

Beauty chest

The best beauty gifts come with a hefty price tag, but after all aren't you worth it?

IF YOUR man has just won the lotto or has a lot of making up to do this year, place this page strategically under his nose choosing your moment carefully. Timing is of the essence here ladies – over breakfast before he leaves for an entire day of golf, the morning after his Christmas party, or just after you've agreed to host his entire family for dinner – catch my drift? These gifts are certainly not cheap, but sure aren't you worth every penny?

THE FACIAL

Eve Lom Skincare Perfection luxury gift set is radiant skin in a box. Containing the iconic cleanser, moisturiser and TLC cream. Add a special finishing touch with a gift card for an appointment for a facial with Cornelia Kriel, who has clients travelling country-wide for the touch of her magic hands. An experience rather than a mere facial, the Eve Lom two-hour treatment is a melting stress buster which leaves skin renewed, relaxed and revitalised. Gift set €192. Two-hour facial with Cornelia €140, all available at Therapie, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-472 1222.

THE DREAM CREAMS

There's no holding back at Christmas when it comes to the presentation of luxury skin creams, and here are three different approaches.

Crème de la Mer devotees will love The Luxury Essentials set or it's a great introduction to the range. Containing the three core products of the line – The Moisturiser, Lifting Face Serum and Eye Concentrate, which comes with its own silver applicator.

If that wasn't enough, the trio is presented in a



beautiful pink gold leather presentation box, which would happily adorn any dressing table (€650).

Givenchy has just released its new premium skin cream Le Soir Noir. The cream itself is a black algae which is said to have magical restorative powers. Thankfully, the black pigment melts into skin on application. It costs £220 (€271) to order from Harrods, London, which gives it an extra touch of luxury.

Scientific types love Dr Sebağ and his cult high-end beauty brand. New Supreme Maintenance Serum is a youth boosting formula to increase radiance and claims to make you look 10 years younger. Designed for use on the face, neck and décolleté, it's a combination of highly active nourishing ingredients which work to give you a facelift-in-a-bottle effect, without any unnatural-looking tightness. Priced at €258, see beautybay.com

THE CROWNING GLORY

A good haircut is like the dress you feel great in, and during a recession, hair salons are the last ones left standing, as women will forgo many things to keep those hair appointments. A regular cut and colour soon eats up the euros. Hair credit cards are available at most salons – find out who her favourite scissor stylist is (ask best friend or sister) and ensure an entire year of good hair days. Six hair appointments €600-€900.

THE FRAGRANCE

If you are looking for

Bobbi Browns Copper Diamond Deluxe Beauty Trunk (above); Dr Sebağ Supreme Maintenance Serum (right); Crème de la Mer (below); The Ultimate Scent Surround Gift Set by Jo Malone (below left); Givenchy Le Soir Noir skin cream (above left)

something unusual and special in a fragrance, look no further than The Party in Manhattan £375 (€462). What does it smell like? Described as a floral with spicy accents, its ultra glamorous, with Bergamot, rose de Mai, Patchouli and Vetiver. To get you in the jazz age mood, visit the website thepartyfragrance.com or tel: 0207-291 0930 to order.

THE ORGANISE

Anyone lucky enough to be on the receiving end of Bobbi Browns Copper Diamond Deluxe Beauty Trunk would be hard pressed to leave the house, as it's the perfect make-up case which you could play with all day long, organising lipsticks and jars into neat rows, and grouping often used products on the top tray. It's practical too, folding open to reveal a mirror so you can admire your handiwork – €600 – empty, I'm afraid.

THE TREATMENT

How about a gift that promises a dynamic return to youth, vitality and radiance – without resorting to the knife or Botox type fillers? Say hello to cosmetic acupuncture, originally used by concubines in the Chinese court as far back as 960AD to reverse the ageing process and keep the emperors eye on them. Courses from €850 at Santum Skincare Clinic, Temple Bar, Dublin, tel: 01-674 5707.

THE AMBIENCE

A brand like Jo Malone really comes into its own at this time of year, with its stylishly presented their candle and fragrance sets. The Ultimate Scent Surround Gift Set recognises that different rooms have different atmospheres in a home. The set includes travel candles to bring the comfort of home with you (€445).

