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New Fashions Favor Cocoa-Colored Gems

Chocolate has found its way to the necks, arms, hands, and bodices of fashion runway models.

According to experts at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), educator to the global gem and jewelry industry, gemstones with warm, brown tones are heating up. Drove of fashionistas are dipping into this latest cocoa-colored fashion trend.



The world's most influential designers in couture apparel and jewelry agree. Many have built their fall fashion menus around shades of brown—from the most delicate caramels and mochas to the darkest chocolates and coffees. The latest fashion shows in Paris echo the earthy color movement. John Galliano at Christian Dior sent out a crocodile coat with a matching hat and lace-up

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☆☆ Hollywood Remembered ☆☆

The world took little note in August of the passing of a man known throughout his life as “Mr. Marilyn Monroe.”

James E. Dougherty, a retired Los Angeles detective, lived for decades in the shadow of Norma Jeane Baker, whom he married when she was sixteen, on June 19, 1942, before he headed off to sea as a merchant marine. Death came to Dougherty in San Rafael, California, at the age of 84, after a long bout with leukemia.

Throughout most of his life, despite many opportunities, Dougherty steadfastly refused to discuss the time he spent with the woman who eventually evolved into a megastar. A close friend of mine, the California tycoon, Gordon Howard, arranged for me to meet with Dougherty several times over a period of three weeks in Los Angeles in 1968. I suspected at the time that Gordon, a wealthy and generous business-



Norma Jeane Baker & James Dougherty

man, had paid Dougherty for the privilege, but I don't know that for a fact.

The quiet, unassuming, and rather kindly Dougherty, who still maintained traces of his former good looks, had nothing in common with Marilyn's later pair of husbands: baseball icon Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller. At first, Dougherty wanted to discuss his hobby of “special weapons,” but eventually I was able to steer him onto the subject of Marilyn. He insisted I refer to her as Norma Jeane. “I don't know any Marilyn Monroe.”

He admitted that he'd married “a very damaged woman, unloved for most of her life.” But he quickly dispelled many rumors about Marilyn's early life. The one I found the most intriguing involved the claim he made about Marilyn's virginity—or lack thereof.

“Norma Jeane came to our marriage bed a virgin,” he claimed. “She and I had never had sex before. Her delicate threshold had never been

crossed before. She cried out in pain, and I was aware and sensitive to her.” [Those were his exact words.] After losing her virginity to her new husband on her wedding night, Norma Jeane “just fell crazily in love with sex,” Dougherty claimed. “I was one lucky man!”



Marilyn Monroe

But what of all those other stories, as detailed in countless biographies, about Marilyn's abuse and rape in foster homes?

“Pure fantasy on Norma Jeane's part,” Dougherty insisted. “She made up those stories to win the public's sympathy when she was revealed as the model who had posed for the nude calendar that hung in every men's toilet in every garage in America. She got the sympathy vote. Her ploy worked. Her career was saved.”

Once he was launched into the subject, Dougherty had a lot to say about Marilyn, enough to fill a book. I'm a skeptical reporter, but “the first husband” talked so convincingly, and provided so many clinical and specific

details about his wedding night with Norma Jeane that I believed his account. He did provide one unsettling detail about his honeymoon. “Unknown to me that night, Norma Jeane had trench mouth.”

If the detective's story rings true, and I have no reason to believe otherwise, then only one man, as far as is known, ever raped Marilyn Monroe.

That was Jumpin' Joe DiMaggio one night in San Francisco.



Darwin Porter, formerly a bureau chief for The Miami Herald, is an acclaimed entertainment writer. His recent biography: Katharine the Great: Hepburn—

Secrets of a Life Revealed was recently selected by Foreward Magazine as one of the ten best biographies of 2004. Porter's most recent work is Howard Hughes: Hell's Angel, recently defined by BoomerTimes and Senior Life as its “Book of the Year,” 2005. Watch for upcoming book, Brando Unzipped.



Darwin Porter

Snowbirds Coming For The Winter Holidays?

Here's a smart home improvement idea that saves time and money.

The winter holidays are the perfect time for Floridians to open their doors and welcome children, grandchildren and friends desperate for a little fun in the sun. But if a single-bathroom household is stopping you from inviting flocks of overnight snowbirds, you'll be interested in a relatively new technology that allows you to install a bathroom in virtually any room of your home—without breaking your floors or the bank.

By utilizing a system that is based on what's known as macerating technology, homeowners can quickly and inexpensively install a full bathroom anywhere—including extremely tight spaces, such as under a stairway or inside a large closet. The technology is so flexible, you can even convert a corner of a guest bedroom into a beautiful bathroom, creating a convenient, yet fully private guest suite.

How does it work? — A macerating toilet system looks very much like a conventional water closet. In fact, it takes up roughly the same amount of floor space. But instead of routing the flush water through a floor drain, the system moves it to a macerator pump. This pump can be hidden behind walls or located on the floor behind the toilet.

The macerator pump liquefies waste and toilet paper in the flush water and propels it under pressure to the sewer or septic tank. The pump is sealed for life and requires no maintenance.

A macerating system can be installed atop any finished floor in the home. Instead of being forced to build a spare bathroom only where the plumbing is above septic lines or where drainage currently exists, a macerating system allows you to add a bathroom wherever it is convenient for you. What's more, you are spared the mess and high cost of digging up flooring and tearing out walls.

Add a spare bath now and be ready for guests this winter. — Now is the time to prepare for winter visitors. When you're ready to improve the value of your home and increase its convenience, ask your plumber about installing a Saniflo bathroom system.

Saniflo is the only manufacturer that makes a macerating toilet system.

The company developed the unique technology nearly 50 years ago, and it has been used to beautify and improve homes throughout the United States since its introduction here in the late 1990s. Because there's no costly excavation, a macerating toilet system can typically be installed in half a day.

Not just a toilet — The Saniflo system is more than just a spare toilet. Your plumber can use the macerating technology to create a whole bathroom, complete with toilet, sink, shower and tub. Can this be done on a septic system? Absolutely! Saniflo fixtures will work up to 12 feet below and as far as 150 feet away from a septic tank or sewer line. With flexibility like that, you could even install a new bathroom in a pool house, a shed or in other out-buildings.

If style is your top priority, you can still benefit from Saniflo's expanding line of convenient macerating systems. For example, the company recently unveiled a new technology that lets the homeowner use the macerating system with the conventional toilet brand of their choice: Kohler, American Standard, Eljer, Gerber, Mansfield, Toto—you name it! Saniflo fits them all!

Low-cost, convenient home improvement — Thanks to Saniflo's macerating technology, homeowners can easily and inexpensively enhance their most valued investment by upgrading their home with a beautiful new bathroom.

Is a Saniflo system right for you? A macerating system is the perfect solution when you:

- ✓ Need an extra bathroom to handle overnight guests.
- ✓ Want the convenience of a private bath for caregivers.
- ✓ Need the comfort and security of a bathroom closer to a loved one's sick room.

Saniflo macerating systems can be purchased through plumbing contractors and wholesalers, including Ferguson Enterprises Inc. in Tamarac 954.726.3951 and in Miami (305.716.2766). For more information on Saniflo, contact the company at 800-363-5874 or visit www.saniflo.com.



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