

The Cover Star

From the high street to Hollywood, the *Shopaholic* series is going places – and so is its author. By **Sarah Tomczak**

The Louis Vuitton or the Giambattista Valli? Madeleine Wickham (aka Sophie Kinsella, her pen name) is deciding which dress to wear for our shoot, and, as befits the author of the best-selling *Confessions Of A Shopaholic*, she's having trouble deciding. So it's no surprise when she admits there's a lot of herself in her adorably indecisive heroine, Becky Bloomwood. "There are definitely autobiographical bits to my books," says Madeleine. "So many times I've done things and thought, 'Oh, my God, I've turned into one of my heroines.'"

And it's been quite a year for Madeleine and those heroines: Becky was immortalised on screen by Isla Fisher ("She's so talented," gushes Madeleine. "I'd be in stitches just watching her."), and, thanks to back sales of the phenomenally successful *Shopaholic* series, Madeleine is now the UK's best-selling female author. On top of all this, last summer's

smash hit, *Remember Me?*, hit the No1 spots on both the hardback and paperback lists of *The Sunday Times* best-sellers.

So, what next? Madeleine's ninth book as Sophie Kinsella, *Twenties Girl*, is out next month, and features a 20 year old and a '20s flapper. "I love to push the boundaries. This is a friendship between two girls – one of whom happens to be a ghost!" she laughs.

Madeleine finally opts for the canary-yellow Giambattista Valli number, declaring that, just like Becky, she's a sucker for a designer dress.

How does she feel to be GLAMOUR's Writer of the Year? "I'm incredibly honoured," she grins. "The idea that people out there are reading my books and choosing to vote for me just bowls me over. It's made my year, it really has." ►

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