

# DOs&DON'Ts



**DON'T** Cheryl was universally trashed for this David Koma 'bin lid dress'



**DO** This time, Ms Cole works the same designer with style



**DO** Gaga 'dresses down' but keeps it respectably kooky with the accessories



**DON'T** The star plays it (too) safe and ends up looking more WAG than wacky

◀ *Twilight* premieres, in Rome in 2008. Slouching in Temperley, she looked like a sullen bridesmaid in a dress she didn't choose, using her leather jacket as a comfort blanket. Fast-forward a premiere or two, and the cocktail dress with smoky eye and spiky heels has become Kristen's signature. How did she nail it? By: a) pulling back her shoulders (the benefits cannot be overestimated!), and b) realising that while floaty Temperley frocks suit the K-Middys of this world, chic sheaths from Balmain and Monique Lhuillier mean Kristen can look sexy and girlie, but retain her trademark attitude.

That said, there's stepping out of your comfort zone and there's skidding right over the edge. As Cheryl Cole and Gwyneth Paltrow will surely agree, the golden rule is, don't try too hard. Cheryl made that mistake wearing a David

Koma number on *The X Factor*. Acres of mocking column inches about her 'bin lid dress' followed. And when Gwyneth tried sexing things up at the 2002 Oscars, a sheer Alexander McQueen dress and goth eye make-up resulted in a monumental flop that was only

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redeemed years later. At the London *Iron Man* premiere, in 2008, she slipped on some McQueen heels with her Balmain mini and Tracy Anderson-honed legs, and instantly erased the memory of her less successful brush with the label. In Cheryl's case, her

second-time-around David Koma tee-and-leather-leggings combo got a much warmer response. Lesson: when you're known for your approachable take on glamour, don't turn up in a creation that ends up wearing you.

But overstating a point works both ways. Just ask Lady Gaga. Ironically, the one time she tried to do 'normal' was scarier than the meat dress. When was the Gaga we knew, in that *TOWIE* meets-Cher-from-*Clueless* mass of hair and frou-frou? Thankfully, the next day, she stepped out in a just-normal enough hourglass dress and pearls, plus trademark teacup prop. So, when it comes to dressing up (or down), don't forget what makes you 'you'.

And the final celebrity style tip? The beauty of any sartorial slip-up is that there's always another dress, and another day, to get it right.

## DO some good this Christmas

The best ways to make a difference, no matter how much time you have

**If you have... A few minutes**  
Oxfam Unwrapped lets you buy gifts for people who really need them. You can pay from as little as £5 for a bag of fertiliser or £6 for a basic health check, to £27 to train a teacher and £75 for a flood barrier. [oxfam.org.uk](http://oxfam.org.uk)

**If you have... A few hours**  
Help the aged. If you have a full, clean driving licence, you can spend an hour or two driving elderly folk to and from volunteer-hosted tea parties. There might be a slice of cake in it for you, too! [wrvs.org.uk](http://wrvs.org.uk) or [contact-the-elderly.org.uk](http://contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

**If you have... A day or more**  
It's the 40th anniversary of Crisis at Christmas and, from 23-30 December, they need your help, offering homeless people warmth and a hot meal. They need 8,000 volunteers to help out; fill out an application form at [crisis.org.uk](http://crisis.org.uk) ▶



*Come Dine With Me* was just as ruthless in the olden days...