

# JANUARY 2019

# \* On the cover

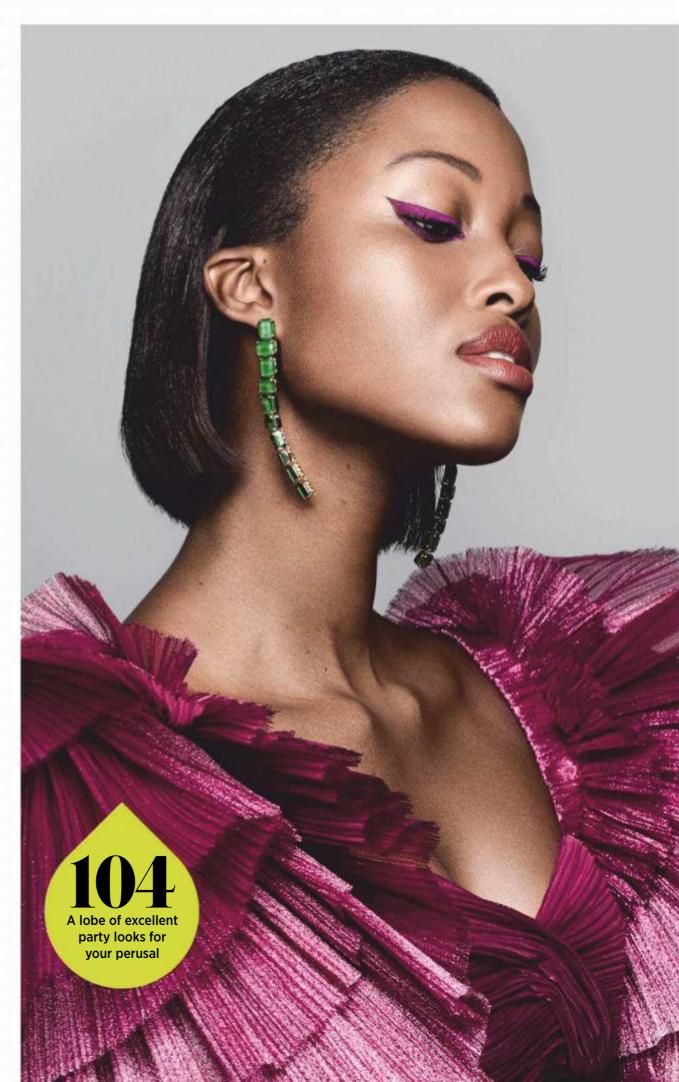
- OPEN WIDE! What to pop inside you this season
- YOUR 2019 PLAN!

  The sort-your-life method leaders use
- HAILEE STEINFELD

  The life & times of an overachieving millennial
- UNDER THE INFLUENCE Meet social media's most powerful family
- THE BIG FAT COVER-UP Is the plus-size revolution a sham?
- BLACKMAIL, REVENGE & SUICIDE The Ashley Madison sex scandal 3 years on

# \* Know

- BACK TO THE FUTURE The '90s called mainly to lure you away from your smartphone
- 11 SEE YOU AT... January's finest hangouts. Includes a chocolate festival... need we say more?
- TOP OF THE (K) POPS Meet Korea's top music stars they're set to takeover your earwaves
- NEXT YEAR'S NEWS The 2019 trends we're excited about, and those we're, well, less so
- RISING-STAR READS Books to help us forget we're waiting for the new Paula Hawkins
- MY CULTURED LIFE Pizza and feeling zen are very important to Lea Michele. Same, to be honest
- THE COMPASS This month's cultural ups and downs
- CONFESSIONS Your dog trying it on with your date: never ideal





# \* Glow

- **25** BUBBLICIOUS Your bathtime regime just got a lot lighter...
- 27 HOT RIGHT NOW! Beauty products that look but sadly don't taste good enough to eat
- **28** BUTTERFLY EFFECT The eyeliner looks bringing a whole new meaning to "wing woman"
- **30** BRAVE NEW BEAUTY Really putting the tech in techniques
- **34** BEAUTY LAB Pores more congested than London's Oxford Circus at Christmas? Try these
- **37** INGE HAS ISSUES... but analysing hyaluronic acid should distract her from those for now

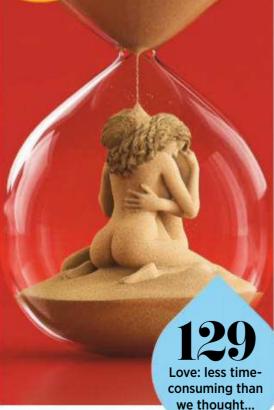
# \* Move

- **39** STEADY MEALS Why you need to start slow cooking, fast
- 44 BACK TO IT The mince pies are gone, as are all the good Quality Street, so how about a workout? Don't worry, we'll ease you in...
- **47** PITCH PERFECT Man of the match? This football gear

## \* Wear

- **51** SLIDE SHOW How your hair could cure your hangover
- **52** PARTY PIECES Accessories we need for our next night out as an absolute matter of urgency
- 60 HEY, HOW DO I WEAR... Paleontologist brown?
- **62** CLUB CLASSICS Trusty party dress feeling a little tired? Let it have a night in and take these four trends out-out instead...





# \* Earn

- **69** EMERGENCY STOP

  Meet the apps helping you to spend less time using, er, apps
- **74** WIN A COSMO SCHOLARSHIP How to enter our inaugural competition
- **77** SELF MADE Michelle Kennedy on cracking the start-up game

# \* Read

- 104 LOCKS & LOBES Hairdos and earrings that shine almost as much as you this season
- 114 IT'S ALL IN THE JEANS
  Damn-good denim for
  every body

### \* Lust

- **129** YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE Science has spoken
- 131 "IS THREE RELATIONSHIPS TOO MANY?" This month, our polyamory columnist flirts with the idea of adding another partner to proceedings
- 132 MY BEST SEX EVER WAS... with the Best Man
- **133** WORST DATES EVER Fancy a slice of interrogation with your cocktail? Anyone?
- **134** FIRST LOVE Two former lovers find out if ex marks the spot

# \* Play

- **137** ROCK ON, WOOD Indoor forest raves = a trunkload of fun
- **138** HOTELS WITH INSTA-FACTOR Because all we really want is to show off – sorry – share how nice our holiday is

# \* And the rest...

- **6** MEET TEAM COSMOPOLITAN
- **7** FROM THE EDITOR
- **154** *COSMOPOLITAN* CONTRACT The new-year digital detox ◆



Halloumi fried in the fat of basted chorizo. Life-changing, literally - you'll go up a dress size after one sitting.



Weetabix with butter spread on top. No milk. I blame my grandma, who brought me and my sisters up on it.



Sometimes I cut off a little bit of cheese and wrap it up in a slice of ham. It's like tapas

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THE SEASON

What's your favourite

unusual food

combination?

Toast dipped in tea. It's a family thing. My mum told me it was French when we were growing up, but I have since found out this is a huge lie designed to make our weird habits look highbrow.



I'll put Tabasco on anything, even chocolate.



Pancakes topped with pigs-in-blankets and maple syrup. Currently number one on my 3am post-party-snack leader board.



he world is made up of two types of people: those who enter competitions and those who do not.

That is not to say, by the way, that those who do not enter competitions do not want to. Competition – for food, for partners, for the last pair of size-12 sequinned pants in Zara – is part of our most primeval instinct. You can try and quash it, but it will always be there.

I, for the record, was the sort of person who didn't enter competitions – although that didn't stop me dreaming about winning them. When I was about 16, my older sister brought home a book called *The Writer's Handbook*. She was working (very unhappily) as a solicitor at the time and presumably had aspirations to write for a living. And in the way that little sisters emulate their big sisters, so did I. *The Writer's Handbook* was a thick yellow tome filled with writerly resources and tips on how to get into journalism. Its most valuable property, however, was that it contained information about every journalism prize, scholarship and writing contest out there.

I used to sit and read every last detail about these, imagining an alternate life where I won one. And

yet every time the date for various applications came around, I never put myself forward. It wasn't laziness that stopped me – in fact, on one occasion I even wrote the 1,000-word memoir piece that was needed to apply. I just never sent it off. Instead it was a sort of perverse self-preservation. If I didn't apply then I could never fail if I didn't win.

And yet, the following year my sister entered a writing competition in a glossy women's magazine. And won. That simple act not only changed her life (the following year she was offered a job on the same magazine and is now a full-time novelist), but mine too, as I followed her down to the capital. On the other side of the country, meanwhile, a university drop-out with a love of writing also entered a competition, this time in a men's magazine. He also won and went on to become an award-winning writer and author. (That man is my husband.) Sylvia Plath, Joan Didion and so many of our favourite writers and creatives only ever came to be because they entered a competition.

That's why I urge those of you who have always dreamed big but never acted to enter our inaugural *Cosmopolitan* scholarship. You don't need any qualifications to apply, neither do you need a place to stay in London (SpareRoom has kindly provided a swish central-London property for all four winners). All you

need is passion and for your belief in winning to be greater than your fear of failing.

\* Keep in touch by following me on Twitter @Farrah\_Storr and Instagram @farrahstorr



# THINGS I WOULDN'T MIND FINDING UNDER MY TREE THIS CHRISTMAS

Google Pixelbook, from £999 Computer, television screen, beautiful objet d'art when in resting pose. I'm in love.

**Stée Bag, from £489\*** Is it a bumbag? A cross-body? It's both! The hottest new bag designer around.



How To Own The Room by Viv Groskop, £12.99

Essential reading from a very funny human being.



Quality Street, £15†
Because when I don't find the gadget/bag/book under my tree, a bespoke QS tin will do just fine.



# Today Mum (2) Blockbu 3 del 6mno 9 WXYZ 8 101 **BACK TO THE FUTURE** Does your phone teleport? Has it worked out what you want for breakfast yet and whose calls to block? If you're craving simpler times, then the antidote has arrived: throwback phones are in resurgence. Yep, those primary-coloured devices from the '90s and noughties that flipped open and had tactile buttons are back, only with added mod cons (Wi-Fi, data, maps and the odd app). Leading the way is Nokia's 8110 4G iconic yellow "banana phone" (formerly of *The Matrix* fame), complete with Snake and a hefty battery life – 25 days on standby. There's also the BlackBerry Key2, featuring the brand's signature qwerty keyboard, and rumours are rife of a Motorola Razr reboot. Next up: MP3 players that are also cinema-style projectors?

