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A COSMO SCHOLARSHIP  
(TURN TO P74 FOR DETAILS)

JANUARY 2019

# THE BIG FAT COVER-UP

Is the plus-size revolution a sham?

# YOUR 2019 PLAN!

The sort-your-life method leaders use

# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Meet social media's most powerful family

# BLACKMAIL, REVENGE & SUICIDE

The Ashley Madison sex scandal 3 years on

# OPEN WIDE!

What to pop inside you this season

EXCLUSIVE

# HAILEE STEINFELD

THE LIFE & TIMES OF AN OVERACHIEVING MILLENNIAL

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2019

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# COSMOPOLITAN

'TIS  
THE SEASON  
OF THE PARTY  
LEFTOVERS!

What's your favourite  
unusual food  
combination?



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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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.

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# FROM THE EDITOR

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**

*Farrah*  
FARRAH STORR  
Editor-in-Chief

**T**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

## 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 bum bag? 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.







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IF IT'S HOT AND HAPPENING, IT'S IN HERE...



## 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?



FIND THE GIFT  
THAT HELPS THEM  
FIND THEIR

*Gift*



**very**

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