

Spotlight On...
LAURA BAILEY

This season, the definition of style is fresh black and white. See how British model Laura Bailey wears it.

Photographs by Annemarieke van Drimmelen.
 Fashion by Vickie Keeble. Interview by Ellen Burney.



Cotton-mix sweater by Rag & Bone.
 Cotton-mix trousers by Christopher Kane.

Scroll through to view the shoot

LAURA BAILEY'S 10 RULES OF STYLE

1 | BE TRUE TO YOUR UNIFORM

'My everyday uniform is a white, grey or chambray shirt under a knit with jeans or a skirt. In my twenties, I only wore T-shirts and felt suffocated by buttons. Now I love blouses, be they vintage and ruffled or minimal and modern. I can't resist another grey marl sweatshirt or navy jumper and my ideal palette is almost monochrome: navy, black and white. As much as I'm loyal to a white shirt with classic black, I also love the reverse – a white skirt with a black or navy shirt or jumper. I add a hint of punk with a red lip.'



2 | LOVE YOUR COATS, SEASON AFTER SEASON

'I wear a few old-favourite coats in rotation and it's always a tan trench come spring. I'm more emotional about lovelorn jackets than any party dress, and cherish even those with missing buttons and jagged hems, designer gifts from long-ago New York days, or Paris splurges on a weekend high. The newest addition to my coat family is a sporty lightweight mac that I can roll up in my handbag in case of sudden rain on a cross-town bike ride.'



VANESSA BRUNO
 Double-breasted twill trench coat
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3 | CLASH YOUR CLOTHES

'I'm attracted to clashing silhouettes – a mannish blazer or overcoat with a vintage dress or ladylike blouse and pleated skirt. By night, if I'm pretending to be glamorous, I'll "undo" a high-voltage dress with messy hair and a streak of eyeliner. Monochrome is always a chic shortcut – white stilettos and bare legs under a hug of a black mac, or dark navy lace and black ankle boots under a crisp white trench coat.'

4 | WEAR YOUR SHOES TO SUIT YOUR DAY

'I unapologetically love a heel. The most expensive shoes I've ever bought were a pair of black strappy Azzedine Alaïas in Paris 10 years ago, but I've worn them more than anything else in my entire wardrobe. I have some long-loved variations on a chunky designer sandal and wear my black platform ankle boots the way others wear sneakers.'

5 | BE INSPIRED

'I take my inspiration from all over the place – it's somewhere between the skate park, Portobello market, Paris and Hollywood. Mostly I'm inspired by my very modern girlfriends, especially Amanda Harlech, Bella Freud and Alexa Chung. But if I look to the past, I'm drawn to the 1960s and 1970s; to Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac, Patti Smith and Debbie Harry, David Bowie and Mick Jagger.'



6 | EVERY GIRL NEEDS A PROPER PARTY DRESS

'I love a proper party dress; a nipped-in waist under a bustier top and mood-transforming silk or taffeta – the kind that my daughter has to stand on a chair to zip me into. My favourite dresses are imbued with memories of friendship and adventures. I have a memory of the perfect strapless frock – black with a pink sash – that I possibly wore to dance on a table and make a speech before dancing the night away. It sadly didn't survive the dry cleaners. My very favourite dress is still the one my boyfriend bought me in New York when we first met.'



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7 | CHOOSE YOUR BAG TO SUIT YOUR LIFE

'When it comes to bags, I'm drawn to modern classics and vintage treasures, but the days when I can stuff my phone and keys and cash into the pockets of a trench coat are happy ones. I carry a bike helmet around, or have a dog and two kids in tow, so I end up with too much stuff however much I aim to streamline.'

8 | NEVER UNDER ACCESSORISE

'I'm a sunglasses addict. Rose-tinted, tortoiseshell, vintage or classic, I love them all. I left a favourite pair in a taxi en route to the airport recently and headed straight to duty free like a true shades junkie, feeling naked without them. This season, I'll swap my diamond hoop earrings for eclectic studs and cuffs, or take everything off and wear a jewelled headband instead.'



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9 | ADAPT YOUR UNDERWEAR

'Despite having drawers full of black tights I always find myself searching for that elusive pair of micro-fishnets or matt velvety opaques. I treat myself to glorious matching sets of silky camisoles and French knickers but usually wear mismatched boyish sets under failsafe white or grey vests.'

10 | KNOW WHAT WORKS FOR YOU YEAR ROUND

'I realised recently that most of my wardrobe is denim – I could write a memoir in the shape of jeans. I should have a clearout but I can't quite – there's black and sky blue, faded grey and bright red. I also wear a relaxed black trouser suit with high-tops and a white T-shirt all year round: lazy, easy and chic.'

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