THIS PAST SUMMER, the notion of editing a wardrobe became all the rage. One website (sixitemsorless.com) asked women to choose six pieces from their closets and wear them for a month. Then the little black dress took its turn when societystylist.com got 31 fashion bloggers to style the same black Ann Taylor shirtdress and post the photos. The results were wildly varied—and proved that creativity trumps a stuffed closet any day. Inspired, I called stylist-designer Phillip Bloch, who has dressed stars for decades, to get his take. Bloch's new book, *The Shopping Diet: Spend Less and Get More* (Gallery Books), nixes over-spending and offers tips on how to look chic on a philosophy of less is more. Since he believes that everything in your closet "should be worn a million different ways," we challenged him to have fun styling the same LBD for three amusing scenes in a newly unmarried woman's life. »

FAÇONNABLE *jersey dress*, $350; 877-987-3227. MANOLO BLAHNIK *leather pumps*, $575; 212-582-3007. SEQUIN *enamel bangles*, $32 each; 212-398-7363. CRISLU *18k vermeil finish gold and cubic zirconia hoops, $125;* crislu.com

the great dress
MAKEOVER

The little black dress is *iconic*, and celeb stylist *Phillip Bloch* shows us why: because an *LBD* can see us through all kinds of occasions—even the first steps of a new *life* >> *by* SUSAN SWIMMER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY *Micaela Rossato*

THE DIVORCE IS FINAL
Time for a new life, not as a wife

THE LOOK | ALL BUSINESS

GETTING IT RIGHT | USE CLASSIC STYLES WITH STATEMENT-MAKING DETAILS

1

FACE-FRAMING BLOUSE A white shirt is a classic that you may already own (if not, we love this one). Layer it underneath (and tuck it into your tights for a smooth look).

LAFAYETTE 148 *matte silk blouse*, $298; lafayette148.com

2

BOLD BAG This essential accoutrement is a good place to use a big shot of color. "Accessories can entirely change a look," Bloch says.

LOUIS VUITTON *leather bag*, $1,480; louisvuitton.com

3

PINSTRIPE TIGHTS Fall's textured tights are a key trend that can instantly modernize your look.

SLING ASSES.COM. MONARO GOLD-PLATED STAINLESS STEEL WATCH, $1,395; 888-466-8256

1st DATE
The possibilities are endless, and anything is possible

THE LOOK | SEXY & SINGLE

GETTING IT RIGHT | FOR A MODERN LOOK, GO FOR UNEXPECTED AND EDGY (INSTEAD OF JUST GIRLIE)

1

ROCKER NECKLACE One big piece of jewelry is über-chic (think mixed metals, glittering rhinestones). Or wear like layers for an amped effect.

BADGLEY MISCHKA *Swarovski crystal and pearl necklace*, $175; Sequin, 212-398-7363

2

LEATHER JACKET A cardigan is practical, a wrap old-fashioned. Bloch says this topper is hipper than either one—and just as easy to wear. "Fuse different styles within an outfit to create a new look," he advises.

STRENESSE BLUE *leather jacket*, $1,100; Searle, 212-750-5153

3

SEXY HEELS Lose the hose (bare skin is sexy, without a doubt) and set off for Prince Charming in chunky heels, not your office-appropriate pumps.

COACH *leather shoes*, $198; 866-262-2440 for stores

GIRLS' WEEKEND
The new guy? Not so much

THE LOOK | DRESSED DOWN

GETTING IT RIGHT | USE TEXTURES FOR INTEREST; NEUTRAL COLORS FOR WEARABILITY

1

CLASSIC TURTLENECK This bygone style is enjoying a comeback. The versatility makes it a wear-with-all, Bloch insists: "Buy basics when you spot them on sale so later you'll have them at the ready."

BURBERRY BRIT *merino wool turtleneck*, $195; burberry.com

2

COZY SWEATER Bloch loves the mix: something soft draped over a sleek dress.

DKNY JEANS *cotton, acrylic and polyester blend capelet*, $79; zappos.com

3

KNIT TIGHTS They're like sweaters for your legs, Bloch explains, and claims they're best when paired with high, flat riding boots.

FALKE *cotton, polyamide and elastane blend tights*, $64; shopbop.com

How do you wear *your* little black dress? Go to **more.com/LBD** to submit your look.

TORY BURCH MIXED-METAL AND FAUX-PEARL NECKLACE, $300; TORYBURCH.COM