru Adagun, Christopher Segun and Ibilola Sotuminu.

I must sincerely thank my Husband of over 35 years, Femi Pedro, for being a pillar of support and encouragement throughout the journey thus far. I cannot imagine where I would be today, were it not for his support and understanding for over three

decades of my professional career path.

What has been the most significant change to the legal profession since you started out?

The most significant change to the legal profession has to be the broad areas of specialization that lawyers have currently adopted. Today, we have lawyers who are specializing in areas like Maritime law, Oil and Gas, etc, and this is a welcome development in my opinion. Some of the lawyers are also into Arbitration and Mediation.

You turn 60 in a few days, what does this milestone age mean to you?

It means a lot to me, because it is only by the grace of God that I am where I am today. I am indeed blessed. I consider it a privilege and an honor to be called to serve my country in this capacity. I cannot take it for granted. I thank God for keeping me alive and healthy to this age.

I pray for many more healthy, glorious and eventful years ahead in my service to God and



The role of the court is to be impartial and to ensure that justice is not only done but is seen to have been done. This has continued to motivate me to tow the path of fairness in all matters before me.



Humanity.

Going forward, do you see your new age reflecting on your day-to-day life and decisions?

We all grow old over time, and our perspective on life always changes. Certainly, as you grow older, you appreciate the little things in life, you learn to be more patient and you become wiser. Now I am even more determined to continue to serve my country in the capacity for which I have been called without fear or favour. I am able to appreciate more the gift that God has given to me and to draw closer to him. It makes me appreciate my husband more and my children and grandchildren. Family has always been an important aspect of my life. Without the support of the beautiful family that God has given me I could not have made it this far. My children and my husband are my greatest cheerleaders.

The family is the bedrock of nation building and where everything begins as God has ordained it to be and it will continue to remain at the forefront of all my decisions.

What major life lessons have you learnt so far?

I have learnt a lot of major life lessons but the most important of them is that you cannot rely on anyone but God. I have come to realise that men will sometime fail you but I have a God who never fails. I have learnt that patience is a virtue in order for us to be able to live a life of purpose. I believe that patience coupled with time, brings about the desired change we want in our lives. A life of contentment keeps one's mind at peace and it is one of the attributes that will take you far in life. In order for the overarching vision of God to manifest in our lives, we must persevere. All these and more are contained in my book 'Grace For The Race'. Without courage, living a life of purpose may not be easy. Above all, each and everyone of us will eventually have our wow moment in life. We must seize that moment and not allow it pass by, or else we will be like the servant in the bible who was said to have hidden the talent his master gave him in the ground. Matthew 25; 14-26

What's your favourite part of growing older?

The most pleasurable part of growing older is getting to see my children and my grandchildren grow! It is truly a joy to watch my grandchildren grow right before my eyes, and brings back fond memories of when my children were toddlers as well.

Why do you think society conditions women to fear the ageing process, and how have you avoided falling into that mentality?

There is the perception that you have to be young to be beautiful. We have women who are in their 70s and they are still looking beautiful. I think the ageing process for women naturally throws its own share of challenges at each and every woman. No matter how highly placed a woman is, the reality is that she is bound to go through similar evolutions of biology, body, and mind. Child bearing, for example, comes with its own share of uniqueness, as thus other aspects of a woman's metamorphosis.

For me, I have tried to simply embrace these changes. Of course, health issues are of paramount importance, but I believe that the best thing women can do is to try not to get bogged down by this evolution of body and mind. It is important to channel one's thoughts towards how one can be more impactful in society, be it professionally, religiously or within the family construct.

Let's talk about your personal life. How were you able to juggle a successful career with being a mother and a wife to a politician?

It is not easy being a career woman and also a mother. It is particularly tasking for women who want to tow a professional path and also remain in control at the home front. I have been blessed with a strong support structure, and my husband has been tremendously accommodating. Likewise, he also towed the career line for over two decades, before his foray into politics. The transition was difficult in the beginning, but smoothed out over time, particularly when our children grew older.

Do you believe in a work/life balance? Could you share some tips?

Having a strong work/life balance is the key to



JUMOKE PEDRO



success in whatever venture/career path you decide to pursue. It goes without saying that working hard is important. For me, serving in the church, writing books, spending time with my family, setting sail to as many travel destinations, and exercising as often as possible are the most critical ingredients to maintaining my own work/life balance, and I would encourage others to try and find the things they are most passionate about (outside of their careers) and continue to pursue them alongside their professional commitments.

How much of a politician has being a politician's wife made you?

Not even remotely close! I stay as far away as possible from engaging in anything political, but continue to support my husband whenever he has political decisions to make. It is even more difficult to involve oneself in politics when you are on your professional career path as a judicial officer.

Nigerian politics is seen to many as a murky and dirty game, not suitable for women. But that's changing lately as more women are decidedly taking a dive in. What's your take on this?

My opinion is that the more women involved in politics, the more beneficial it would be to our country. Nigeria is blessed with many women who have the capacity and competence to contribute immensely to the development of our great nation, and we have to continue to encourage as many women as possible to put themselves forward for leadership positions, be it at the local government level, all the way to the Federal level.

Have you ever had any political interests?

No, and I am very content at it remaining this way!

If you could change something about the

Be bold, be courageous, and be willing to take professional risks, but always make sure your plan is designed with multiple options. You have to be prepared for some of the roadblocks you are bound to face as a female lawyer, but your strength and resolve will certainly see you through.



court system, what would it be?

The court system continues to evolve. Like I mentioned earlier, it is now technology driven. My desire is for us to move towards a paperless court.

What issues are you most passionate about?

Aside from general family issues, I am most passionate about the empowerment of the girl-child and our women, and raising awareness about women and their health.

What is your greatest challenge? Your greatest reward? What are your plans for the future?

It's difficult to pinpoint a greatest challenge per se, because in truth we are all faced with several obstacles and roadblocks from time to time. What is most pleasurable to me is about being able to overcome many of these challenges, no matter how difficult it may have been.

My greatest reward has to be my family. I am tremendously blessed to have them all. As far as future plans, my immediate commitment is to continue to serve the Lagos state judiciary meritoriously, and hopefully continue to publish books. I have published two books at the moment namely – "Grace for the Race", "The Living Law" and I hope to publish many more books soon.

What advice would you give to a female lawyer?

The best advice I can give to a female lawyer is to plan. Ask yourself where you want to be in the next ten years. If your desire is to be a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, plan towards it. If your desire is to be a member of the bench as a Justice of the High Court, or even the Supreme Court of Nigeria, plan towards it. Of course, you need to pray about your plans, and quite certainly you would need mentors and pillars of support. It is important that you find people who believe in you, and who are willing to help you along the way.

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BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI

10 HANDBAGS TO HAVE

Handbags – we can never get enough of them because there is no such thing as too many handbags! Do not listen to anyone who says otherwise. If you are a handbag hoarder (which most of us are), you should probably know about the different types so you can buy more of these in different styles! You didn't see that coming, did you? And, that's why we have a quick checklist for you to go through as we'd hate you to miss any of these.



CLUTCH
The clutch or 'A Day Clutch' is simply classy, elegant, and pure sophistication, because we cannot sport a huge bag when we are all dressed up for an event or a party. The only problem some people have is not being able to decide what to carry and what to leave out but, hey, it's worth it. However, if you are someone who just cannot do with a small clutch, there are some brands that offer clutches with compartments and thus give you more space than the normal ones. But, every girl needs a clutch for sure! OPE MAKINWA



SHOULDER BAG
The shoulder bag or the everyday bag is the most functional bag of them all. And, every brand has its own variety, which only makes it more difficult to resist buying multiple ones from different brands. But, we are not complaining, are we? They are big and fit in all your bare necessities, because – let's face it – we practically carry a mini supermarket anyway. Just do it in style. OZINNA ANUMUDU



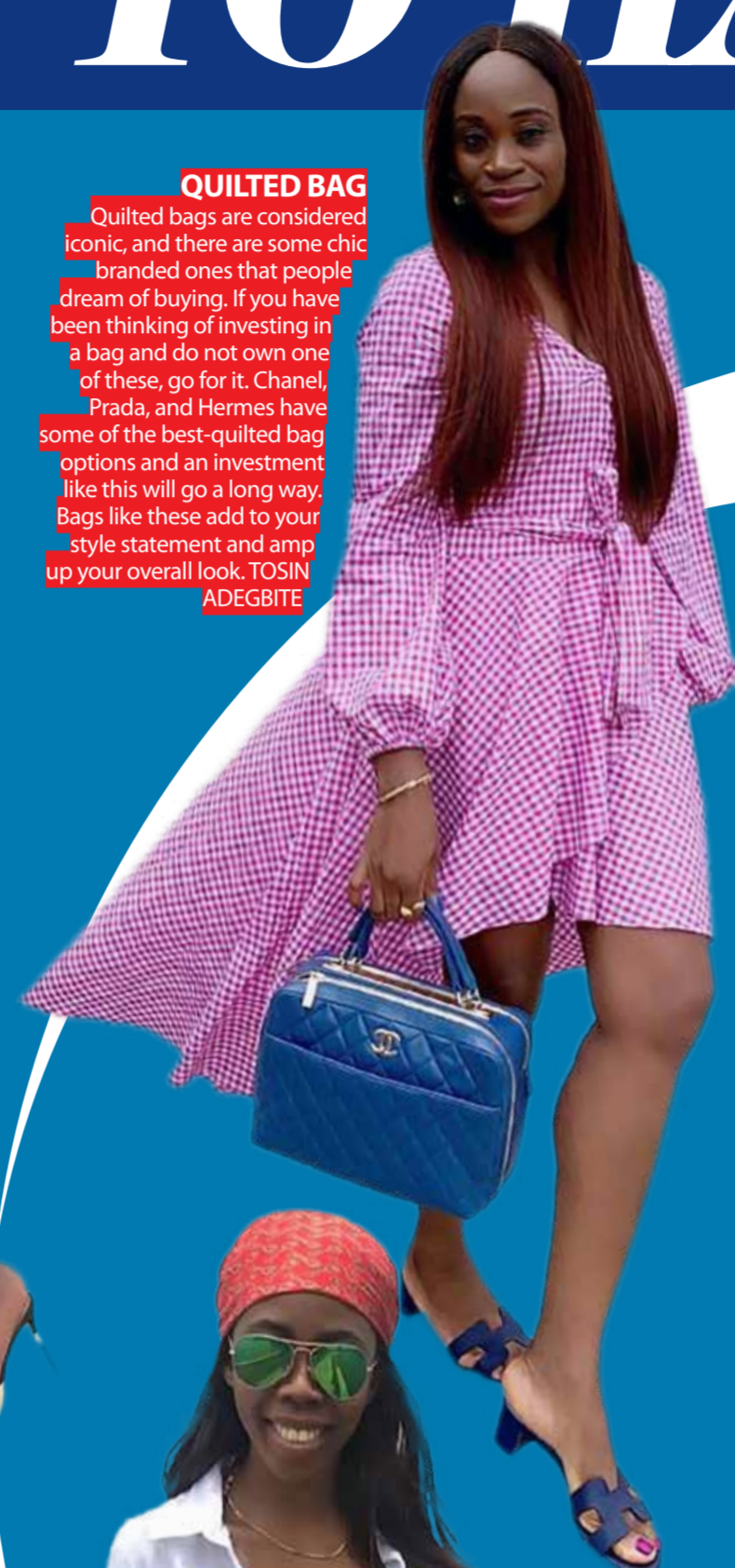
WRISTLET
Wristlets are just like your wallets, but are so much more functional and comfortable to carry. Coach and Louis Vuitton have some fancy and elegant looking wristlets. They have enough space to hold your card, cash, and phone too, plus you can carry it on the wrist and be palms free. OG OKONKWO



SACHEL
Satchels are perfect for working women – they hit the sweet spot between being an everyday handbag and a laptop bag. With this, you don't have to carry two bags. It can fit in all your basics, plus your gadgets too. But, remember to invest in a bag that is sturdy and of good quality – these needs to last longer, so you cannot afford anything sloppy! JULEZ



MINAUDIERE
Minaudiere is a clutch encrusted with coloured stones, gems, pearls, etc., and oozes grandeur. So, when you have a really special event, cocktail party, wedding or an evening party to attend, you should carry a Minaudiere instead of a clutch. And, for those special days, we absolutely need one!



QUILTED BAG
Quilted bags are considered iconic, and there are some chic branded ones that people dream of buying. If you have been thinking of investing in a bag and do not own one of these, go for it. Chanel, Prada, and Hermes have some of the best-quilted bag options and an investment like this will go a long way. Bags like these add to your style statement and amp up your overall look. TOSIN ADEGBITE



BEACH BAG
You need a bag for your vacation, period. I know men diss this, but whatever it is they say, don't pay attention. Buy a jute or a straw basket bag – it is both waterproof and stylish, plus it can fit in all your stuff when you decide to take a dip in the ocean. Get one already. DERIN ODIGBESAN THOMAS



SLING BAG
The sling bag or the cross-body bag is functional, comfortable, and stylish. It's perfect for shopping, running errands, and traveling. If you are with kids, a sling bag is just perfect! And these come in all sizes. Functional, chic and an everyday essential. BOLA BALOGUN



HOBO BAG
Hobo is a shoulder style bag, but not as wide. The crescent shape makes the bag equal parts formal and casual. If you are bored with your regular totes and shoulder bags, pick up the Hobo – it will be an exciting addition to your collection. MONICA ETUK



WALLET
Wallet, or a purse as some call it, is an essential part of a girl's handbag; and if you ask us, it is quite personal to each of us. You can make quite a statement with this, so pick up something accordingly. MIMI ONALAJA

THE Versatile Woman

Womenswear brand Versatile Bay has released a collection known as The Versatile Woman. As the title implies, the collection is made up of pieces, which could easily be part of a capsule wardrobe and at the same time create versatile styles.

The Versatile Woman collection is a mash of statement midi dresses and jumpsuits and also a delightful twist on colour block and pastel. It features a mix of elegance and functionality and it is just the right brand for the fashion forward woman who wants to look and feel elegant without making too much of an effort.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR



A Blogger's favourite - The Cult Gaia Ark bag

Not your average American handbag brand, the Cult Gaia handbag looks as though it could have originated in a far-off corner of the Seychelles owing to the Earthy wood, bamboo and natural materials and textures features it possesses.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

The label which was launched in 2012 by founder and designer Jasmin Larian, has in an incredibly short time, tapped into the fast and furious world of influencer marketing as anyone who's anyone appears to have a Cult Gaia 'Ark' bag hanging delicately from their perfectly manicured hand.

The reason for the brand's popularity? Each bag is a luxury piece of craftsmanship that's actually affordable. Historically, 'it' bags have come with a price tag similar to that of a house (or a small yacht), but Cult Gaia is turning that perception on its head.

If you own an Instagram account, there's a decent chance you've seen a Cult Gaia 'Ark' bag as it has slowly become an influencer staple - instantly recognizable for its half-moon shape, graphic design and rigid structure. It's at once minimalist and statement making and also oddly versatile.



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