

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

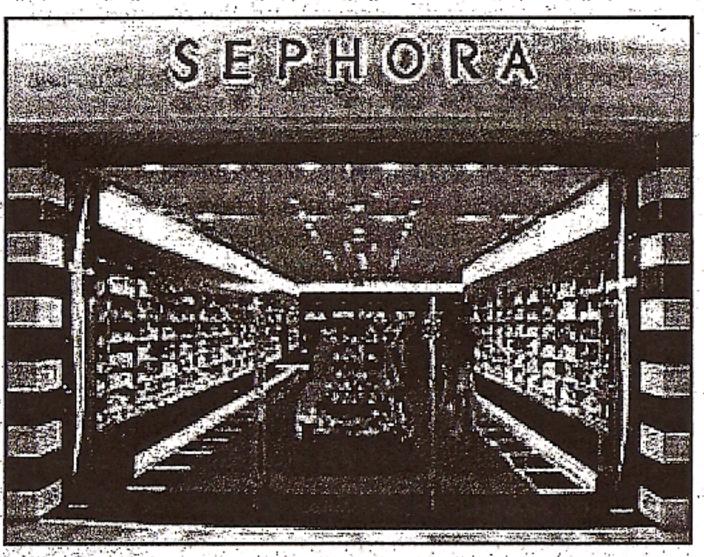
)kin deep with Samantha Altea

The Secret Six

I was wandering listlessly through the streets of New York City searching for inspiration for this week's column. But in 100 degree weather, with a heat index of 120, I was finding it hard to be inspired, instead dreaming of being in the Hamptons, swimming in the ocean. In reality, I was surrounded by concrete at every turn. Piper, my jet black and therefore very hot dog was by my side, tongue hanging out in desperation. She would look up at me every now and then as if to say, Mum.....what are you doing to me, get me some water and AC NOW! But for my readers I go through the trenches to get a story and so on we went!

We turned onto downtown 5th Ave and were instantly hit by another wall of intense humidity. It felt like we'd stepped into an oven and instinctively, I ducked into the nearest store for some respite and that all-important air-conditioning. Sweat, or in girlie terms, "perspiration," was running down my face. My eyes were still bleary and glazed over with heat exhaustion but as they began to come into focus what they spied was like a gift from the beauty gods. Piper and I were in health and beauty heaven. Sephora was the name on the pearly gates as we entered and there was a faint smell of perfume and appealing fragrances surrounding us in cool delightful air conditioning.

Before I had time to take it all in, the slick black, white and pink surroundings, a very pleasant looking angel approached me and asked if I needed any help. She had a halo of blonde hair and I swear I could see wings tucked under her apron, though



that could have been a touch of heat delirium. Maybe I was in heaven. I told her I was looking for inspiration for my column and needed some great product news for the lucky ducks who were back on LI. My wish was granted as I was given a tour of must-have items:

My Angel, who told me her name was Jill, showed me six great products that everyone should get right now!

The good news is that Sephora is a one-stopshop.....it's like a make-up mall and can appeal to every budget.

1) The first thing that I found was a great new line of products from "Bourgois." Incredible waterproof makeup, starting with mascara and eye makeup, perfect products for this time of year. You can

subtly pump up your lashes and then go for a dip. But subtle is the operative word. Too much makeup at the beach or pool looks a tad over the top.

2) If you've ever dreamt of perfect brows, then you must surely have heard of Anastasia. She's the brow plucker to the stars. Celebs gladly fly across the globe to be plucked by the incredible Anastasia. But now, you, too, can get a little star treatment with the "Anastasia All About Brows" kit, valued at \$141. But if you go to Sephora online or in store, you can get it for \$75.

3) At this time of year it's always great to have a bronzer and so my Sephora Angel pointed out two particularly good ones. Good ones because of the variety of shades in each pack, or palette. With this multi-shade option, you can create and personalize a color that works best for you. "Cargo Beach Blush" has four colors to choose from in one palette, \$26, and "Fresh, Here Comes the Sun," \$45, has three mix and match colors to create a sunkissed face for that extra color and contouring.

4) If you've been partying this summer and have lately been noticing some dark circles, you know, after one too many late nights, then try "Murad Lighten, Brighten Eye Treatment," \$75. It's supposed to work wonders.

5) For a long lasting lip color when you've gotten rid of those dark circles and are out and about again, try "Dior, DiorKiss".....a long lasting stain for kissable lips in a range of interesting colors.

6) Looking for a new smell to stand out in the crowd? "Cartier Delices De Cartier" is the answer at \$60. It's a new perfume with a blend of fruits, like iced cherry and zesty bergamot mixed with the spice of pink pepper and feminine floral notes.

It was with blood, sweat and tears that I was inspired by the beauty gods in record temps this week.....well, maybe not the blood part, but sweat and tears at least. Now there's one last thing to note. You don't actually need to leave your home to shop at Sephora. You can always go to www.sephora.com.

If only I'd thought of that before I left the house!



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