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Amid the hustle and bustle of cover shoot preparations in a sticky old cabin in Laurel Canyon, CA, Isabel Lucas' arrival is signaled by two extraordinary things – one, her dress, and two, her face. The dress, a pale blue vintage pinup; with two red birds embroidered on the front (a gift from her boy friend, the singer, Angus Stone), is so lovely that suddenly our own clothing seems lifeless in its presence. And the face – all cheekbones, green eyes and not a speck of make-up – well, it is almost absurdly pretty. You might ask if it is too much to bear, all this perfection. You'd think it would be, but ask stylists, designers, editors, and fashion writers worldwide, and actually they will all tell you the same thing – Isabel Lucas is universally loved and shaping up to be fashion's latest muse.

The whole package – the style and the face – has put the 26-year-old Australian at the forefront of the international fashion scene. She is heralded for her sartorial choices, and alongside fellow Australians Jessica Hart and Bambi Northwood-Blyth, with their easy style and effortless cool, she is making Australia hot. Isabel is *Little House on the Prairie* one day, Brigitte Bardot the next, with a flea market extravagance somewhere in the middle.

And she never gets it wrong. Midi skirts with fluff? Isabel kicked it off. Terry Richardson speaks! She wore them first. Miss Alexa's charming individuality and playful but cool style, with Sienna's ability to blend rock and boho to make vintage look a million dollars, and you have our girl. But ask Isabel about this and she's been asked. Ask her what item of clothing she would save if her house were on fire... "Well," she says with her Tinkerbell laugh, "it wouldn't be clothing I would save."

Isabel is a celebrity who definitely owns her look. "We're always looking for new girls who dress well," says Hustie Bent, assistant editor of *Grazia*, one of the first magazin to laud Isabel's signature style. "She has brought a refreshing cerebral edge to the staid L.A. boho look. Sunny, relaxed and with a

bit of a '60s free love attitude, she makes you wish you lived in L.A. and could pull off a sheer maxi dress barefoot."

Isabel's stylist, Cristina Harlich is reserved for red carpet events only. "We speak to her in the run-up to our *Afro Magazine* shoot. 'Oh, you won't have to do much,' Cristina says. 'Isabel knows what she likes.'

"I never really paid much attention to fashion growing up," Isabel says, post-shoot, sitting out on the decking in the L.A. sunshine. "It's really just colours, or the way that things are woven. This dress [the blue vintage pinup] I love because I feel like a mama in it. Like I could carry a baby with this dress on. I love lace, too. At Coachella I had a 'Tigerrilly' dress, one of those surfy brands, but then I wore a lace top with it and this makes in Sydney, a stall called Lucy Lane Vintage."

"It's individual vintage pieces I love, but then when Claudie sends you a beautiful skirt, that's special, too." She loves Australian designer Collene Dinninger, and the eco designer Huonah MacLeod. She likes caravans shown here use that's when the gear's fashion. "You suddenly understand how it can be so contagious," she says. "the atmosphere is so exciting, the music is pumping and the designs – they're like works of art."

But while her style gear has noticed, acting is what she'll be increasingly known for. For those of you who like a soap, you'll know that she started her career in *Homer and Away* as Tasha Andrews, who arrived in the Bay with no memory, joined a cult and had a baby ... you know how it is. Isabel won a Logie (Australia's soap award) and when she left, her agent suggested Hollywood. It's here she's lived for over three years, and where she'll stay a week longer before she moves back to Australia to live in Byron Bay with her boyfriend in a house by the sea. "I first came to L.A. with the intention of just passing through," she says, picking her way through a handful of cherries. "I'd been travelling – I spent two months in Africa and was backpacking around Europe with my sister." ►

RIGHT: JONATHAN SAUNDERS BIRD PRINT JERSEY WAISTCOAT \$1295; YVONNE LINTZ NECKLACE \$295; MILA; AGO; ACE & HIGH SLEEVLESS TOP \$225; MILA; AGO; PERIL LTD GOLD PANTS: BNG \$255; MILA; AGO; PACK OF TWO VINYL GLOVES \$145; MILA; GUMMI BEADS (TS) BABY'S OWN



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