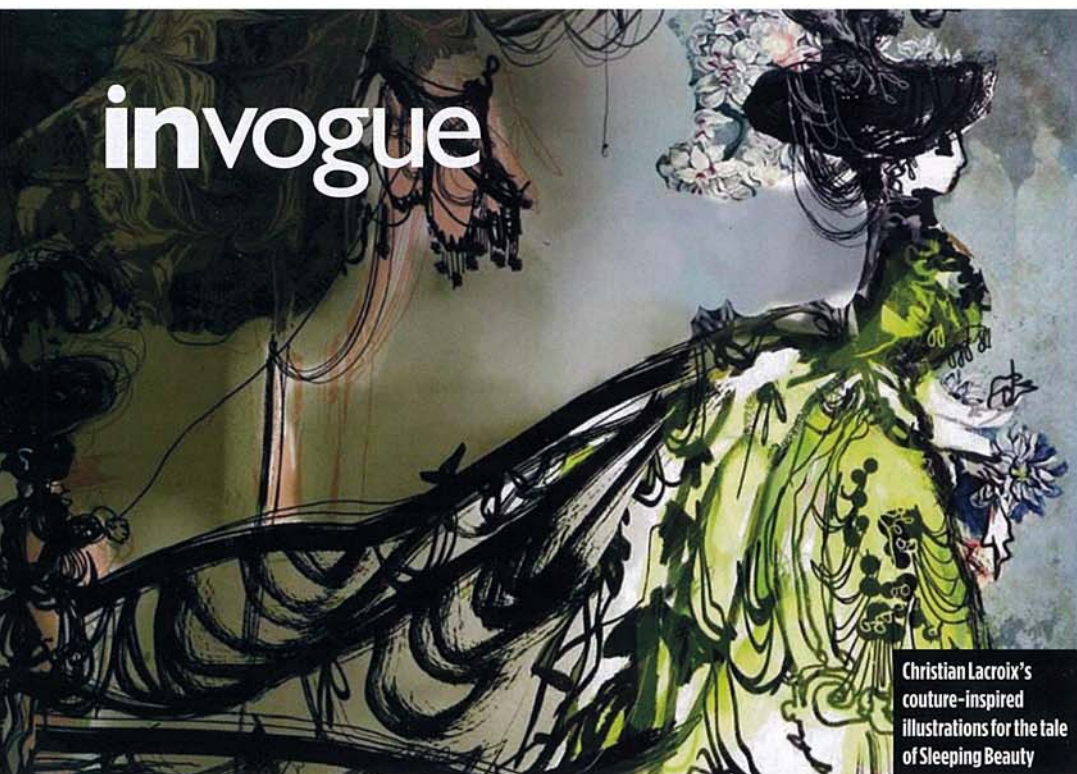


# invogue



Christian Lacroix's  
couture-inspired  
illustrations for the tale  
of Sleeping Beauty

## STYLE LEGEND

Fashion fact meets fairytale fiction in *Christian Lacroix and the Tale of Sleeping Beauty*, the first in a series of books written by Camilla Morton, in which the designer's artisanal theatricality wakes Sleeping Beauty. "Fashion is as much about make-believe as it is about creativity," says the author, whose fashion fairy tales explore designers' histories with childlike charm. Behind the splendour and pomp of Lacroix's illustrations lie the dramatic truths of a floundering company. Lacroix spent the last year frantically recording his biography in the drawings that fill the book's pages. The fairytale histories of John Galliano, Manolo Blahnik and Diane von Furstenberg are next. (HarperCollins, £13) *AF*



## How long does it take?



**...to style yourself an Hermès low-slung hair plait** 3 MINUTES  
Brush hair low with a centre parting, then plait from bottom of head onwards. Just leave any loose pieces of hair - it adds to the charm.

**...to make the bed in one of Claridge's suites** 16 MINUTES, 52 SECONDS The superking bed, with Rivolta Carmignani cotton sheets, goes through a seven-step process of careful stripping and folding, until the final touch, a cashmere throw, is placed at the foot of the bed.

**...for Clickini.com to get a bikini to St-Tropez** 22 HOURS, 51 MINUTES Day 1, 13.33 Clickini HQ in Galway receives the client's request to deliver a Lisa Marie Fernandez bikini to her yacht. 14.35 bikini is gift-wrapped. 15.14 FedEx collects. Day 2, 10.47 Bikini parcel is signed for at the port of St-Tropez. 12.24 Clickini receives thank-you message from a happy, Neoprene-clad client.



**...to make a Brioni dinner jacket** 40 HOURS  
The jacket is made from two fabrics that differ in weight. Silk, satin or grosgrain - used for the lapel - are difficult to sew by hand on to the wool or mohair that make up the rest of the jacket.



**...for James Pecis and his team to create the hair: Meadham Kirchoff's/s/s/ show** 33 HOURS Day 1 9 hours of cutting and gluing hair extensions to make the wefts. Days 2-3 13 hours to dye the wefts in different colours. Day 4 James decides the wefts should have dark roots - more hours' dyeing. Show day 3 hours to braid 2 models' hair, with the wefts taped and glued to

**...to roll out the Oscars red carpet** 3½ DAYS The process begins on Tuesday, and for the next three days, 18-20 people meticulously place the 500ft crimson red carpet on Hollywood Boulevard. On Oscar Sunday, the protective cover is removed and the carpet is steamed and vacuumed.

**...to create a shoe for the Rodarte's/s/ '11 show** 6 DAYS Three days to make a computer model of the heel and cast a steel mould. Half a day to cut and stitch the upper; then they are pulled, nailed and glued over the last. For two days they are left to take shape. Half a day to clean up the shoe once it's taken off the last.



**...Natalie Portman to train for her role as a prima ballerina in Darren Aronofsky's film Black Swan** 10 MONTHS - ALL DAY, 5 DAYS A WEEK