

AILAR E.

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Good style

EASY BREEZY

April showers may bring May flowers, but they also bring sartorial confusion. One day it's warm enough to break out the sandals, the next it's cold and blustery. The key to navigating the changeable weather is by layering. Throw caution to the wind and slip on a contrasting slim-fit rollneck beneath jumpers, shirts, dresses and jumpsuits. Consider this your transitional treasure, the perfect chill-proofing quick-fix until the weather improves.



Jumper, £150, 4-19, Lacoste. **Rollneck**, £14.90, xxx-xl, Uniqlo. **Trousers**, £36, 6-20, John Lewis & Partners. **Sunglasses**, £320, Chloé

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Good style

MODERN MAXI

Welcome to skirt season. When you're not quite ready to slip on your summer dress but you want to move out of hibernation and your winter cords, say hello to the maxi skirt. They look cool and feel swishy, while creating a stand-out style - more fabric, more drama! There's no better way to add instant showmanship to your outfit; you'll immediately feel dressed-up even with a jumper and trainers. Spring dressing? It's a breeze.

Jumper, £165, xs-xl, Riso & Fall. **Shirt**, £109, 6-18, Bauhaus. **Skirt**, £74.99, xxx-xxxl, H&M. **Umbrella**, £19.50, Zornike at Amazon. **Trainers**, £120, 2-13, Veja

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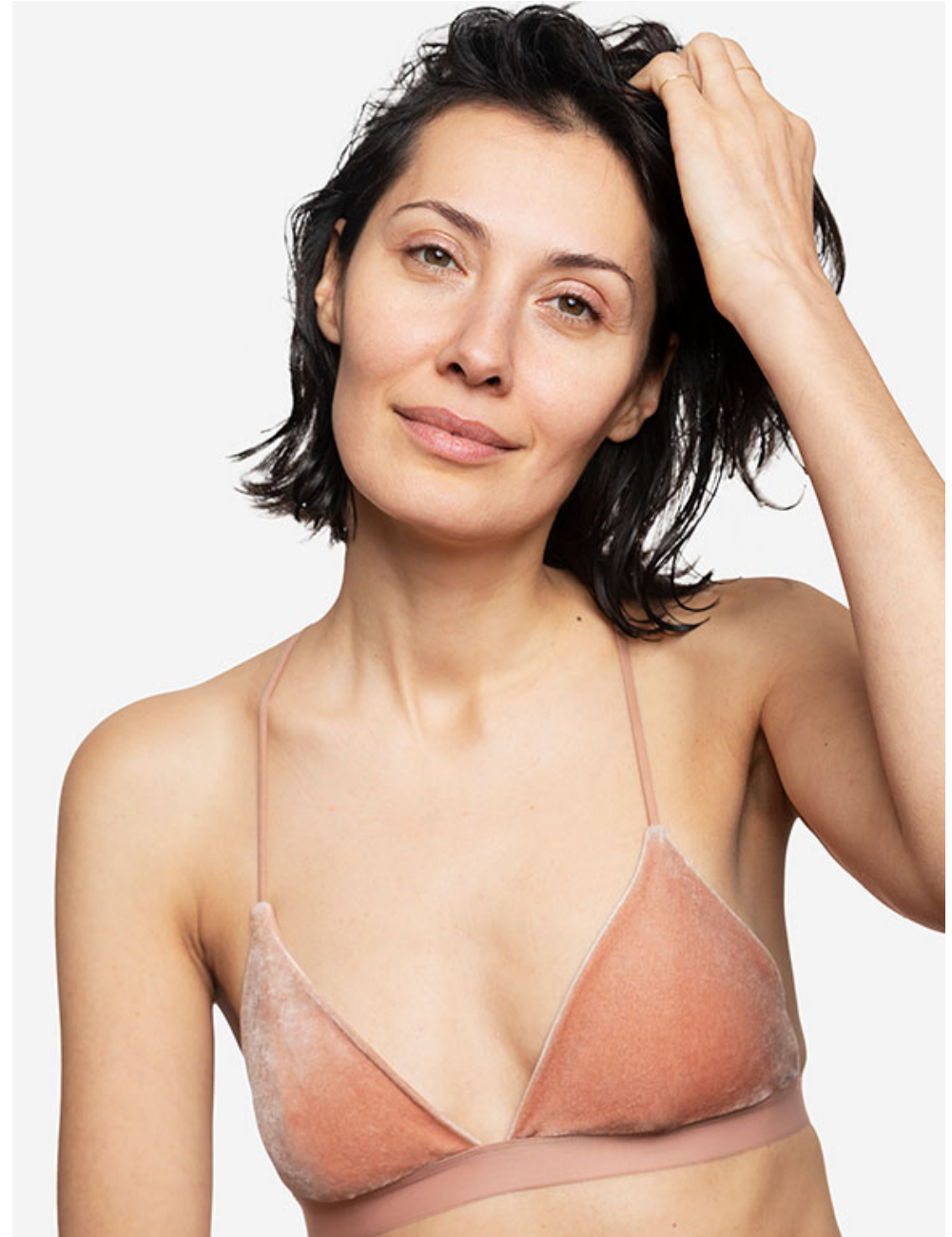


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PLAY WITH PROPORTIONS

- ✦ Not all cardigans are created equal. With varying lengths and fits, it can be tricky to get the look right, especially when layering over dresses.
- ✦ Long-line styles are best kept undone to create a clean line that elongates your body. Add a waist belt if you want to create more definition.
- ✦ If you want to button up a cardigan, choose styles that sit above your hips to avoid drawing the eye to your widest area.

Cardigan, £315, sizes s-l, herdwear.co; dress, £24.99, sizes 6-22, hm.com; boots, £68.00, next.co.uk



SUBTLE SPARKLE

- ✦ Give your outfit a touch of fuss-free glamour with a lurex striped knit. It is the perfect item to nail that smart-casual dress code.
- ✦ Take advantage of the neutral tones and weave it into your existing wardrobe.
- ✦ If you're after a lighter look, team with a soft cream suit.
- ✦ The slim fit means it works well with wide-leg trousers or full skirts, too.

Blazer, £34.99, sizes xs-xl, hm.com; top, £139, sizes 4-20, lkbennett.com; trousers, £95, sizes 6-16, paisie.com; shoes, £275, russellandbromley.co.uk; bag, £198, reiss.com; earrings, £79, withlovedarling.co.uk

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THREE-PIECE

Don't feel you need to invest in a new three-piece – the wonderful thing about men is you can mix neutral tones without having to worry about an exact match. A waistcoat is guaranteed to add a bit of finesse to your tailoring.

**Blazer, £135, trousers, £69, both sizes xs-l, arket.com;
waistcoat, £39.50, sizes 6-24, marksandspencer.com;
blouse, £29.99, sizes 4-16, shop.mango.com;
shoes, £59, charleskeith.co.uk;
necklace, £95, racheljacksonlondon.com**

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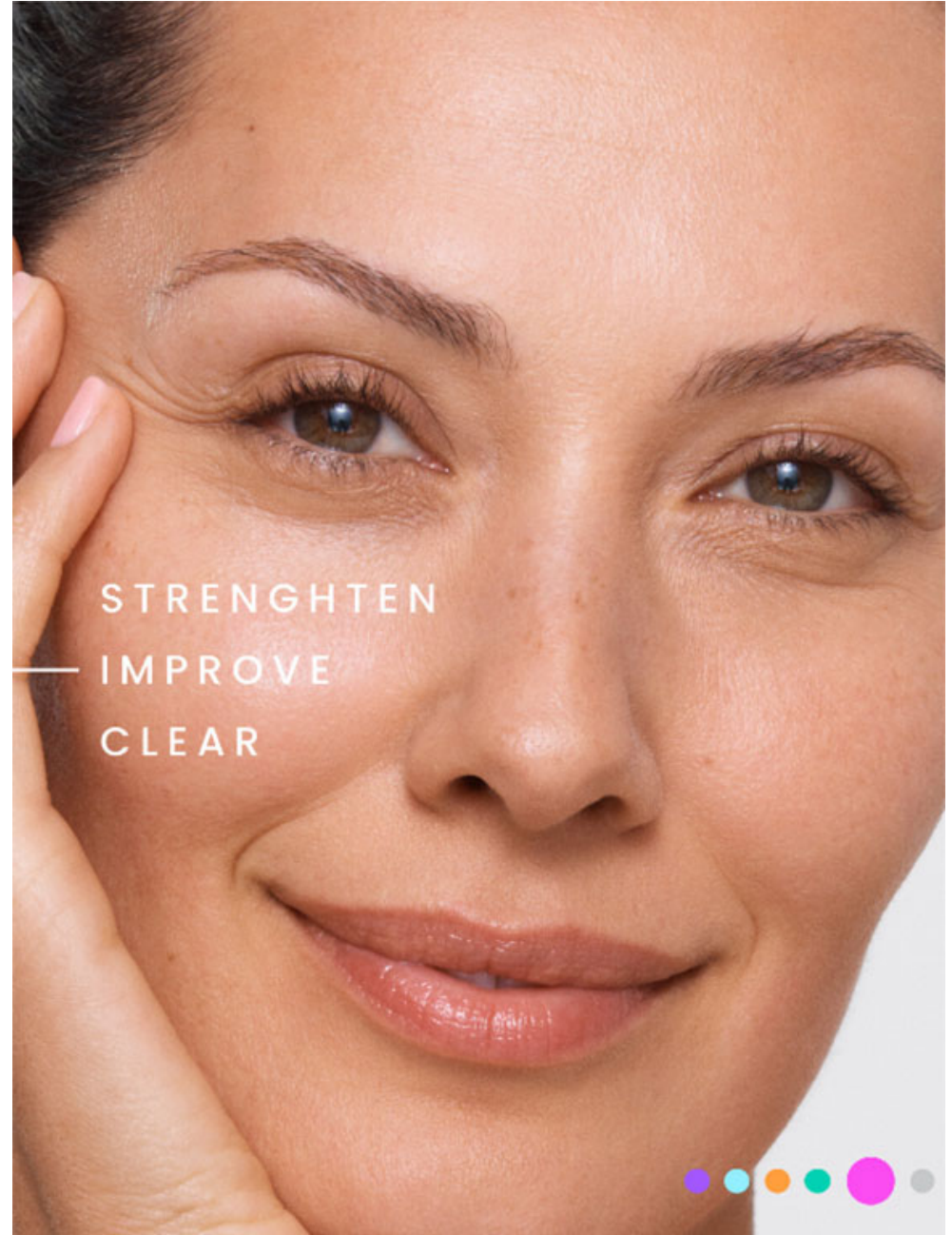
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FASHION forecast

When it comes to British springtime, the one certainty is just how uncertain the weather is. One minute there's beautiful sunshine, the next a downpour. Outsmart those tricky, unpredictable days with a few transitional updates

PHOTOGRAPHY
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STYLING
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TOP KNIT

When the spring sun's playing hide and seek, look to a lightweight knitted tank top or woolly waistcoat – a versatile essential for those in between-weather days. Layering a sleeveless knit over a stripy shirt, crisp cotton T-shirt, fancy blouse or even a midi dress is a stylish wardrobe hero for women in midlife and beyond.

Tank top. £69, xs-l, Phase Eight. **Shirt.** £45, xs-xl, French Connection. **Trousers.** £49, 8-20; **sandals.** £85, 3-8, both John Lewis & Partners. **Cap.** £15, Next



SPLASH TIPS

What better way to dazzle in the drizzle than with a fabulous yellow top – it's sartorial sunshine. Everyone can wear yellow (yes, really); it's just about finding the right shade. Cooler hair and skin tones (no pink or red undertones) should opt for zingy neons and chartruese (yellow verging on green). The other end of the yellow spectrum is saffron, which looks gorgeous on warmer hair and skin tones. You can't not feel happy in yellow!

Blouse. £129, 8-16, Momo. **Trousers.** £89, 4-18, Hush. **Umbrella.** £22, Totes

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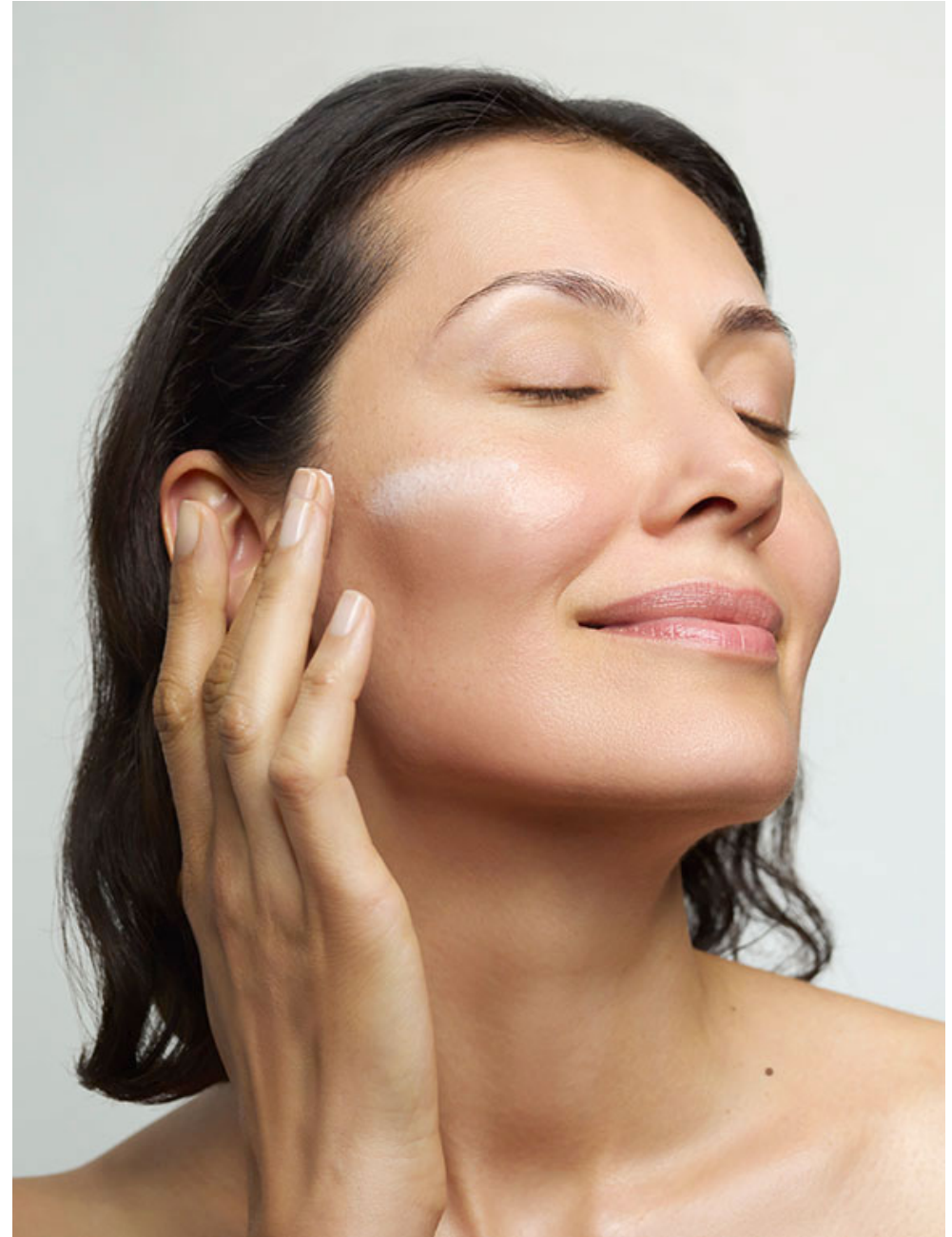
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