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April 14, 2009

## Take a Fashion Break from Boring



With Spring in the air and looser, more drapery shapes on the horizon, why not head out on a break from boring? What to pack: a pair of cropped, flowy pants, breezy blouse, some on-trend gladiator-inspired sandals, stacks of bangles, and a roomy metallic hobo. If it's a staycation, you're all set; if it's an actual va-cay, don't forget a floppy hat, oversize shades, and vintage valise.

### HERE'S WHERE TO GET THE LOOK:



**BREEZY BLOUSE** This flattering, feminine washed silk blouse skims in all the right places, and is amazingly versatile. Depending on your mood, it's...

...a beach coverup! (pair with soft camel-hued gauchos and a straw sandal)

...office attire! (with slim-cut black pants and cropped matching jacket)

...80s fabulous! (wide red belt and leggings)

...worth every penny of its \$88 price tag! (Peter Nygard smocked blouse at [Dillards.com](#))

[Dillards.com](#)

**CROPPED TROUSERS** Shopping for the eco-chic versions of the season's must-have pieces can feel like a far-flung experience. The antidote? The UK's Fashion-Conscience.com, where everything is under one roof - from well-established brands to emerging designers - and all clearly marked as Vegan, Sustainable, Recycled, Fair-Trade, and/or Organic. These slouchy cropped Camilla Norback trousers are 100% organic cotton, and would look equally fab with red pumps and a striped boatneck tee sailor/girl style, or with laceup gladiators and a loose, open vest. For more fashionable ideas with a conscience, be sure to check out [their blog](#). Navy Cropped Bow Trousers \$84 (on sale) at [Fashion-Conscience.com](#).



**DRAPERY CHAIN NECKLACE** For under \$20, rock this chain-fastened garnet-colored pendant with everything from your LBD to a Mischa Barton-esque ensemble complete with fringed boots and short-shorts. The 24" length is go-with-everything perfect, as is the price. Nadia Necklace \$16 at [ShopTheLook.net](#).

**LACE-UP SANDAL/BOOTIES** A cross between a peep toe bootie and a sandal, this happening hybrid from Dolce Vita is the new go-to shoe for slouchy rolled boyfriend jeans, your fave mini, or with bare legs and a belted oversize card.



They're even surprisingly practical, thanks to the covered 2" heel. And no, you won't see them on every Jane, Jill, and Sally because they're a limited-time exclusive: [web-only at UrbanOutfitters.com for \\$168](#).



**STACK OF BANGLES** Multi-colored, multi-material, multi-faceted... Spring calls for bangles stacked high up on the arm, the more multi, the better. For now, pile 'em on with a crochet top, harem pants, and oversize shades; with a slinky halter dress and some Chanel No. 5; or with ripped jeans, peeking out from under the rolled sleeve of your boyfriend jacket. And when the stacked bangle trend becomes passe, simply wear separately. [Oasis Pearl & Cream Etched Bangle Set \\$20 at ASOS.com](#).

**METALLIC DUFFLE** Totally of-the-moment, this trendy spot-on copper bag features a cute chain tassel, roomy pockets, and slouchy-chic unstructured silhouette. Originally \$80, [1Site1Price.com](#) is carrying it for just under \$30, along with other fab deals on brands like FairyRobin, Fornarina, C&C, and GR8 Buddha. Be ready to do some searching, but a little legwork always uncovers a great find or two - and if you buy 4 items, you'll get an additional 10% off and free shipping. [La Mode Copper Bag \\$30 at 1Site1Price.com](#).



And with this article we bid a fond farewell to our column dedicated to Chic Steals & Fashion Deals. Instead, look for our fresh weekly article on everything DIY. Thanks for reading, and stay tuned for the launch of [Don't Buy...D.I.Y!](#)

-Carly J. Cals, Contributing Editor

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- Harry Potter Stars: Hard at ... Celebrity...

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<http://tinyurl.com/faithhillclic>

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