

BEAUTY

Eau Twiggy!

Twiggy is as quintessentially British as afternoon tea and Marks and Spencer, so how could we resist sitting down for a cuppa with the original supermodel to chat about her approach to looking good and her latest beauty venture for the store?

The term supermodel seems overused now, but when Twiggy was discovered at just 16 she revolutionised the fashion industry and became the world's first supermodel. "I was 5ft 6½in and a skinny little thing who had been told I could never be a model because I was too short. Then I had my hair cut and the next thing you know I was catapulted into worldwide fame. I still get fan mail from teenagers all over the world," she tells me over afternoon tea and biscuits to celebrate the launch of her first beauty range and fragrance for Marks and Spencer.

You have been the face of M&S fashion and have created collections for them for years now. Tell me why you chose them to work with?

"I've always loved M&S, but they chose me. In 2007 their artistic director saw me in a pub in Suffolk after I'd been for a walk on the beach. I had my hair in pigtails, no make-up on, a woolly hat pulled down and a huge anorak. His wife said, 'Oh look, there's Twiggy,' and he decided there and then that he would feature me in that now iconic ad campaign. Everything I wore flew out of the shops for five years and so it led to me creating my own line and we are now on our 16th collection."

The M&S customer has grown up with you. Do you think it's because they trust you?

"Yes. I would never put my name to anything I wouldn't wear, so my collection is very much a reflection of my real style. And I can make my own clothes, so I understand cut and what flatters and I'm fussy about fabrics and colour, so maybe they appreciate that."

Tell me about your new fragrance and beauty line for M&S?

"I gave the perfumers a list of fragrances I love and those I hate and they created six scents. I tested each one and every time I wore this one my husband Lee would say, 'Oh, you smell nice,' so I knew it was right. And once we got it just right, then we could create a line of body creams and lotions. There's even a candle."

What notes did you like and dislike?

"I wanted it to be floral with freesia, lily and orange blossom, then tuberose, but with a very strong musky finish on the skin that is oriental and woody. I also insisted that it not be overpowering as I'd rather someone reapply than be one of those women that you smell before they enter the room – I hate that."

I love the Art Deco packaging. Is that a reflection of you?

"I didn't want it to be all pink and pretty. I insisted on the Art Deco stopper and the black and white ribbons. And the bath gel decanter will look gorgeous even when empty."

How would you describe your ageless style?

"I love tailored jackets and a slightly boyish style with lots of trousers. I do wear dresses occasionally, but I'm 67 now so I know what works for a woman my age. I don't find it attractive to over-expose your body. My all-time favourite outfit is a tuxedo trouser suit. I have had one in my wardrobe since the mid-1960s."

Tell me about the range and what skincare products you use?

"I have very dry skin so I asked for a body butter as that is what I would use. And the bath foam is lovely, but I wanted subtle scents. I add almond or vitamin E oil to my bath and I am a fan of Himalayan salts."

What is the best bit of beauty advice you have ever been given?

"Look after your skin and moisturise. My skin is very dry and I have been using the same moisturiser for years. The good news is that we are going to develop one for me."

Worst bit of beauty advice you have ever been given?

"My mistake – I didn't read the instructions on an aromatherapy eye cream and applied it to my eyelid and it burnt me. For three years afterwards my eyes were prone to redness and sensitivity. Now I don't use anything aromatherapy on my face. I stick to unscented products and put vitamin E oil on my skin now."

Talking of hair, you do not seem to have a single grey one?

"I don't. I think it's because I'm naturally a mousy shade, but my daughter doesn't have any either so maybe it's genetic."

You also do your own make-up don't you?

"Yes, I only use a make-up artist on a day like this. Back when I first started modelling we all did our own make-up. My signature look is a light skin as I hate heavy foundation, and still focusing on my smoky eyes with a pink lipstick and a bit of gloss."

You are in such great shape – what's your secret?

"I am not, but I'm not bad for my age. I could be tighter, but I'm doing my Pilates so it will come."



Do you think that we live in an ageist world?

“Probably, but I’m not the one to ask as my life has been so bizarre and I have been given such wonderful opportunities to model, work in films, become a recording artist, work on Broadway, do my range... So I feel blessed to be given these chances. I have never faced ageism or sexism in my life, but I am sure they exist. I hate it when 19-year-olds are used to sell anti-ageing creams. When I see pictures of myself I want to see my real face.”

Would you ever be tempted to have cosmetic surgery?

“No, absolutely not. I’m a coward; I had an operation once years ago because I had to and the anaesthetic was horrible. I also work in the US a lot and I don’t like some of the faces that I see – they are like creatures. I have friends who have had great, really subtle work done by great surgeons, but still it’s not for me.”

So you are not tempted to try Botox?

“No, never. Why would I inject a poison into my face? I’ve got friends who can’t frown and that’s weird. But the worse thing is those fillers – people look ridiculous. Especially the chipmunk cheek and lips – I just don’t get it at all. Where people slip up is that think they are going to look younger. I don’t want to look 35 because I’m not – I just want to look good for my age.”

Who is your beauty icon?

“Greta Garbo was so beautiful. But with social media there is no mystique any more; [in the past] it wasn’t all ‘in your face’ and what you had for dinner. It’s a shame.”

Are you on social media?

“I do a little bit of Twitter and Instagram. I oversee it but my PA does it. I can do an email though. To be honest, I find it intrusive.”

What was the last song that you danced to?

“*Dancing Queen* by Abba with my granddaughter Joni; I do like a bop.”

What makes you happy?

“My home. I’ve lived there for 30 years and it’s a bit wacky, but I love it. We never want to go out – Lee and I were getting ready to go out the other night and he said, ‘I wish we were putting our comfies on.’ And my family of course, and my two grandchildren.”



TWIGGY'S TOTE

Twigg's no-nonsense approach to looking good is reflected in her minimalist bathroom-shelf best beauty buys:

- 1. **Twigg Lily Blossom Candle**, £9.50, from M&S Beauty
- 2. **Twigg Amber Blossom eau de toilette**, £16
- 3. **Fushi Organic Sweet Almond Oil**, £9, from feelunique.com
- 4. **Twigg Decanter containing bath gel**, £14
- 5. **Jasön Vitamin E Oil**, £5.25, from uk.iherb.com
- 6. **Twigg Amber Blossom Body Butter**, £15, part of the Body Care Collection, also containing hand cream and body lotion.
- 7. **Westlab Himalayan bath salt**, £14.99 for 5kg, from lookfantastic.com
- 8. **Olay Total Effects CC Cream in Fair to Medium**, £9.99, from Boots. 'I hate heavy make-up – I don't want to hide my freckles'. All Twigg products are available from Marks & Spencer from ???

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