

DebonAIR

Helen Razer's route map to grooming and department.

Arriving at your best

Life, as you know, is a difficult business. The breadth of its difficulty is not diminished at all by product, product and yet more product. In a righteous attempt to abridge your confusion, we gift you the best of grooming.

BEST CLEAN: L'Occitane Amande Shower Oil. It's a splendid hydrator with a faintly bucolic scent. Ideal for any gender. As too, **Lush** soaps. Best for men: Honey, I Washed the Kids and Demon in the Dark. Savon Noir from **Cinq Mondes** is a unique black soap redolent of Hamaam excess.

BEST AND MOST CORRECT: No one, save for the Bush administration, hides crimes better. **YSL's** Touche Eclat is the best concealer there is and ever will be. Under eye and over spots, this wand works its ineffable magic. Pouffe!

BEST COIFF: Inching past the three-hundred-dollar mark, the **Tourmaline Evolution Professional** might ruin your dinner plans. It won't, however, ruin your day. Nonpareil styling tool comes in the form of the **ghd IV styler**. Lads, you shan't trap a better morning companion that a **Vulfix** shaving brush. From the Isle of Man, this baby is pure silver tip badger.

BEST LOOK: Yes. It looks like a gynaecological instrument. But get an **eyelash curler**. For true, lush stripper eyes, **Estee Lauder's** lash primer is without equal. The Australian ladies of **Mirenesse** have evolved a mascara so lavish it should be scheduled. For men and women: Skin Caviar from La Prairie works fine miracles. And **StriVectin's** new eye treatment does the same.

BEST SLATTERN: Teetering in the territory between seductress and slapper for well over a decade are two never-fail products. **Rouge Noir** polish from **Chanel** is an essential. As is Russian Red from **MAC Cosmetics**.

BEST MAINTENANCE: If your answer to the question, "what's your skin care regimen?" is scant and involves soap, you deserve wrinkles and a good talking-to. **Thalgo** is a terrific salon-only product for your every day. Ditto for the inscrutably inexpensive **Trilogy**. Australian made and owned **Ultraceuticals** have an UltraC cream that irons imperfection. If United Nations delegates were furnished with **Creme de La Mer**, all creases in the world would cease.

BEST SMOOTHERS: Never, ever apply foundation with anything but a brush. **Stila** and **MAC** make some of the finest. **Laura Mercier** foundation primer guides your every artful stroke.

BEST WHIFF: **Clinique** Happy For Men is crisp, cool and sporty without irksome locker-room after-pong. Bright Eau Dynamisante by **Clarins** retains its youthful spark. **Chanel No 5** is the only ornament, to paraphrase Ms M Monroe, that a lady need wear to bed. Your décolleté might smell delightful. But, honey, your breath reeks. No better way to enliven your oral cavity post-flight than with Aveda's titanium strength **Peppymint**.

