Pure Country

An all-white palette washes over the fashion landscape this spring. Photographed by Norman Jean Roy.

There are many reasons Evan Rachel Wood loves this ladylike white ensemble. Not only is it a dramatic departure from her grungy-black closet (save for some jewel-hued red-carpet looks) but it's also a cathartic shift away from the darker characters she's been mastering of late. "Veda's a borderline sociopath," she says of her turn in HBO's five-part dramatization of James M. Cain's 1941 novel *Mildred Pierce,* airing this month, in which she plays the social-climbing daughter of the title character (Kate Winslet). "She will do anything to get away from her mother—it's my darkest role to date!" In April's release *The Conspirator,* Wood portrays Anna Surratt, whose mother, Mary, was the first woman executed in the U.S. (for her part in Abraham Lincoln's assassination).

So it's no surprise that Wood is tuning in to spring's pure palette of top-to-toe white that's more about confidence than chastity. There's clean and modern at Calvin Klein or lacy and romantic at Dolce & Gabbana and, here, elegant and affordable with a CH Carolina Herrera shirt and an Adam skirt. "It's important for a woman to feel alluring and dress for her mood," says Herrera. "It doesn't matter what it costs, rather how you put it together and make it individual." Add metallic brogues and a wide-brimmed hat, and Wood is ready to lighten up: "I'll always give vintage-feel looks a Charlie Chaplin edge," she says. "After all, there's nothing wrong with looking sweet and also slightly sexy."—**ESTHER ADAMS**



FIRST LIGHT
Actress Evan Rachel Wood was photographed at Ahmanson Ranch in California's San Fernando Valley. CH Carolina Herrera silk shirt, $420; CH Carolina Herrera, NYC. Adam silk chiffon skirt, $295; Adam, NYC. Rodarte for Opening Ceremony hat, $460; openingceremony.us. Church's brogues, $440; Church's English Shoes, NYC. Hair, Duffy for Tommy Guns NY; makeup, Yumi, using Chanel Cosmetics, at Frank Reps. Produced on location by 3Star Productions. Details, see In This Issue. Fashion Editor: Tabitha Simmons.

STEAL OF THE MONTH

