



When it's good, it's very good, and when it's bad, it's horrid: any woman who regularly tangles with salon services knows that finding that special someone is a lot like the quest for The One. You have to kiss a lot of frogs to find your perfect match, but when you do, it's a relationship filled with joint decisions, cosy chats and, most importantly, great results. And we're willing to go to great lengths to find them.

Coaxing recommendations out of cagey pals, trial and error, online research and literally stopping people in the street are all tactics employed by women out to find their perfect salon partner. Annemarie Boyhan of Whatshewears.ie found her one-and-only hairdresser through her London-based sister, and now flies all the way to the UK to get her tresses tended. Trust is crucial. "If I need a new look, she can advise on what's up and coming, but she always takes into account what suits my hair type and face shape," Boyhan says.

When Aoife Shortt Ryan, from Co Wicklow, was on the hunt for a great manicurist, her criteria were stringent: parking, privacy, a perfectionist's touch and high-end products. Did she meet her match? "I believe that to be good at nails, you have to specialise solely in them," she says. And thus she found Justyna, at Dublin's lauded nail salon Mink. It was panic stations then when Justyna recently returned to Poland; Shortt Ryan is now testing other members of the salon's team.

Once we find our beauty BFF, we stick with them through thick and thin. The Dubliner Rosanne Hewitt Cromwell had been following her hairdresser from salon to salon, before she cheated on her with another. "I was never happy when I played the field, though," Hewitt says. In the end, she decided the cross-town trek was justified by the optimum result.

As with romance, there are the ones we've loved and lost. Madeleine Murray, an entrepreneur from Kinsale, had to part with her beauty buddy when she moved back home from Boston, USA, to Cork. "Nobody in Ireland has ever cut my hair as well since, or given it a blow-dry like hers," Murray laments. Time to get back to playing the field.

▶▶ CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT



Estée Lauder Re-Nutriv Ultimate Lift Age-Correcting Crème (€245) owes its price to high-end ingredients and research into epigenetics. The result? A turbocharged potion that feels fabulous to the touch and harnesses two of the brand's signature technologies: the antioxidant Resveratrate and the DNA-inspired Life Re-Newing Molecules. They add up to an anti-ageing cream that delivers hydrated, fresh and lifted-looking skin. Available nationwide from October 4.

BEAUTY SPEED DIAL

**OIL BE BACK** ARGAN OIL TREATMENTS ARE THE NEW HOT HAIR INDULGENCE. THE MOROCCAN OIL TREATMENT (€37.50) AT ZEB A DELIVERS SLEEK TRESSES, AND YOU CAN ADD A BLOW-DRY FOR EXTRA BOUNCE. TAKE THE PRODUCTS HOME, TOO — FROM €19 FOR THE EXCELLENT SHAMPOO. ZEB A.IE

TAKE 3

PRODUCTS THAT CH-CH-CHANGE



BERRY NICE

Glam goths finally get to try the fun of colour-changing cosmetics without ending up with a sickly pink hue. Smashbox O-Gloss Noir lip gloss (€25) goes on a delicious glossy black, then turns into a berry shade that's perfect for autumn.

BLUE FUNDAY

The not-so-brave of heart don't have to take Illamasqua Disciple lipstick (€17) literally, because this nautical navy can be used as a mixing medium to berry-up pinks and scarlets for a new take on the classic red lip. The fearless? They'll be happy to wear it solo.



ART ATTACK

Get it now because this will sell out fast: IsaDora's Graffiti Nails Top (€7.50) comes in five shades that are designed to be painted over a contrasting colour. Apply one coat and sit back: seconds later, a craquelure finish begins to form, leaving you with a whizz-bang effect that taps into the trend for nail art.

