

FASHION WRAP

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Statement Necklaces

Okay, all you fashionistas, listen up!

We're nearing the dawn of a new era where arguments over hemlines are now bygones; vintage is finally mainstream, all heel heights are welcome and everything that's old is new again - well, almost (excepting John McCain.).

That's my statement, in the spirit of the democratic change that's been afoot recently, I'd like to go out on a limb and head straight for the throat.

And by throat, I don't mean trash talk or mean-spirited barbs; I mean my full-throttle campaign for the "Statement Necklace."

It's a piece whose time has come, and I elect it president of fashion circles everywhere - okay, just around these parts, because unlike Obama, my campaign funding is a little on the slim side, somewhat like my wallet.

So that's why I nominate the statement necklace as a piece for the ages - it's a one-time purchase with a definite powerful punch.

From its high-flying podium, it can kick some life into that plain black sheath dress or pretty well any plain old dress, shell or suited underpinning that's been collecting dust in your closet, girls.

It's the piece that will let you save your pennies over the holidays for that new pair of shooties come January sales time. Talk about building from the ground up; this number can take you from dull to dazzling in a Chicago minute (new centre of the universe, BTW.)

It's that transition token that makes you feel like you got at least something new without raiding the war chest.

Even those tougher than nails old gal pals who've x-rayed your outfit from 50 feet across the crowded cocktail party can't sneer in your general direction - because you're making a statement, with your necklace of, course.

So, it's time to reach across the aisle and shake hands with that bewitching, bigger-than-life fashionable friend you've been a little fearful of.

I know, with my chicken little neck, I've been running from this jewelled juggernaut for awhile, fearing its size would overwhelm.

But not any more, sisters, because, change is good.

I hear it will unite both the left and right sides of me, settling right in the middle over my passionate fashion-seeking heart.

And, if this change only comes in the form of a studded, serpentine, bejewelled necklace, what's the biggie? World-changing it's not, but confidence building, you betcha.

So woman- up, and throw some big bold dazzle around your throat - believe me, some of these suckers are so mighty they'll even shield off life's slings and arrows.

And, if you hear me shouting Yes I Can ! from the din of the holiday war rooms, you'll know I could and I did!