

STYLE & WELLBEING



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As *Sex and the City's* Carrie once famously stated, "I like my money right where I can see it: hanging in my closet." But there comes a point in most women's lives when there's just no more room in the closet – a predicament faced by C&L's founder Isabelle, a self-confessed shopaholic. Her online fashion boutique was born last year out of a need to slim down her wardrobe, and now specialises in buying and selling pre-loved designer goods. You'll find everything from dresses and skirts to trousers, handbags and shoes, from designers such as Gucci, Alexander McQueen, Chanel, Temperley London and Christian Dior – all with guaranteed authenticity and many of the items 'never once worn'. If you're looking to sell, the C&L team will take care of everything. A courier collects the item, a price is agreed, and the item is dry-cleaned, professionally photographed and marketed on the website. The only trouble being, we visited the site with the aim of freeing up space in the wardrobe, only to treat ourselves to a few new items with the profits. So now we're back to square one. Ahem.

fabric RECOMMENDS



Rest & Repair Facial by Charlotte Colwell

There are some beauty rituals that, although absolutely necessary before a big event, are inadvisable in the days immediately preceding it. I'm assured that a facial with Charlotte Colwell does not fall into this category, and definitively will not result in pre-wedding breakouts, so going against all beauty wisdom, I book myself in just two days before. Thankfully, I am not disappointed.

Charlotte's approach is a holistic one. I'm pleasantly surprised when, rather than lead me straight to the treatment bed, she greets me with a cup of green tea and settles me into a comfortable chair in order to administer a divine foot scrub and massage – all the while chatting about my day, my plans for the weekend, and finally my skin and the upcoming treatment.

By the time I am disrobed and settled under fluffy towels, I am totally at ease in her company (so lovely is she that it would be impossible not to be) and I have already forgotten the public transport-induced rage I suffered en route here.

Along with powerful organic products from the Éminence range, Charlotte's bespoke Rest & Repair facial incorporates volcanic stones, herbal compresses, facial reflexology and massage. The products – particularly the Strawberry Rhubarb Dermofooliant and Hyaluronic Serum – smell good enough to eat and Charlotte's hands are magical: relieving stress on contact and leaving me feeling utterly blissed out. I want to cry when, 90 minutes later, she tells me that she will be finishing off with a hand massage – finish, so soon?

Afterwards I am serene and glowing, and look years younger. So much so that, on the big day – before any make-up has been applied – my mother (aka my biggest critic) asks what base has been used, stating that my skin 'looks incredible'.

Hallelujah! LN

Charlotte Colwell practices from the *Lost in Beauty* treatment room, 117 Regent's Park Road, Primrose Hill, NW1 (020 7586 4411; 07747 036920; www.charlottecolwell.co.uk). For more information on Éminence Organic Skincare or to buy online, visit www.theskinsmith.co.uk

