

THE  TIMES

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SUPPLEMENT
OF THE YEAR

MAGAZINE

IF I RULED
THE COUNTRY
CAITLIN MORAN'S
MANIFESTO

Caitlin Moran as
Thatcher and Churchill

This week I'm wearing... pussybows

BY ANNA MURPHY



It comes tied with a bow for spring/summer '16, or maybe just knotted; or maybe not even that, the tie or ribbons floating loose around the body. Bows and ties were everywhere on the

catwalk, but most deliciously in New York, at high-society stalwart Oscar de la Renta and groovy young(ish) things Proenza Schouler. At the former, black ribbons gave edge to fairytale ballgowns in eau de nil and lilac. (If I were heading to the Oscars next weekend – assuredly, a very big “if” – it would be one of these dresses I'd wear.) At Proenza, one or two black ties fluttered at the waist and/or chest on a white dress or jacket, or white ties on black.

The simplest way to tie yourself in knots for the new season is with a pussybow blouse. I wasn't convinced by the idea when these first resurfaced a couple of years back. Maggie Thatcher was never my style idol. But they have stayed around because they are so flattering, especially in silk, and I have to concede that I was wrong (again). Pick up a classic pale blue or ivory silk pussybow from Iris & Ink (£110; theoutnet.com), or go for a quirky variation on a theme with Comme des Garçons Girl's multibowed black tulle blouse (£235; net-a-porter.com).

For a more minimalist aesthetic, choose a tie detail at the waist rather than neck, like Cos's tie-detail white top (£59; cosstores.com), or Finery's burgundy Sanford dress with obi belt (£65; finerylondon.com). Another of my favourite dresses is Marks & Spencer's Limited Edition navy bow front shift dress with white trim: it's a pussybow dress, no less (£39.50; marksandspencer.com). And the standout jacket has to be by Gucci – sigh – in rose or honey silk-wool, with a crimped collar, pearl buttons and black bow (£1,140; gucci.com).

You can work your way right down to your feet with this trend, too, with J.Crew's pretty floral flats (£168; jcrew.com) or Charlotte Olympia's black or turquoise silk Lynn stilettoes (£545; charlotteolympia.com), or even with Joshua Sanders' statement platform trainers (£220; matchesfashion.com).

And then there's the jewellery, most spectacularly VanLeLes rose gold and diamond Lyla's Bow ring (£4,500; vanleles.com). The ring was designed in memory of a little girl called Lyla, who died from an unusual form of brain cancer that only affects children. Ten per cent of each sale goes to the Lyla Nsouli Foundation (lylansoulifoundation.org). ■



ANNA'S TOP BUY

Above, from left: yellow jacket, £1,140, Gucci; tulle blouse, £235, Comme des Garçons Girl; Dakota Johnson; white blouse, £88, Me + Em; blue blouse, £30, Dorothy Perkins; grey blouse, £198, Me + Em; shoes, £168, J.Crew. Below, from left: ring, £4,500, VanLeLes; dress, £65, Finery; Proenza Schouler; Oscar de la Renta; trainers, £220, Joshua Sanders; Alexa Chung; Gucci



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