

EASY LIVING

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MARCH 2009

Real Life

IN THE KNOW...



London calling

Lizzie Allen's collection of hand screen-printed wallpapers revolve around a bustling London theme. The changing of the guard, city gents reading newspapers – each print jostles with lively, eye-catching humour. This life-size iconic telephone box is available to commission in a variety of colours – we have our eye on the gold version, which would look great in a hall.

Gold telephone box wallpaper, from £330. Call 07947 474928; lizzieallen.co.uk



Pretty maids all in a row

Cotton shirt (back pictured), £65, Mary Mary. Call 020 7373 7590; marymary london.com

Beguiling nostalgic elegance is the key to fledgling fashion label Mary Mary's charm. Matching floral sashes and inside collars on cotton dresses and shirts make them swish with femininity and fit perfectly. Wonderful pieces to dress up or wear with casual prettiness.



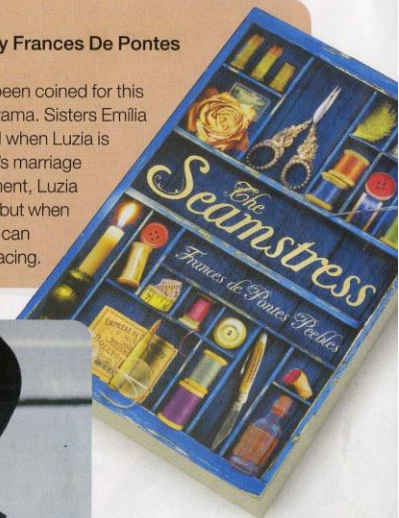
Horse power

This hobby-horse-meets-broom is guaranteed to bring a smile to the face of anyone doing a bit of sweeping, and, dare we say it, may even encourage little ones to do a task they'd rather forget. Simply genius.

'Brush Beauty' by Gavin Coultrip, £29. Call 020 7739 7237; thorsten vanelten.com

BOOK *The Seamstress* by Frances De Pontes Peebles (Bloomsbury, £12.99)

The phrase 'sweeping epic' could have been coined for this saga of romance, sibling love and high drama. Sisters Emilia and Luzia dos Santos are brutally divided when Luzia is kidnapped by rebel bandits. While Emilia's marriage into wealthy society results in disillusionment, Luzia discovers the thrill of danger as an outlaw, but when a price is placed on her head, only Emilia can save her. A gripping tale to set your heart racing.



FILM *Doubt*

In one of the film's central scenes, Philip Seymour Hoffman as Father Flynn, head of an inner city Catholic church in the turbulent early 1960s, gives a stirring sermon about doubt. It's an eerily luminous moment in a film shrouded in that very concept. We're never sure who to put our faith in as the liberal Father Flynn and the draconian head teacher Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep) battle it out over the suspected abuse of a young black student at the church's school. A complex drama driven by ominous foreboding, which ends with a shocking emotional punch that'll leave you reeling. →

