

Simple Song

Lightweight pleats and a monochrome palette make an easy summer uniform for frequent-flier Lykke Li. Photographed by Boo George.

If you've come across the name Lykke Li, it was more than likely accompanied by the phrase "Swedish pop musician." The 28-year-old artist in question, however, begs to differ. "I'm the least Swedish person you'll ever meet," says Li, currently touring the world behind her third album, *I Never Learn*. "I only half grew up there, since my family was traveling all the time. I'm more influenced by Bob Dylan than anything Swedish." Given her other professed heroes—think less ABBA, more Nina Simone and Stevie Nicks—it's fair to say that her calling card could use an update.

Perhaps for the same reason that all colors, when combined, turn to black, Lykke Li's myriad influences help to explain her monochrome wardrobe. "I don't want the clothes to distract from the work. Also, I've been touring since I was 21. This is how I live," she says, pointing to her silver Rimowa carry-on. "I hustle. There's no time for florals!" (Thus the Calvin Klein look seen here, which manages to make pleated faux-leather seem as breezy as poplin.)

Visually inspired by the pared-down performance style of Édith Piaf, Li's stage wardrobe is from the capsule collection she designed for & Other Stories, H&M's upscale sister brand landing Stateside this fall. It's all black, of course, and includes a passport holder, a tote, and other staples for international wayfarers. Between running the Stockholm-based artist collective Ingrid (after Bergman) and exploring a budding side career in film (she'll make her acting debut in Terrence Malick's forthcoming *Knight of Cups*), Li is proving ever more difficult to pigeonhole—or to pin down in one place.—MARK GUIDUCCI



COLOR BLOCKING

Lykke Li wears a Calvin Klein faux-leather one-button blazer (\$119) and pleated skirt (\$110); macys.com. Massimo Dutti slingbacks, \$175; Massimo Dutti, NYC. Hair, Esther Langham; makeup, Christian McCulloch for Dolce & Gabbana Make Up. Shot on location at Thomas Erben Gallery. Paintings by Dona Nelson, Courtesy of Thomas Erben Gallery, NYC. Details, see In This Issue.

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