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The Goddess Guide

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Extract

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Gisèle Scanlon,

a writer, illustrator and
seeker of all things stylish and eclectic,
has exhausted her passport and gathered together
the best of her findings into one unique collection.

THE GODDESS GUIDE

is her gift to you.

From the practical to the frivolous,
the fun to the profound,
the stylish to the surprising...

Sprinkle a little Goddess magic
into your life.

HarperCollins*Publishers*

Meet the Six Goddesses...

These six Goddesses appear throughout *The Goddess Guide*. I love drawing them on anything I can get my hands on so you will find they pop up all over the place, asking questions about my findings... Perhaps the Home Goddess could help you find the best facial; the Office Goddess a good suit; the Sex Goddess perfume and lingerie; the Urban Goddess a really cool bar. The Earth Goddess will help you cultivate roses and the Luxurious Goddess, well, who wouldn't want to spend a day in her Louboutin shoes?



Each of these Goddesses represents a tiny little part of me. Which one do you think you're most like? To me, Tracey Emin (see pp132), is the ultimate Urban Goddess, whereas Serena Rees (see pp36) is a real Sex Godddess; Alice Temperley (see pp52) leads a true Earth Goddess existence and my best friend Anne is definitely my Office Goddess (with a whole load of Sex Goddess attitude thrown into the mix).

The Earth Goddess in me is always on the look out for little birds and animals. I love them so much that I even need to know their collective nouns. I've included several throughout these pages and only had to invent a couple – can you tell which ones I've invented yet? I'll give you a clue, the first one is below.



Goddess *n* **1** a female divinity. **2** a woman who is adored or idealized. *Coll. n* a swoon of Goddesses. *(Okay, so I made this one up, but isn't it appropriate!!)*

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HOSIERY

I return to hosiery each September like a migrating swallow to Africa. Even at the tender age of eight my mother was giving me tips on deniers for different occasions. Her most useful nugget I still hear regularly when my legs are like Fozzie bears (full of hairs) – 'a Mafia widow's tights' (high denier black) 'will cover just about anything, Gisèle'. Mmmm anything that is except fat, Mum! But seriously, tights are great aren't they? And there's such a variety to choose from.



Barn swallow *n* any of various passerine songbirds having long pointed wings, a forked tail, short legs, and a rapid flight. *Coll. n* flight or gulp of swallows. Migrating swallows cover 200 miles a day at speeds of up to 35 mph. They leave for South Africa in September and swoop back into Europe in April – back to the very area where they were born. If I could fly, that's how I'd like to do it, no detours, great views, straight there and straight back. Have you ever seen the air alive with a flight of barn swallows? It's amazing! (see pp194 to coax them to nest at your house).



Items every Goddess should try

1. Sheer fine deniers
Aristoc Ultra Shine Tights. For everyday office glamour you can't go wrong with these 10 denier, sheer to the waist, high shine, sandal-toed tights.

2. Sheer seamed stockings
Gio Fully Fashioned Seamed Stockings. These stockings from Gio have a high gloss finish and they're made on the original 1950's Reading machines and seams are hand sewn.

3. Black fine deniers
Wolford Individual 10. These 10 denier matt appearance tights are a Wolford bestseller. The lycra technology means these tights stretch in several directions to give a completely even coverage.

4. Fishnets
Jonathan Ashton Stringer Fishnets. Small holes in muted colours, like camel or charcoal, look great with knee-length skirts. Black is sexy but serious when the weave is small. White and red are hideous.

Opaques
My Dad used to tell me that goose pimples were designed by Mama Nature to stop my socks falling down in the cold. Recently however I have found this fact to be fictitious. The technical word for goose pimples is actually horripilations, and my Wolford Velvet De Luxe 50's opaques from www.tightsplease.co.uk are my number one weapon against the little blighters. Unfortunately, they don't make a blind bit of difference when I hear knives and forks scraping across china, listen to Mozart's Requiem, smell heady flowers, see little birds or feel ink soak into beautiful heavy paper. What gives you goose pimples?

Here are my favourite opaques

5. Black opaques
Wolford Velvet De Luxe 50. White and coloured opaque tights can even make model's pins look stocky, so what hope is there for the rest of us? Choose these utterly thinnifying black ones instead.

6. Crochets
Trasparenze 60 Rimbaud tights www.calzetrasparenze.com. Stick to dark colours like plum, olive, brown and black. Crochet, apart from insulating you against winter chills, looks very luxurious.

7. Floral Lace
Emilio Cavallini Floral Lace Tights. Along the same lines as crochet tights these have a lace finish with interwoven florals. Check www.figleaves.com and www.emiliocavallini.com, for more ideas.

8. Prints
Printed tights from www.lookfromlondon.com. Printed hose once you keep the scale small make a solid-coloured skirt or dress come alive. Also try Herringbone (tiny v-shapes), or 'bird's eye' (a tiny diamond design).

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