

THE GOOD LIFE

Alice B-B cannot forgive thin mattresses and threadbare towels



should be as comfortable as your own. But beware of making spare rooms overly cosy. One canny friend gets round this by replacing a wardrobe or chest of drawers with a hat stand and a few hangers. So no one can overstay their welcome! **THAT FIRST LICK OF LONGED-FOR BRITISH SUNSHINE** is all that's needed for outdoor living and barbecue lunches. But all-weather furniture is tricky. I regret the table and benches I had made. They looked great outside our local swanky café. Not so good at the front of our sweet magic cottage, somehow making it look like a pub garden. The dream find is comfy, weatherproof and weighty enough so it won't get nicked. On my current wishlist, a seat to nestle among rose bushes. I'm quite taken with the new Lorfords garden antiques shop in Chelsea for stone, wrought

COME AND STAY FOR THE WEEKEND!

Friday arrives; bags packed, carefully considered house present for the hostess, couple of bottles stuffed in the boot, and you're ready to careen down the motorway for a country escape.

Delicious dinner when you arrive, great chat, plans for the weekend. So far, so good until... you get into bed. What the hell? It's 2018. How can a mattress actually feel like this? You try and get comfy, contorting your body around vicious squeaky springs, trying to ignore the sheets that are bobbly like an old pair of socks. The next morning you try and wash off the horrible night's kip, but the shower head is clogged with limescale, so you spend half an hour under a pissy-dribble trying to wash the soap out of your hair. Then reach for the towel, which – surprise! – is borstal rough and threadbare thin.

There's no excuse. Do unto others and all that... Guest rooms

THIS MONTH I'LL BE

1 Listening to Franc Moody on repeat. soundcloud.com

2 Filling my tum at Kitty Fisher's sister restaurant Cora Pearl in Covent Garden. corapearl.co.uk

3 Booking tickets for Tully, Charlize Theron's latest turn about a mother and nanny. focusfeatures.com



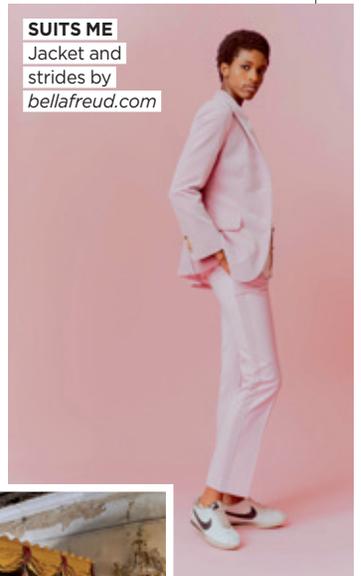
iron or lichen-covered teak. Somewhere to sit with a cool drink in one hand, a book in the other and enjoy the garden from a whole new perspective.

I KNOW NOTHING OF THE LEGALITIES OF WAR or the multilayers of middle-eastern geopolitics. All I do know, is that when I hear of chemical warfare in Syria, memories of visiting refugee camps in Jordan come flooding back. I remember the displaced Syrian people I met, who told me tales of running for their lives, escaping their country and the horrors that befell many of their relatives and friends who'd stayed behind. With haunted eyes, they explained how they'd arrived in Jordan expecting to take refuge for just a few days or weeks, until the situation in Syria calmed down and they could head home.

My visit was in 2014. The civil war began in 2011, so most of those refugees had already been living in make-shift container homes at Za'atari camp for nearly four years. It wouldn't surprise me if most are still there, seven years on...

LUXURY & NECESSITY

SUITS ME
Jacket and strides by bellafreud.com



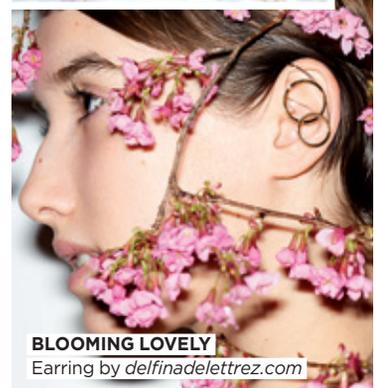
SNUGGLE UP
Four-poster by maxrollitt.com



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