

# GILANOUR

## GWEN!

### +

Simone  
Biles

Zendaya

The woman  
who stood  
up to ISIS

& more

What  
Are YOU  
Wearing  
Tonight?

All your shoes,  
dresses & hair  
ideas here

& our  
first-ever  
Man of  
the Year  
*more covers this way*

# WOMEN OF THE YEAR!

No More  
Present  
Panic!

59 gifts people will love

**172 Should I Worry About Sexting?**

Experts weigh in on whether you should go for it or cease and desist

**174 Why I Hate My Dog**

*Glamour* editor Elisabeth Egan has a few complaints about her mutt

**176 This Is My Job**

Everyone told Amy Swift construction work was a *man's* job. She proved them all wrong

**180 Girl Runs Away, Joins Circus**

Kristin Finley quit her job to be a trapeze artist and never looked back—or down!

**192 31 Days of Giving**

For the tenth year running: our list of ways to show love to the world

## Talk

**195 What We Believe**

Eighty-two percent of us say religion plays an important role in our lives. So why aren't we talking about it?

**198 The Meaning of Michelle**

The First Lady's significance, explained



**Solutions for your winter skin dilemmas...**  
page 144

## Everything Else You Need

**48 From Me to You**

**52 Friends of Glamour**

**56 The Month in Pictures**

**64 @Glamourmag**

**243 Glamour Shopper**



**...beauty gifts for days...**  
page 128

**...and fashion rentals!**  
page 112



**ON OUR COVERS** **Gwen Stefani** was photographed by Miguel Reveriego in Culver City, California. Stylists: Rob and Mariel; hair: Danilo at The Wall Group; makeup: Gregory Arlt at Exclusive Artist Management; manicure: Shelly Hill; production: Portfolio One. Marni jacket. Gucci dress. For Stefani's bold look, try Urban Decay Vice Lipstick in Spiderweb (\$17), Perverision Mascara (\$22), Brow Beater (\$20, all at [urbandecay.com](http://urbandecay.com)), and L'Oréal Paris Advanced Hairstyle Txt It Hyper-Fix Putty (\$5, at drugstores). **Simone Biles** was photographed by Mark Seliger; fashion editor: Jillian Davison; hair: Lacy Redway, makeup: Ayami Nishimura, both at The Wall Group; manicure: Elle for Tracey Mattingly. Valentino dress. Eddie Borgo earring. **Ashley Graham** was photographed by Miguel Reveriego; stylist: Jeff K. Kim; hair: Jennifer Yepez, makeup: Vincent Oquendo, both at The Wall Group; manicure: Gina Viviano at ABTP. Alexander McQueen jacket. Addition Elle bra. *Glamour* x Lane Bryant pants. Annelise Michelson earring. Jennifer Fisher ring. **Bono** was photographed by Sam Jones; stylist: Sharon Blankson; grooming: Natalie Kinsella; production: Brooke Ludi Production. Revo eyewear. **See Glamour Shopper for more information.** Read about our cover stars starting on page 202.

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# What Makes a Woman of the Year in 2016?

These days, the most powerful acts are personal. And yes, men are welcome to the party too.



## Me, Onstage at Women of the Year

Always my favorite evening. Watch the action live this year at [facebook.com/glamour](https://www.facebook.com/glamour).

This issue marks 26 years of *Glamour's* Women of the Year Awards—26 years of winners who have pushed and prodded our culture forward. There have been some astonishing honorees over those decades, all dishing valuable advice. (When asked back in 1992 what her chief accomplishment was, Whoopi Goldberg responded, “Staying who I am with very little compromise.” Still what we all aspire to!)

But this year feels special, and it feels different—as if together we are starting to own our power as women in this country. Not just because we may be poised to elect our first female president (WOTY class of 2008!), and not just because terms like *feminism* and *empowerment* are being thrown around regularly (that’s nice, but not necessarily world-changing). No, this is about something deeper: Everywhere you look, women are raising their voices, unwilling to let old-fashioned concepts of what we should be or do or look like hold us back.

If you want more of that in your *own* life in 2017, our Women of the Year offer some hints on how to get there. One of the common themes I hear them talking about: that it’s crucial to find a way to get over your hang-ups (yes, they have them too—and over the same superficial issues as you and me). Years ago,

in an interview, Christine Lagarde—the financial force honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award on page 220—was asked for advice on commanding a room. She responded that “it’s a question of feeling confident about yourself, being reconciled with your own identity—and your own body, actually. I remember Hillary Clinton not long ago addressing the IMF staff and saying, ‘Stop being obsessed about losing weight. Be OK with yourself.’... She’s right. You have to first of all be OK with yourself, accept who you are.... It’s hard, but I think being reconciled with your body and your identity is step one.”

I was struck by that—who knew the head of the IMF had advice on getting over your thighs? But the point is clear: These women have seen that you can do great things in life when you

find some way to park your doubts at the curb. Woman of the Year Miuccia Prada (page 208) told me that when she was in her early thirties, she went through a bout of insecurity about aging, but got over it. “Now it’s not that I don’t know that I’m aging, [it’s that] I don’t care,” she says. “Why can’t oldness be attractive?” So how did she banish the anxiety? In part, through work. “You don’t think about aging,” she says, “if you have something better to think about.”

But back to Lagarde. If being cool with your body is step one on the path to awesomeness, what’s step two? ➡



## Gwen Forever!

“There are limits put on women, but why?” asks our cover star.

GRAHAM, STEFANI: MIGUEL REVERIEGO. OWN THE NIGHT: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER. ZENDAYA: VICTOR DEMARCHELIER. PRETTY LITTLE THINGS: BILLY KIDD. BILES: MARK SELIGER. ON STEFANI: ALL CHANEL. OWN THE NIGHT: LOUIS VUITTON DRESS. SHIRT, SEQUIN EARRINGS. PRETTY LITTLE THINGS: VALENTINO DRESS; AURÉLIE BIDERMAN EARRINGS; ANN TAYLOR BELT; ROCHAS CLUTCH. SEE GLAMOUR SHOPPER FOR MORE INFORMATION



# Wow. Just Wow.

We all deserve a glass of champagne right about now. Let's celebrate everything good in the world, from our Women of the Year to, yes, some fun new going-out fashion.

“I feel like  
I got  
woken up  
this year.  
I’m really  
alive.”

Gwen Stefani has had a lot of big years. But with a chart-topping album, a major solo tour, an expanding fashion line, and a new love after heartbreak, the 47-year-old is outdoing even *herself* in 2016. She breaks it all down for us here. By Jonah Weiner

Photographs by Miguel Reveriego Stylists: Rob & Mariel

### Signature Style

"People will tell me, 'You're such a punk rebel'...but I was not that growing up," says Stefani. "I was actually a super-sheltered, conservative girl."

**Alix of Bohemia** jacket. **Kate Moss for Equipment** blouse. **Alexander McQueen** skirt. **Falke** fishnets. For a piecey updo like Stefani's, try **L'Oréal Paris** Advanced Hairstyle Boost It High Lift Creation Spray (\$5, at drugstores).



**G**wen Stefani has been making music since 1987, way back when she was just a teenage mall rat in Southern California who decided to start a ska band, No Doubt, with her brother. We all know what came next: Stefani led the group to pop glory and then carved out her own category-busting career as a solo artist, selling more than 30 million albums combined. The Grammy winner also branched out into fashion, glamming up wardrobes worldwide with her L.A.M.B. clothing line. And yet even with her incredible success, Stefani, like all of us, doubts her ability at times. Reclined on a couch in a Los Angeles photo studio, she recalls that when she began advising singers on *The Voice* a couple of seasons ago, “I had to talk about my story and try to convince people how good I am. And I was like, Wait a minute—yeah, I did *that*, I did *that*, I did *that*. Wow! It gave me all this confidence. It helped me write again, helped me recognize my gift.”

That confidence boost kicked off a series of new milestones for Stefani: There’s her triumphant solo album *This Is What the Truth Feels Like*, her first in a decade, not to mention her first to debut at number one. She wrote it in the wake of her divorce from longtime husband Gavin Rossdale, transforming heartbreak into a set of pulsating, dance-your-ass-off pop songs. Armed with those hits, Stefani went out this summer on her first major tour in years (her three boys—Kingston, 10; Zuma, 8; and Apollo, 2—joined her on the road). Meanwhile, she oversaw the expansion of her fashion empire into two new eyewear collections and a line of high-end kids’ clothes. And as the world knows, she also found a new love: Blake

Shelton, the country music star she got to know on *The Voice*. In May the two performed their country song, “Go Ahead and Break My Heart”—Stefani’s first foray into the genre—on the show, prompting fans to beg for a full album of duets.

But the best thing about Gwen Stefani is that the woman does her own thing—always, every year, every decade. She has thumbed her nose at societal restrictions placed on women (lamenting, “I’ve had it up to here!” in the 1995 song “Just a Girl”). She has championed eccentricity with her let-your-freak-flag-fly fashions. And by writing uncompromising music, including her heartrending new songs, she’s shown us all how to summon strength through self-expression. “Sometimes to be woken up again in life, you need to go through some really bad, hard times,” she says. “I feel like I got woken up this year.” The *Glamour* Woman of the Year reflects on 2016—and the future—here.

**GLAMOUR:** Let’s start with your recent highlights. Your new album debuted at number one. Your fashion line is expanding. Your work on *The Voice* introduced you to a whole new audience and a new love, Blake Shelton. Am I missing anything?

**GWEN STEFANI:** I got to go on tour! I *never* thought that would happen again.

**GLAMOUR:** Why not?

**GS:** Being a mom—like, I think I overdid it. The timeline’s crazy: I got pregnant with Kingston, my oldest, on tour for *Love. Angel. Music. Baby*. I stayed on tour till I was four and a half months along. Gave birth. Went in the studio, made *The Sweet Escape*. Went back on tour when he was eight months. When I got home, I got pregnant with my middle boy, Zuma. Went on tour with No Doubt when he was four months, and when I got home, I didn’t feel good. There were too many plates spinning.

**GLAMOUR:** Then you had a third son, Apollo. How did touring come to feel manageable again?

**GS:** [This time] I needed to tour for my own triumph! To be like Rocky at the top of the steps, like, “I just did three shows in a row. I’m *that* mentally healthy, physically healthy, strong, and I can do it with three boys on a tour bus!” And I did it!

**GLAMOUR:** Is life on the road still as fun for you as it was starting out?

**GS:** Yeah. And it’s amazing with the boys. I thought they’d want to go off and, you know, go to Disney. But they all wanted to be at the venue, working. My middle boy, Zuma, literally worked every

night: He had a light, and he walked me on and off the stage, and opened the curtain when I’d run back to change outfits.

**GLAMOUR:** Your little roadie.

**GS:** At one point I asked him, “Do you want to come out and do a bow at the end with us?” He really wanted to. He did it one time and was like, “Uh, I have stage fright—I’m not doing that anymore!” But he loved being in the wings.

**GLAMOUR:** Speaking of outfit changes, let’s talk about L.A.M.B. It’s more than a decade along now. How did you first get into fashion?

**GS:** It’s in my blood! My mom was always making me clothes. We’d go to the fabric store, pick out patterns, and it was a creative process. I heard that word a lot growing up: *creative*.... You should have seen my room. It was a pigsty with a sewing machine. I would get stuff, and then I would change it. Alter it. My mom would help me.... At the same time, I was so naive. I didn’t know anything about fashion, growing up in Orange County. I just knew about it through music, how ska bands dressed.

**GLAMOUR:** Early on in No Doubt, you had a very tomboyish look, and you poked fun at gender restrictions in songs like “Just a Girl” [“I’m just a girl, little ol’ me, well, don’t let me out of your sight / Oh, I’m just a girl, all pretty and petite, so don’t let me have any rights”]. It seems like part of the subtext of how you dressed was rejecting how a woman “should” present herself to the world.

**GS:** People will tell me, “You’re such a punk rebel,” this or that, but I was not that growing up. I was actually a super-sheltered, conservative girl. Now, there was probably a bit of me that was like, “Why do I have to be like that?” Because when you discover your sexuality—like when you’re little, (continued on page 236)

“Gwen shows that youth is a mind-set. She’s curious. She grows sweeter with time. And she continues to change the game.”

—Pharrell Williams, Grammy-winning artist and one of Stefani’s fellow judges on *The Voice*



### From Hurt to Hits

"We all go through hard times," says Stefani. "How can we improve when we have these challenges?"

**Safiyaa** blouse. **Alexandre Vauthier** pants, belt, sandals. **Falke** fishnets. Love her shiny red lip? Try **Urban Decay** Revolution High-Color Lipgloss in Gash (\$22, [urbandecay.com](http://urbandecay.com)). **See Glamour Shopper for more information.** Hair: Danilo at The Wall Group; makeup: Gregory Arlt at Exclusive Artist Management; manicure: Shelly Hill; production: Portfolio One.



# WOMEN *of the* YEAR

## Gwen

*The Icon*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 204)

you don't notice it. Then suddenly you're walking down the street and you're whistled at. And you're like, Oh, I have this power I didn't know about. And you also discover you're kind of prey. And you're like, Wait, that's confusing. So I wrote "Just a Girl," and I think that song is still relevant today. There are limits put on women, but why should there be?

**GLAMOUR:** Zooming out, when you take stock of the past year, how do you place it within the course of your life?

**GS:** Mind-blowing. I don't understand my journey. It's so crazy. But one thing I learned is, that's what life is. We all have to go through hard times. Tragedies. Those are given to us to see what we're going to do with them. How can we give back? How can we improve when we have these challenges?

**GLAMOUR:** In reading what you've said about your divorce, one thing in particular struck me: You used the word *embarrassed* a lot. Why did shame enter into the equation for you?

**GS:** I don't think you'll talk to one person who didn't make it in a marriage who's not gonna feel that way. The intention of being married is the vow, right? You want to put everything into it to make it a success. And all I had to look at was the huge success of my parents: They just had their fiftieth anniversary. I had to work really hard at marriage, all the time, like everybody, but ours was extra hard, when you add that we're from different countries, both of us being in music, and celebrity. [Marriage] was the one thing I didn't want to fail at. People can say whatever they want to about me...and I don't get too affected. But I didn't want them to think I was a failure. There's nothing weird about how I felt.

**GLAMOUR:** You've referred to that period as several months of "hell" and "torture."

**GS:** [Laughs and nods.] But you know what? I'm in a different place now, [and] that is the past for me. I'm in such a new place. It's all about the future for me. Not really just the future—but the moment right now. Like, I'm Woman of the Year, right here on this couch!

**GLAMOUR:** Hell yeah! On the theme of living in the moment, you've said that the process of writing the new album saved your life. How did it save you?

**GS:** It released me from that feeling of hopelessness. When I was in the studio for *This Is What the Truth Feels Like*, it was like, I need to be here right now. This is the only place I feel good. It

doesn't matter what comes out of this, as far as my career—this isn't about a hit. It's about saving my life. And it was interesting, because I know you're going to ask me about Blake, but finding somebody who was going through the exact same experience? [Shelton divorced country singer Miranda Lambert at about the same time.] That was an inspiration. He was a friend to me when I needed a friend. An unexpected gift. And that became an inspiration in the songwriting.

**GLAMOUR:** From the outside, your relationship seems like an opposites-attract situation. You're pop; he's country. You have a fashion empire; he has a ranch in Oklahoma. It's like a rom-com premise.

**GS:** It's definitely two different cultures. But there are many similarities, in things that we love and our morals. But it's really fun when you can learn about so many new things and share those differences.

**GLAMOUR:** For instance?

**GS:** I've learned a lot about country music from him.... But my first concert ever was [folk/country singer] Emmylou Harris.

My parents took me out of Girl Scouts to go to that show.

**GLAMOUR:** You've described your success as double-edged. You said a number of months ago that at a certain point you got so big that you felt trapped by your success, that you felt like you owed everybody. Do you still feel you owe everyone something?

**GS:** No, I got rid of that. I had to, because otherwise I couldn't do anything. Thank God that I get to do what I get to do; there's no way to tell you how grateful I am.

**GLAMOUR:** Do you ever think about your legacy? The mark you'll leave?

**GS:** No, that's ridiculous. When I think of a legacy, I think of the legacy of being a mom. When you're a parent, you're just like, God, I hope they like me when they grow up. I hope that I did a good job. I hope they're gonna be happy. The moment you get pregnant, you're tortured by the fear of not doing it well. But I feel at peace with that right now. I'm trying to be present, not thinking and worrying about the past or the future. That's such a waste of time, you know? **G**

Jonah Weiner is a contributing writer at The New York Times Magazine and Rolling Stone.



**Gwen, Then and Now** Stefani performing with No Doubt in the nineties, left, and on her solo tour this summer. Still rocking her signature crop tops!