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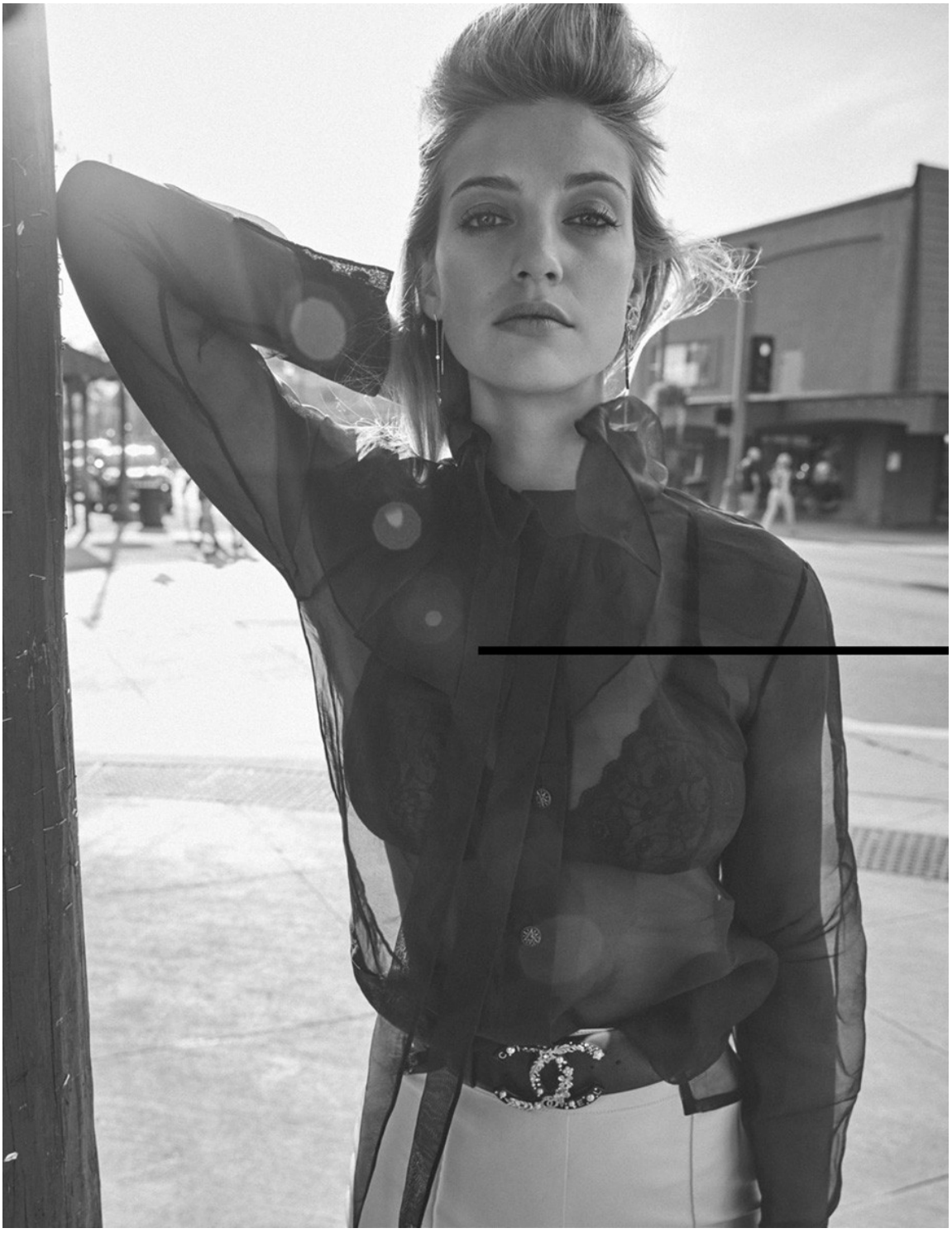

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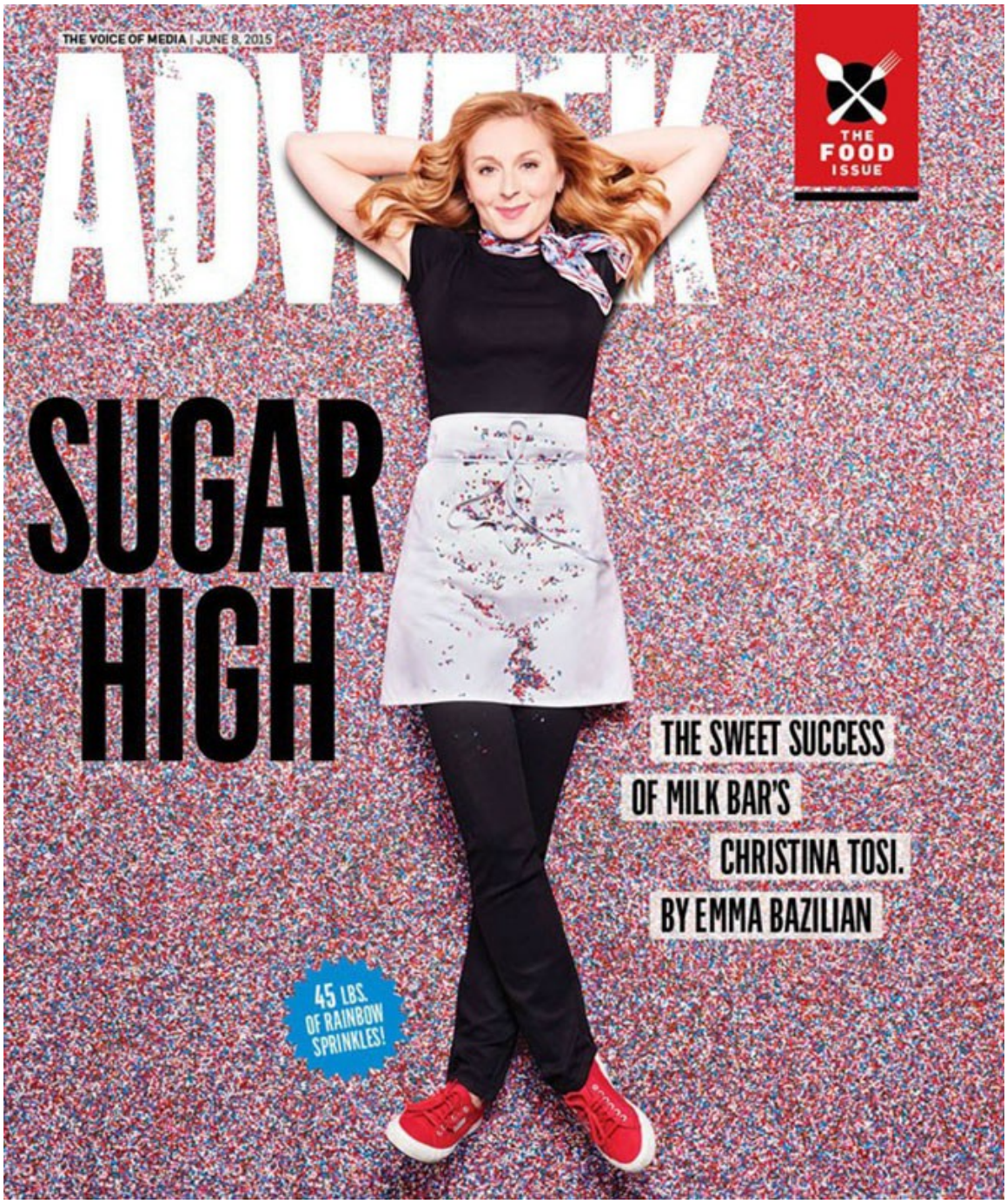

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Top de flecos, de Ermanno Scervino. Fular, de NY Vintage.

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Así es Ali Michael, nuestra TOP de portada

Vegana, aficionada a los videojuegos y a la hípica, se ha convertido en el rostro visible de la lucha para que las «modelos sanas» dominen las pasarelas.

Llega la primera, pero no se entrasca en el móvil: interroga al equipo de YO DONA sobre su horóscopo. No el signo del zodiaco a secas, no –ella es Tauro–, sino el ascendente y la posición de Venus en sus cartas astrales. Descoloca a todos con su exhaustivo interés en estas cuestiones, pero pronto baja a la Tierra al dejar su maleta de mano en el suelo. –Voy a Los Ángeles y siempre viajo ligera de equipaje–, explica Alexandra Michael –Ali para la industria de la moda–, la *hip* estadounidense conocida por sus orejas, sus fotos con Terry Richardson, Paolo Roversi, Mario Sorrenti o Patrick Demarchelier, y la polémica sobre el peso en la que se vio envuelta en febrero de 2008. La texana, de 23 años, pasó de ser una cara fresca –*new face* en el argot del mundillo– en la portada del *W*, retratada por Craig McDean, a poco menos que una apestada. En plena Semana de la Moda de París, la despidieron porque, según los directores de casting, no era lo suficientemente estilizada como para caminar por la pasarela. Su madre, Mary Ann, lo contó, y Michael, que entonces contaba con 17 años, protagonizó un sonado artículo en el *Wall Street Journal* que cuestionaba no ya el peso pluma de las modelos, sino la presión que debían soportar para, como ella, pasar de unos saludables 59 kilos a 46 –mide 1,75–, dejándose la salud en el camino. Michael no tuvo la regla durante un año como consecuencia de un régimen que se reducía a avena con agua para desayunar, uvas en el almuerzo y lechuga de cena.

Dio su prometedora carrera por zanjada, pero pronto cayó en la cuenta de que, en realidad, estaba ante la oportunidad de «ayudar a otras personas», lograr que las modelos sanas «dominen las pasarelas para atraer de nuevo el interés de la gente en la moda», confesó a la periodista Patty Huntington. En lugar de encerrarse en su hogar texano, Michael habló en los medios del asunto. Y la industria que la despachó en febrero con un abrupto «tus piernas son gordas» la recibió con los brazos abiertos en mayo. Ha sido portada del número de otoño-invierno de *Purple* –la del vigésimo aniversario de la publicación, entre otras, y protagonizado numerosos editoriales. Además, ha desfilado para Yohji Yamamoto –el único a quien su peso no pareció incomodar en la infausta temporada otoño-invierno 2008/09–, Phillip Lim, Sonia Rykiel o Burberry Prorsum, y puesto cara al perfume *Jeanne Lanvin* de la casa francesa. Le encantan los videojuegos y la hípica, es vegana y entre sus amigas están Meghan Collison y Karlie Kloss. Informa de ello en su Twitter a sus 6.563 seguidores que, a estas alturas, ya se habrán dado cuenta de que las agónicas canciones de Thom Yorke han dado paso al R'n'B de Rihanna y Beyoncé o al hip hop de Frank Ocean, con quien, por cierto, no le importaría casarse. En broma, claro. Vive con su novio y «mejor amigo» desde 2004, el guitarrista David Broderick. *Paloma Nieto*

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HALSTON HERITAGE *wool coat and asymmetrical gown with belt*; **HALSTON.COM.** OPPOSITE: **NARS** *Audacious mascara in Black Moon*; **NARS COSMETICS.COM.** For prices and links to products, go to more.com/wheretobuy.

HAIR AND MAKEUP: SANDRINE VAN SLEE USING DIORSHOW AND ORIBE HAIR CARE AT ART DEPARTMENT; NAILS: MAYUMI ABUKU USING DIOR VERNIS AT RONA REPRESENTS; PROP STYLIST: SONIA RENTSCH; CASTING: ALINA ZAKAITE; MODEL: ATONG/TRUMP MODELS

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO WEAR THIS TREND AT EVERY AGE? TURN TO PAGE 92.

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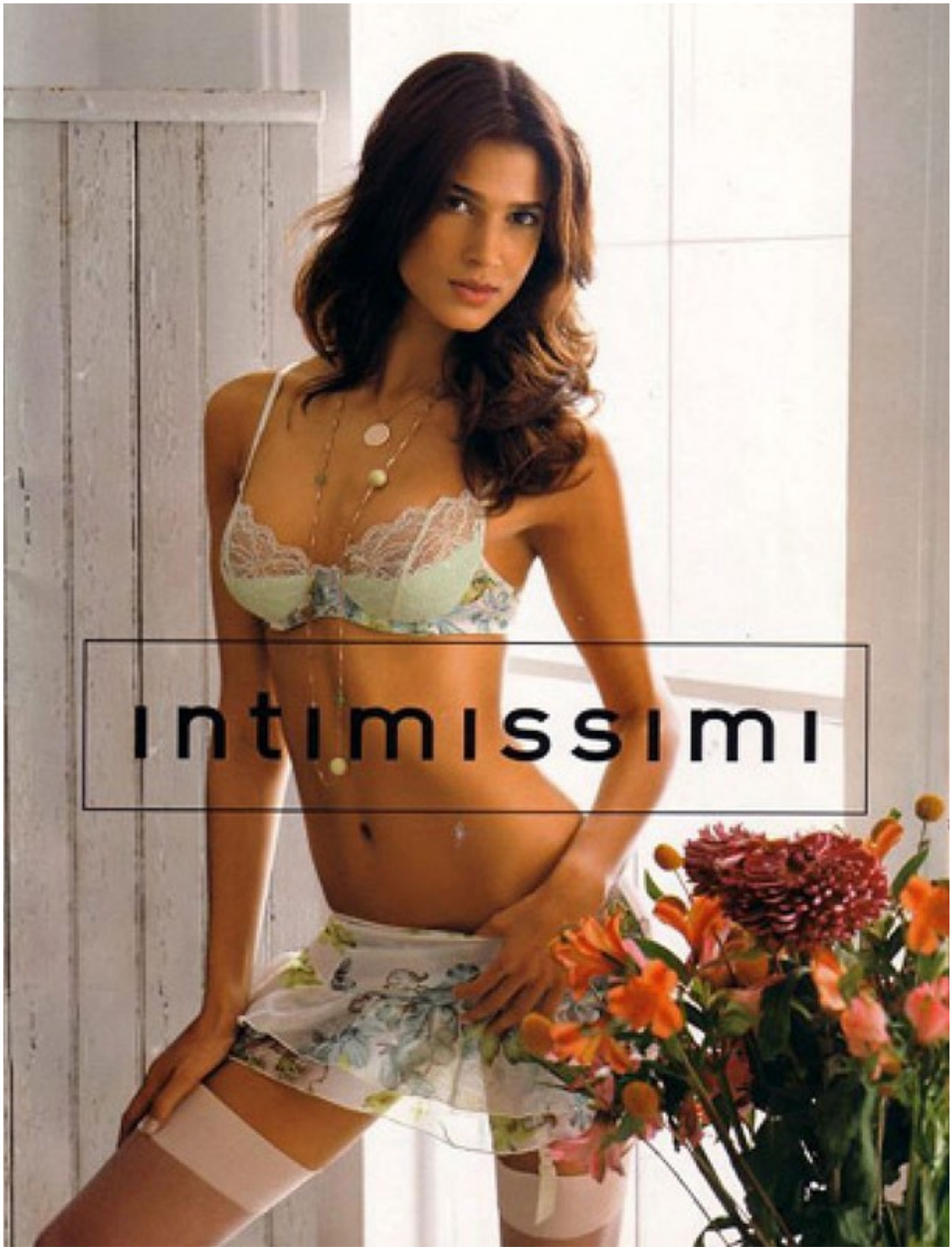

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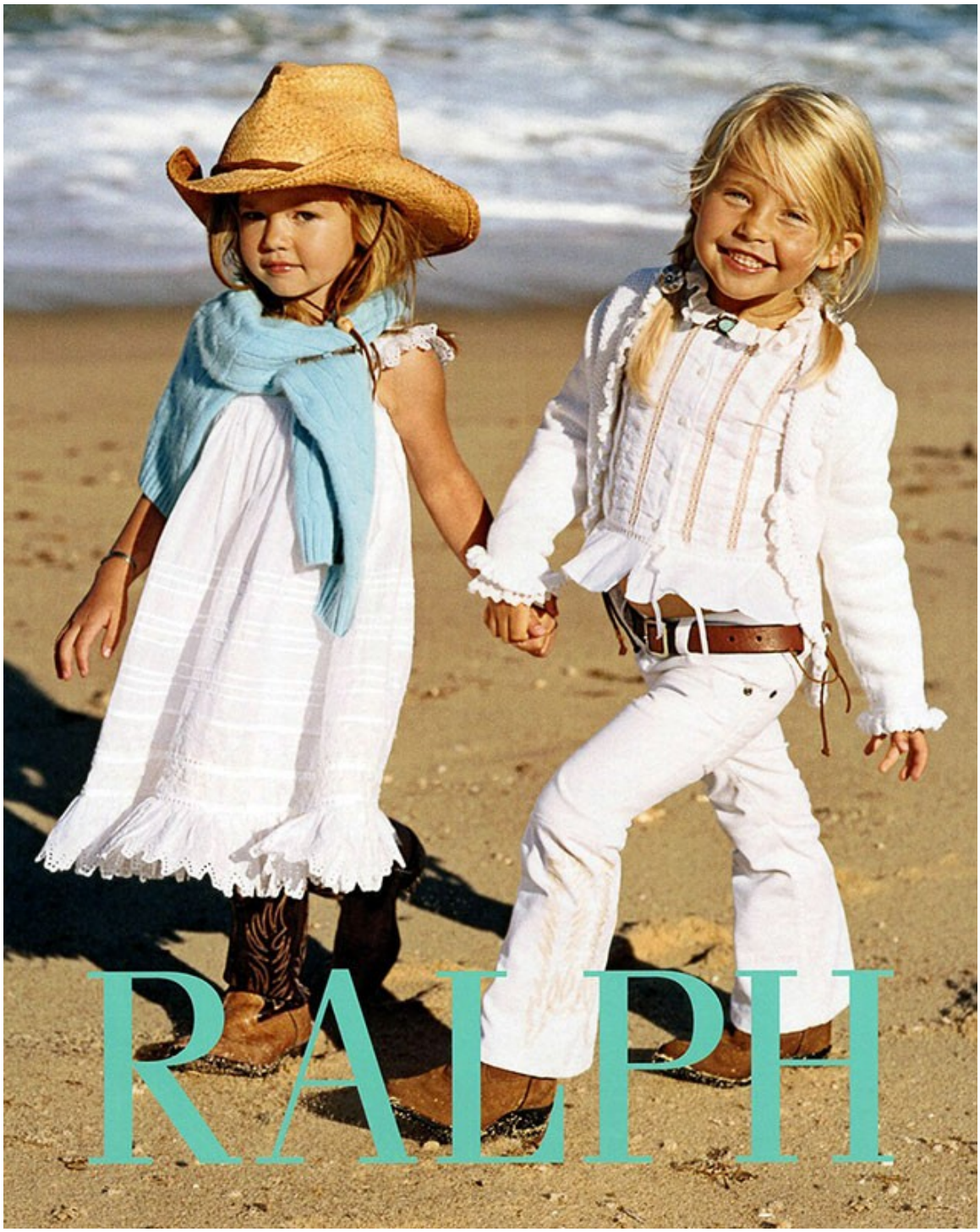

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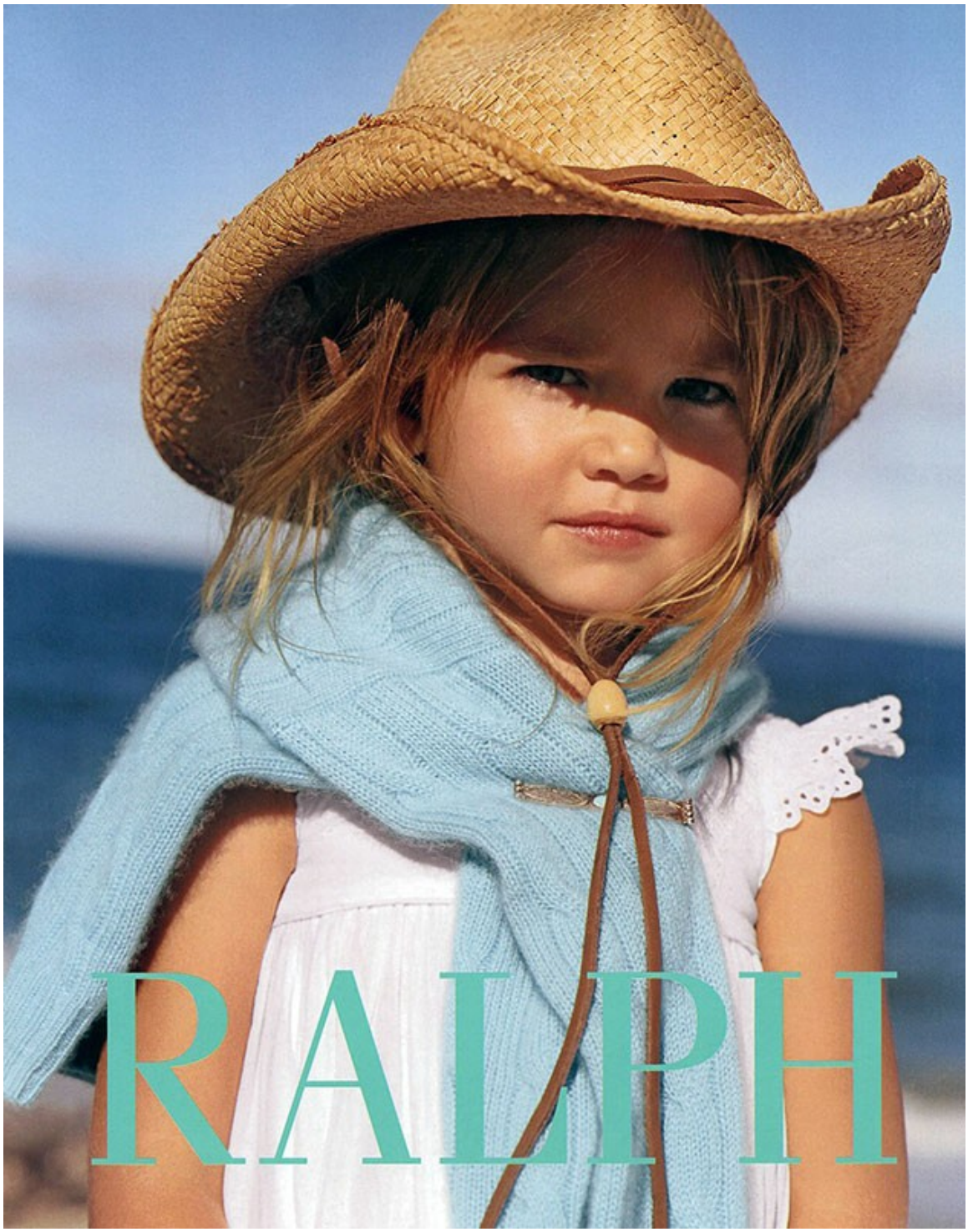

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Nella pagina accanto: la camicia candida di **Alberta Ferretti Girl** ha una balza plissé. Nastro (Nastrificio Topp Italiana). In questa pagina: per le bambine in piedi, abito con balze e con volant sulle maniche di **Gina Diwan, Paris**; per la bambina seduta, vestito con maniche a palloncino di **Kenzo Enfant**. Guanti (Edera), calzine (Story Loris), bebè (Chérie).

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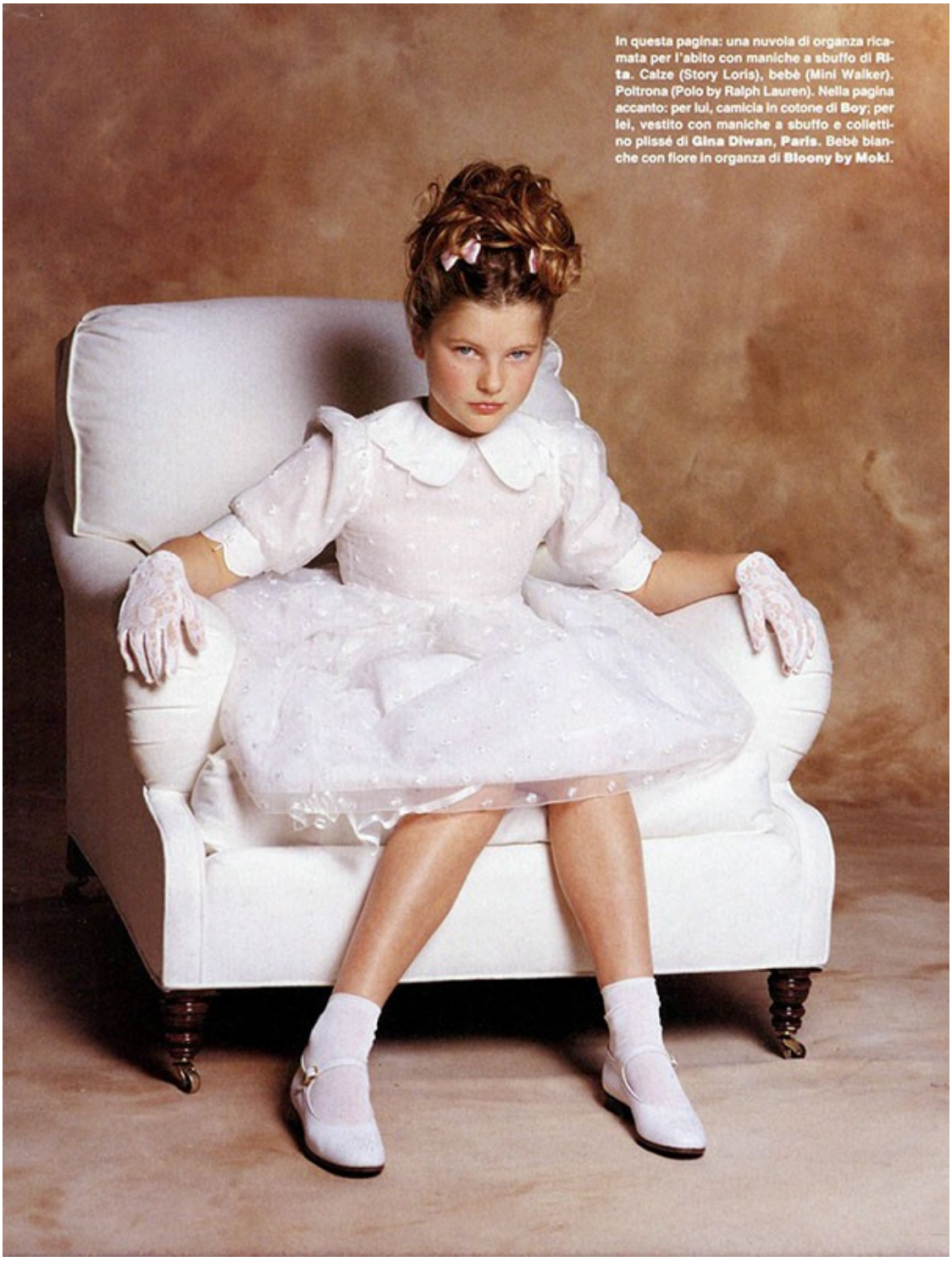

In questa pagina: una nuvola di organza ricamata per l'abito con maniche a sbuffo di **Rita**. Calze (Story Loris), bebè (Mini Walker). Poltrona (Polo by Ralph Lauren). Nella pagina accanto: per lui, camicia in cotone di **Boy**; per lei, vestito con maniche a sbuffo e colletto plissé di **Gina Diwan, Paris**. Bebè bianche con fiore in organza di **Bloony by Moki**.

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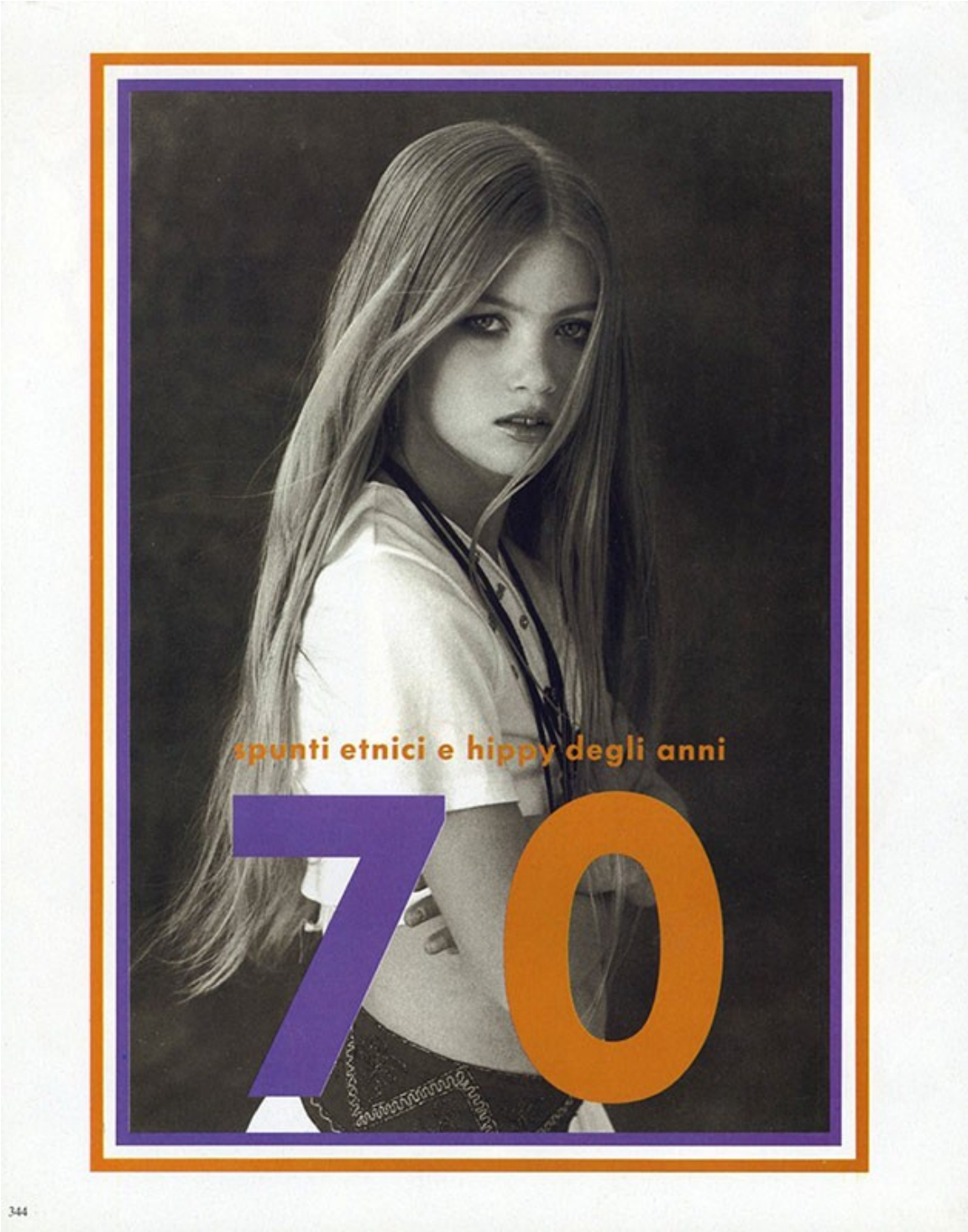

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Many of these clothes were inspired by adult fashion, but realized with a whimsical quality appropriate for youngsters.

Near right: Cotton baby-doll dress, $37. Far right: Skirt, $36, leggings, $24, and blouse, $30. All by Bubala. Sizes 1-7. At Monkeys and Bears, 306 Amsterdam Avenue. Children's Club, Philadelphia. Hat: Lisa Shawb.

Far left, top: Kimono printed with dots and fish by Kyotogs, $76. Sizes 4-6. At Just Kidding, 22 Harrison Street. Half-Pint, Sovoma, Calif. Peanut Butter Kids, Manhasset, L.I. Beret from Kyotogs. Shoes at Spring Flowers. Near left, top: Cotton polo top from Gap Kids, $22. Sizes S, M, L, XL. Graffiti print pant by Moschino Junior, $82. Sizes 4-8. At Harlequin, Trump Tower. Belli Bambini, Los Angeles. Far left, below: Slicker by Wippette Kids, $22. Sizes 2-4. Floral and dot print dress by Marybel, $30. Sizes 2-4. Greenstones, 442 Columbus Avenue. Macaroni, Cleveland. Pitti Bimi, Deal, N.J. Coat: To order at Saks Fifth Avenue. Shoes at Shoofly. Hat: Elegant Cover. Laminated floral print coat and Mary Poppins dress by Mousefeathers, $72. Sizes 4-6x. Coat, $130. At Cerutti, 807 Madison Avenue. Apple Tree, Winnetka, Ill. Over the Moon, Upper Montclair, N.J. Shoes: Amiana. Near left, below: Vinyl motorcycle jacket by Wild One, $86. Sizes 4-6. At Henri Bendel. Saks Fifth Avenue. Lester's, Brooklyn. Bike pant in cotton and Lycra by Chelsea Blake, $24. Sizes 4-6x. Lester's, Brooklyn. Marcia's Attic, Fort Lee, N.J.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

BENCH: ABC CARPET AND HOME. STYLIST: LISA VIANORE. HAIR AND MAKEUP: SANDRINE VAN SLEE FOR PIERRE MICHEL STUDIO. POLAROID 20x24

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STYLIST: LISA VANHOVE. HAIR AND MAKEUP: SANDRINE VAN SLEE FOR PIERRE MICHEL STUDIO. POLAROID 20x24.

Above: Top by Big Enough., $42. Sizes 2-9. Shorts by Moschino Junior, $82. Sizes 4-8. Top at Henri Bendel. Shorts at Harlequin, Trump Tower. Below: Cardigan by Bubala, $59. Sizes 1-7. Pants, $33, and shirt, $34, by Malina. Sizes 2-10. At Kids, Kids, Kids. 44 Greenwich Avenue. Shoes: Amiana.

CHAIR BY LAURA SHAPIRO FOR MYTHOLOGY

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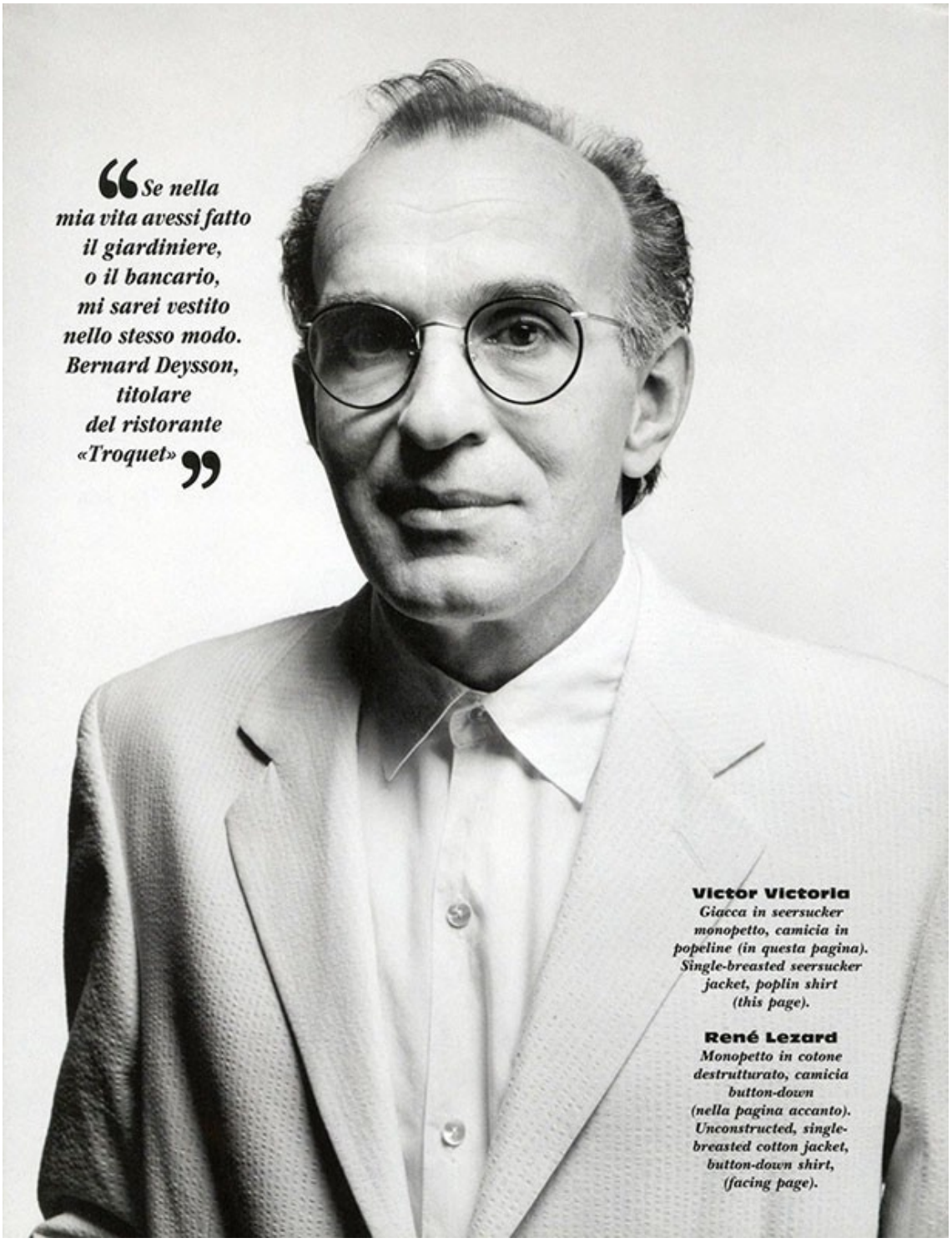

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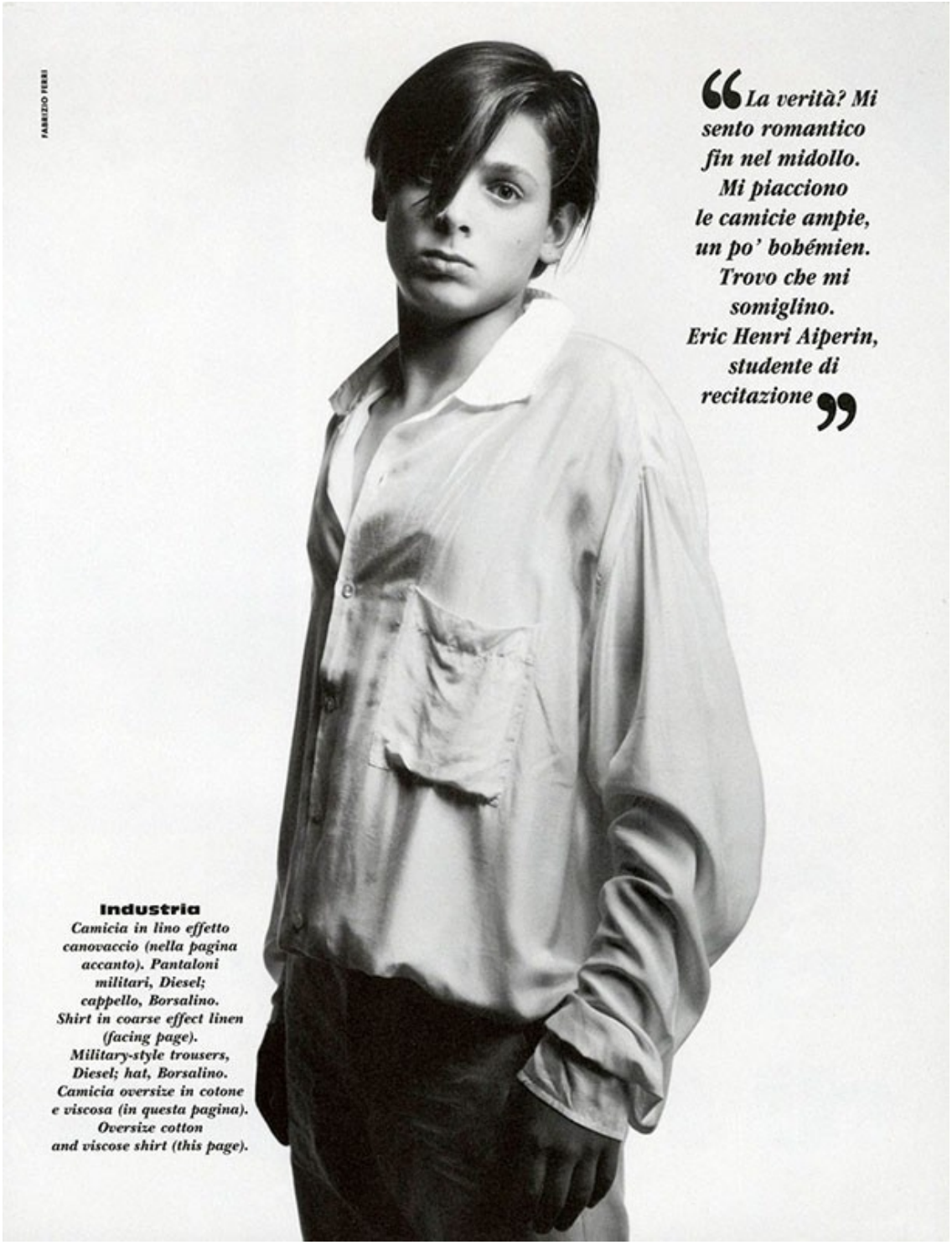

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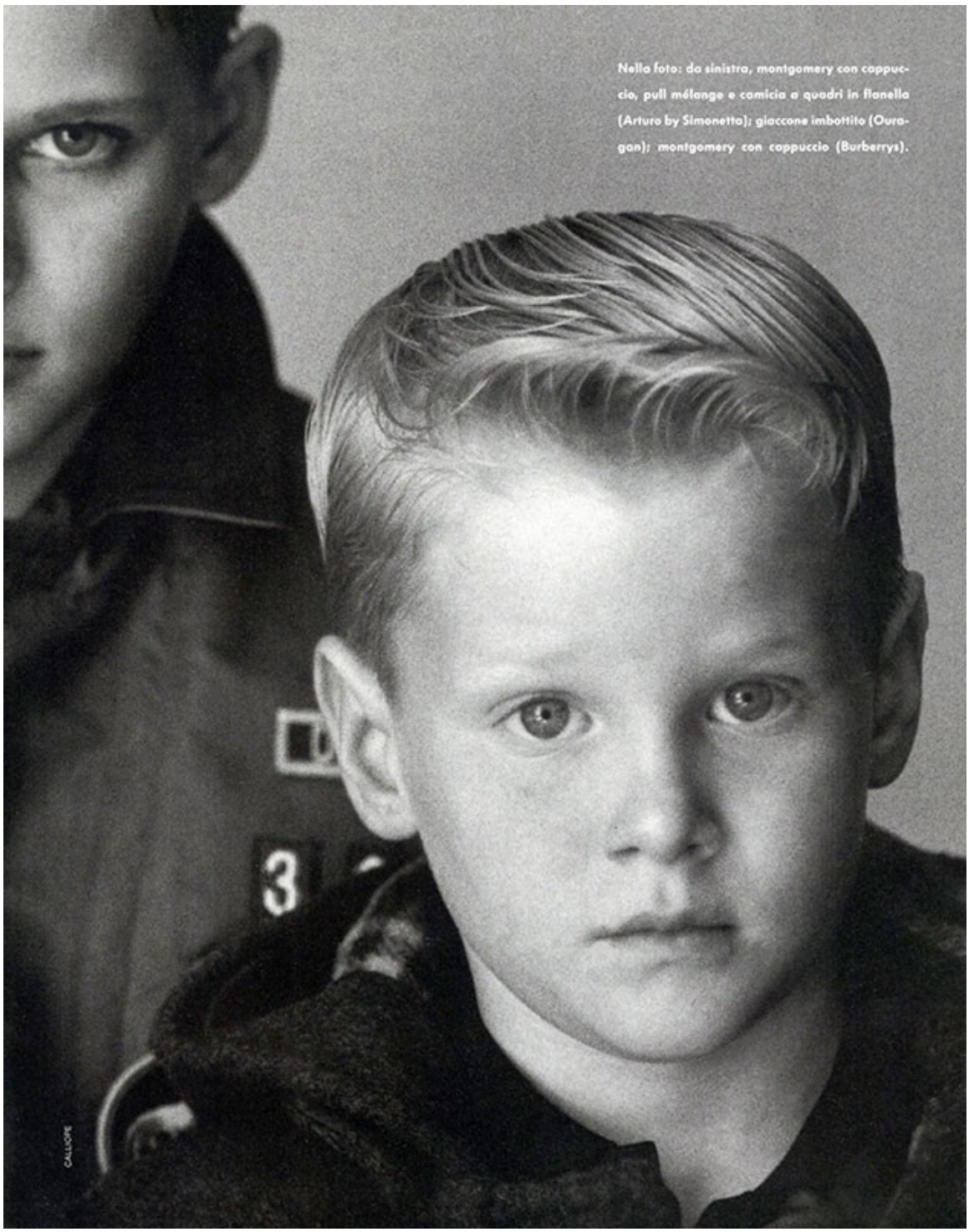

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In questa pagina: cardigan in felpa di **Essegi**; camicia fantasia (Ouragan). Nella pagina accanto: montgomery scozzese e gonna a ruota in velluto liscio di **Imelde & Stefano Cavalleri: I Pinco Pallino**, cardigan in felpa (Bill e Teddy Milton); calze (Malerba); scarponcini (Sultanino Sprint).

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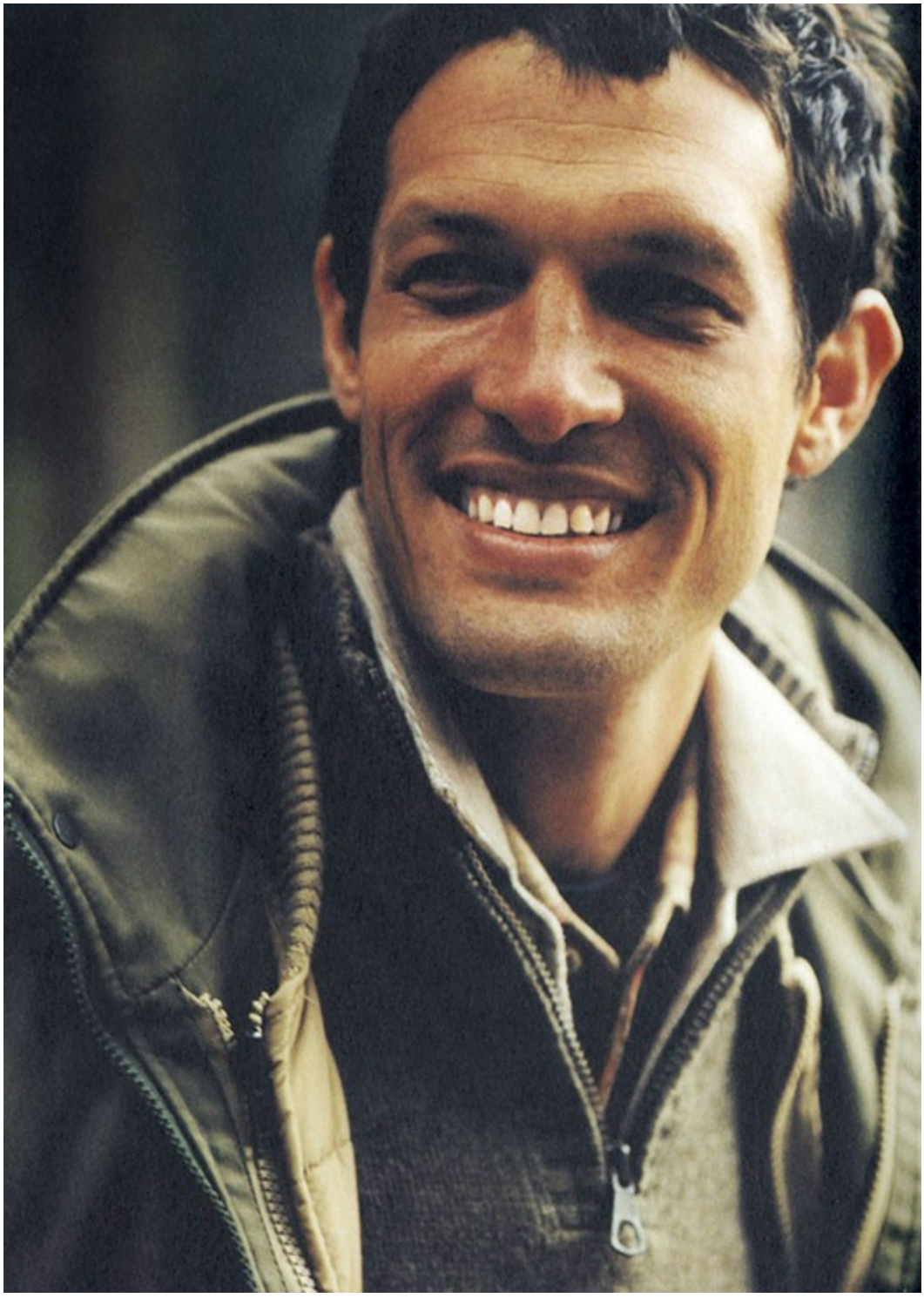

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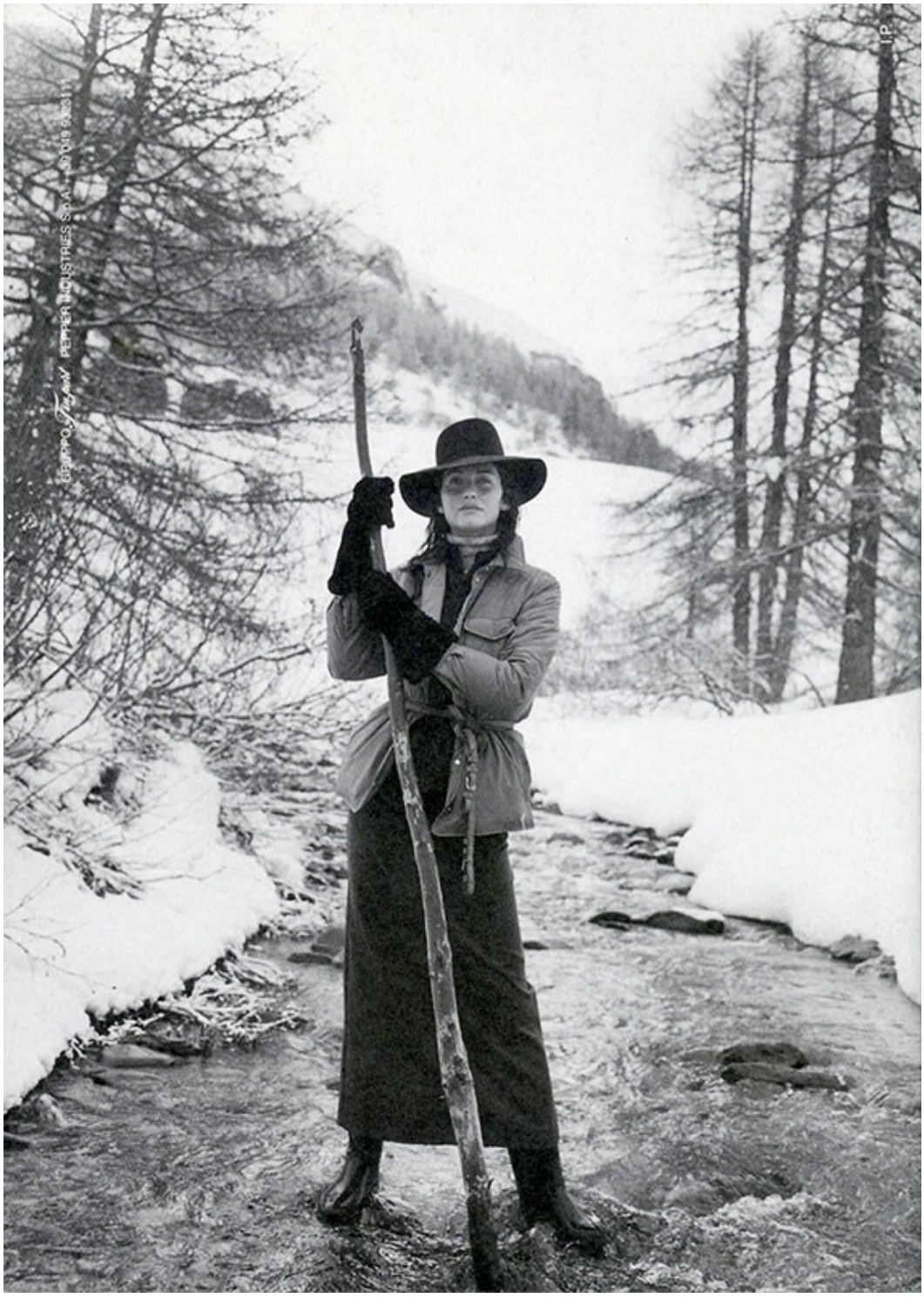

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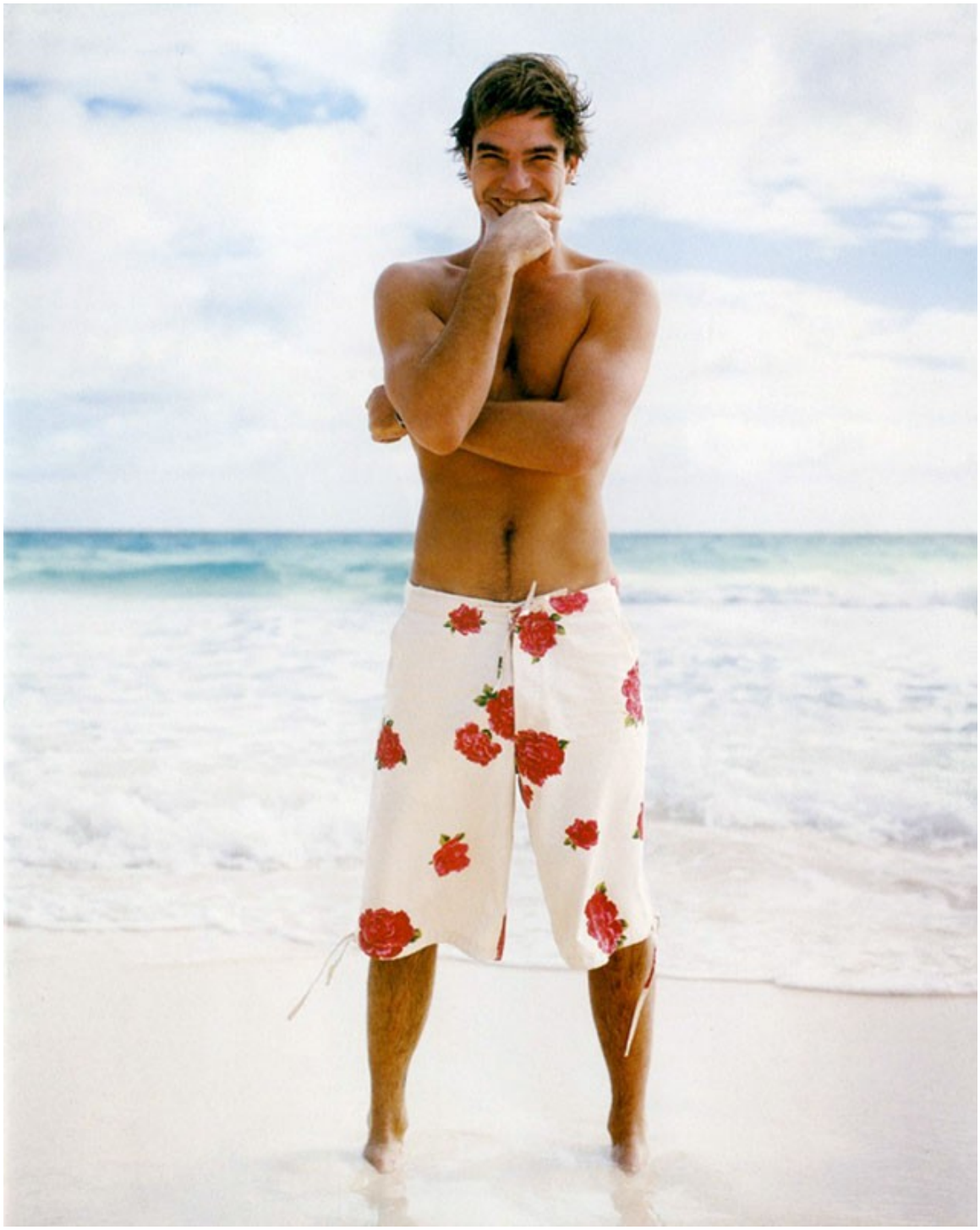

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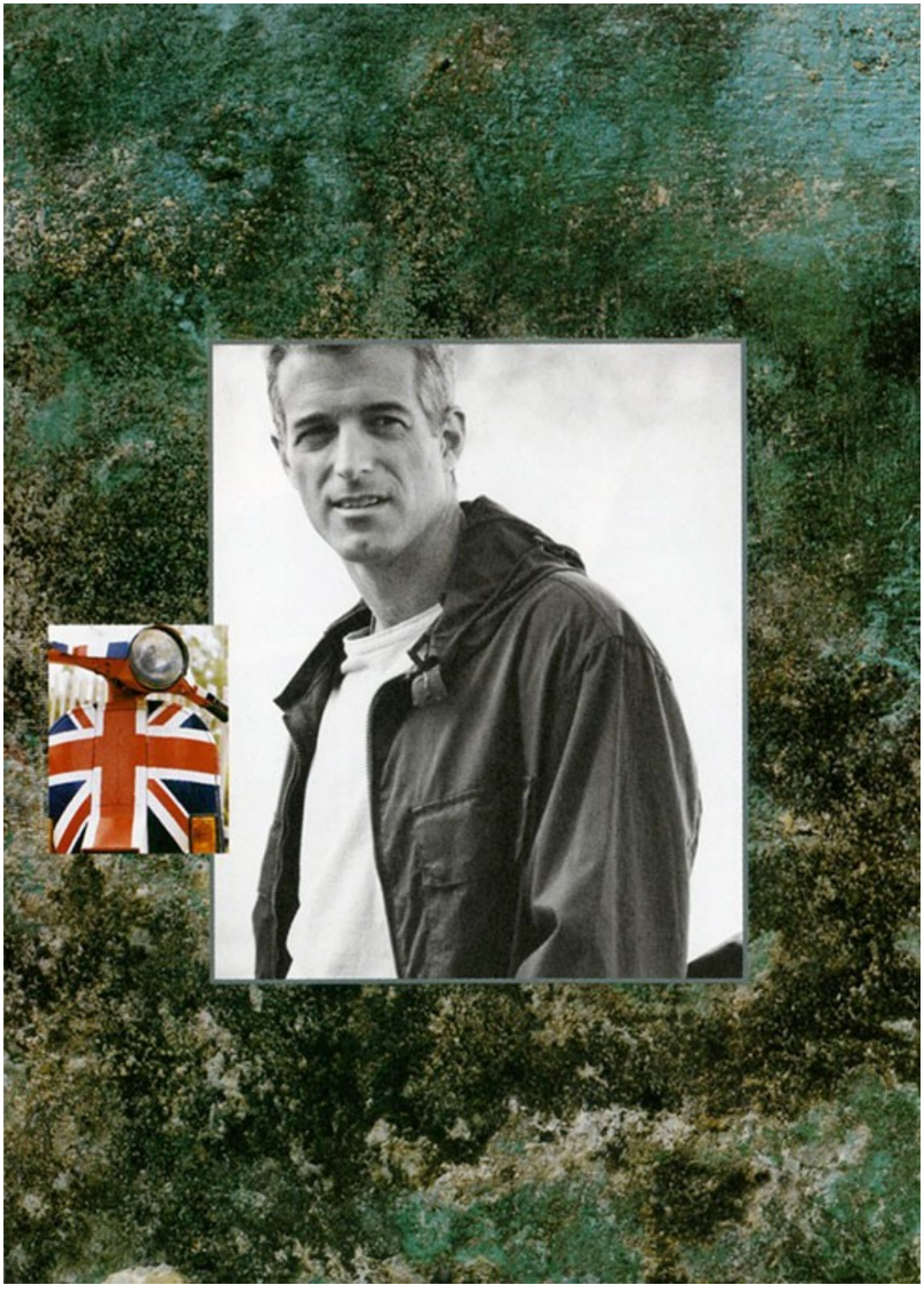

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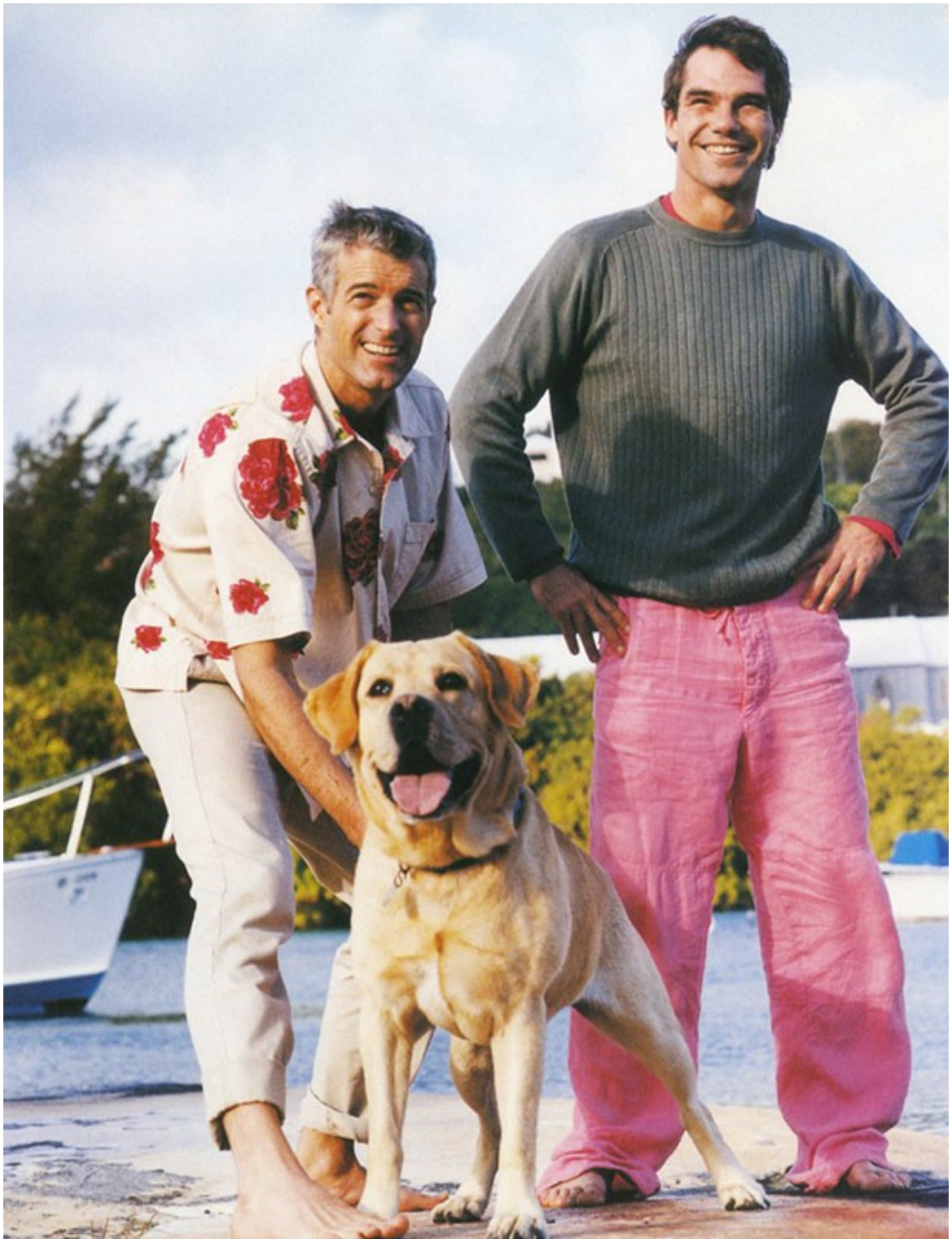

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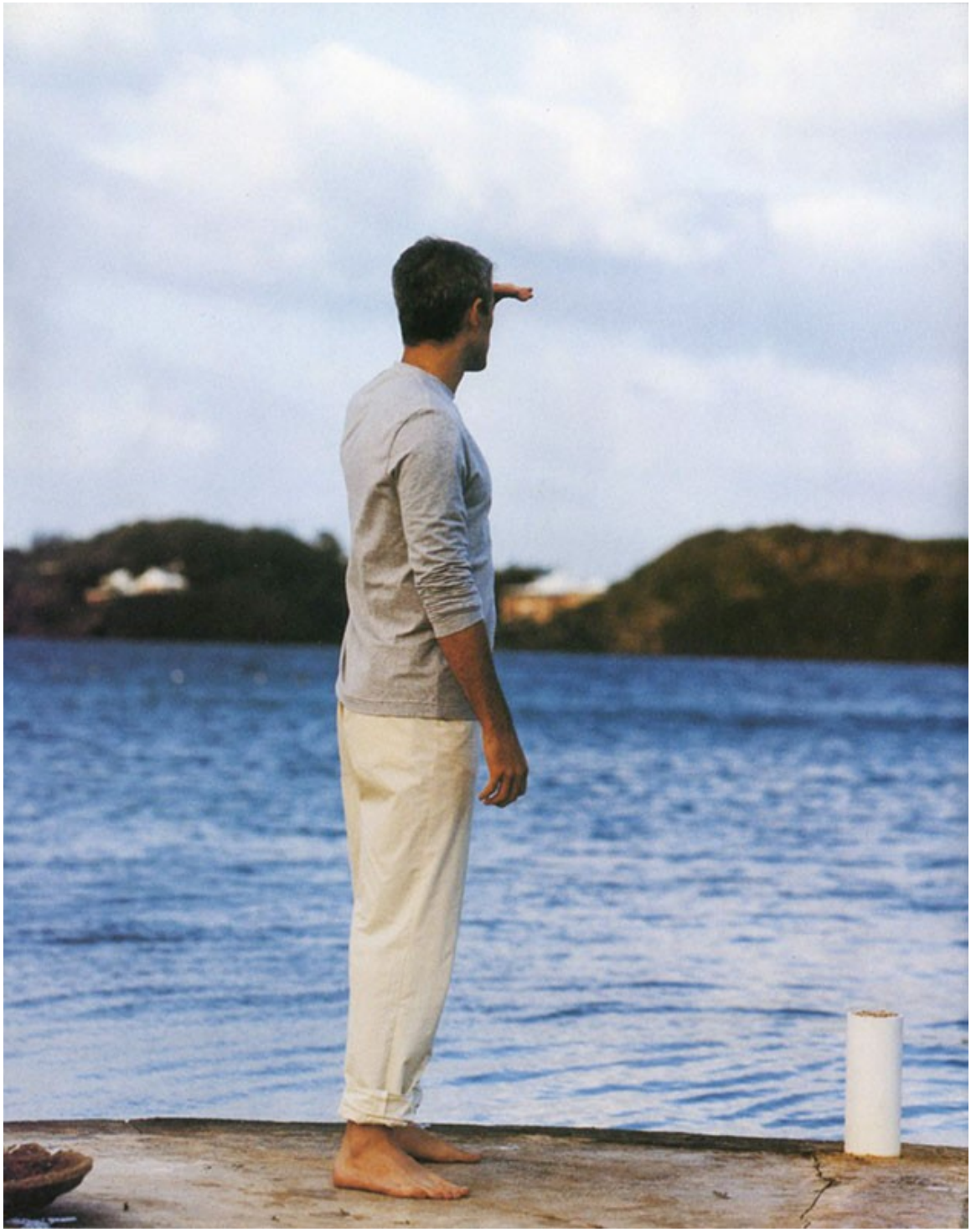

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