

Beauty notebook by Kate Shapland

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The scent Richard E

Grant's Jack It's a glamorous job, but getting a desk-side visit from a film star – as I did a few weeks ago when Richard E Grant dropped by to show me his new unisex fragrance – isn't the norm. I'd been looking forward to discovering Jack For Her & For Him since hearing about its development last year. Grant has been fixated with scent since childhood. Growing up in Swaziland, he experimented by bottling rose and gardenia petals in jars of boiling sugar water. The accessories designer Anya Hindmarch, who came across him with his head stuck in a gardenia bush in the Caribbean, encouraged him to look at creating a scent. With Jack he has bottled his favourite aromas: lime, marijuana and mandarin in its head, clove, pepper and nutmeg in its heart, and oud, vetiver, white musk and tobacco absolute in its tail. It's earthy, citrusy, hypnotic and rather sexy. Eau de parfum, £95 (100ml), Liberty (liberty.co.uk), from April 3.

JASON LLOYD-EVANS



The close-up Brow raisers The statement brow has become a status symbol in its own right. The make-up artist Pat McGrath parodied this directional moment when she transformed the models' faces for Alexander McQueen's a/w 14 catwalk show with oversized feathery brows (and eyelashes): was she poking fun at the exaggerated so-called 'Manhattan' or 'south London' brow shapes, or was she exercising her creative muscle to demonstrate the importance of the studied brow? Either way, your make-up bag is not complete without a brow grooming pencil or gel. New staples to discover: B the Brow Expert eyebrow pencil comes in five subtle shades, including Cinnamon Spice, Mysore Sandalwood and Jasmine Mogra. £13, myshowcase.com. Eyeko Brow Gel is a botanical shaping gel with excellent lift and hold power. £15, qvcuk.com.



Three of the best Body buffers The best body scrubs soften skin and make you feel invigorated. Mandara Spa Bali Santi Energising Body Scrub (£8, timetospa.co.uk) is enriched with softening coconut oil and yogurt. Hydrea Carbonized Bamboo Exfoliating Gloves (£5.25, beingcontent.com) exfoliate skin and release anions, which help the body discharge positive ions from electronic devices. Anne Semonin Nude Body Scrub (£78, liberty.co.uk) uses pink quartz and sand from Bora Bora to smooth skin.



The novelty Prtty Peaushun Skin Tight Body Lotion



This started life in a mixing pot, hand-blended by the make-up artist Bethany Karlyn to make her clients' skin glow on set, stage and the red carpet. Demand was such that Karlyn developed it for the market in a suitcase-friendly sachet. It's a bit like a BB cream for the body: a shimmery lotion that gives an illusion of contour, softens stretchmarks and varicose veins, and lifts and firms skin. One shade does not suit all: there are five shades to suit different skin tones. £29 for 236ml, beautyworkswest.com.



Ask Kate Nail polish has stained my nails. What's the remedy?

Squeeze half a lemon into a cup of hot water,

then dip your fingertips for a few minutes. If lemon juice doesn't work, try denture tablets. Brush your nails after treatment with a tooth- or nailbrush and apply lots of hand cream.

Oskia Renaissance Hand Cream (£21, oskiaskincare.com) is a salvation. Send your beauty conundrums to Kate Shapland via Twitter @KateShapland, using #askkate

