

WILL MY DAY AS POSH

ADMIT it. We all love Victoria Beckham. She has, after all, given every woman the hope of being famous regardless of one's natural talents. With time and effort, Victoria believes anyone can transform themselves into a beauty that gets the Paparazzi snapping, and in her glittering guide, *The Extra Half Inch*, she tells us exactly how to do it. We challenged designer VIRGINIA MACARI, 30, from Dublin, to religiously observe the commandments of Victoria's style bible. But would the results be absolutely fab or totally Chav? Virginia says:



by Georgina Heffernan

SAY what you want about Posh Spice, but the girl knows how to make the most of what God gave her. She appears in every magazine and newspaper in the world not because she is the dictionary definition of beautiful, but because us women are fascinated by her.

Even though she's no more posh than my dog, I love seeing what look she is wearing at any given moment. She isn't a trend-setter — most of her looks come straight from the catwalk — and I've often seen her in outfits that are, at best, unflattering and, at worst, a crime against fashion. That said, there are other times when she looks great and I think that me and this glamorous star share quite similar styles.

Victoria relies on casual as much as any busy mother, and she knows that sexy can be achieved in something as simple as jeans and a top. But when the occasion presents itself, she loves to get the princess treatment in dressy heels and dreamy gowns.

And what woman doesn't? But the difference between the general public and Mrs Beckham is that she has the luxury of time and money to polish her appearance. Most women would look just as good if they had even a quarter of her disposable income.

But this is exactly why we are fascinated by her — she is the embodiment of what women could look like if only they didn't have to think about bank balances and making dinner and doing the ironing and walking the dog.

But for one day only, I have decided to give myself the VB treatment. I will make the time and magic up the money to see just how impressive the transformation is. And the rules I will follow will come straight from the woman herself.

STEP ONE: HAIR

THE first step is to replicate Victoria's latest bob. I really like it, but can't face actually having the chop. Instead I go to hair and make-up artist Daphney Antoine, who has worked for magazines such as *Playboy* and *Vogue*.

The asymmetric bob — as seen on Victoria Beckham and Eva Longoria — is a simple, no-fuss style and is easily mimicked. Daphney cleverly plaited my hair horizontally into the nape of my neck, then pinned a top layer of hair under the plait, using hairpins to secure the style into position. It's a good way to try out a bob without the commitment, and I'm feeling like Posh already.

STEP TWO: MAKE-UP

ACCORDING to Victoria's book, this is very important. She lists her favourite beauty products, of which there are many. Bobbi Brown tinted powder, Armani foundation, Elizabeth Arden Eight Hour Cream, Stila Lip Gloss, Mac make-up, Jo Malone vitamin E cream, Creed perfume — I'll stop there for sake of space.

Obviously fake tan is high on her list of beauty basics but, yet again, I can't quite go through with it. There's a fine line between human and Oompa Loompa and I think Posh crosses it regularly. Daphney agrees: 'I'm all for slim and tan, but there's a point where you have to step back, look in the mirror, and realise you're turning into a cartoon.'

'No one should wear fake tan after September because it looks all wrong. Pale skin is far more interesting and it's very beautiful. The tanned look is so over at this stage and it's not a healthy look to be that brown.'

Also, the beauty regimes recommended in the book are ridiculous. I just don't know how anyone would find the time to follow them.

For example she suggests applying neck cream, face cream, foot cream and eye gel every morning — does anybody actually do that? With so many anti-ageing treatments and skincare, I wonder how she finds the time to make breakfast for her three children in the morning.

In the book, Victoria puts her manicured hands up and admits she's made make-up mistakes throughout the years. She says that when she was in the Spice Girls, she basically plastered on the slap.

These days, she's a lot more polished and for my transformation into Posh, Daphney recreated her look. For a flawless complexion, she used *Duel Balance* foundation by Shishido, and then an illuminating powder to highlight my cheekbones, giving a radiant look that's fresh from the sun



BEFORE

without being DayGlo.

Daphney then created a smokey-eyed look with sparkling dark grey eye shadow and gave me long lashes with a generous application of mascara.

The make-up was completed with a pale lip-gloss to recreate Posh's infamous pout, which I'm having great fun practising.

STEP THREE: FASHION

TIME to hit the shops for a massive spending spree. Being Posh is turning out to be quite fun.

Victoria loves trench coats by Miu Miu and Cavalli but her favourite is by Burberry, who use gorgeous metallic-coloured fabrics.

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