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by Elyse Glickman

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Brighton Bag Memories

When you were younger, chances are you probably regarded **Brighton handbags** and **belts** as status items and investment pieces. Even with Dooney and Bourke, Coach and the other classically hewn, preppy American bag lines, many of us were just plain charmed, at, well, the famously girly heart logo charm that adorned the bags and the snazzy metal work on the belts.

The Los Angeles-based company, like those other recognizable brands then began to show its age, and became our mother's handbag rather than ours. Even with **rich leathers**, great hardware and an expansion of the line into **watches**, **wallets**, **jewelry** and other things, there was something so cutesy about it that some couldn't wrap themselves around, especially with statement bags from Prada, Mulberry, the revived Tom Ford-ized Gucci and other admittedly fabulous satchels entering the market places.

While D&B took a "Young Hollywood" approach with endorsements from Lindsay Lohan and Mischa Barton and Coach went Continental, Brighton re-emerged in a slightly more quiet fashion, drawing upon what made them an established brand in the first place but also taking the leathers, colors, shapes and collection in a brand new direction that transcends age, career and geographical region. And while Brighton is still an investment bag (with prices for the carryalls ranging **\$125 to \$350**, and luggage ranging **\$200 to \$500**), you have to admit, compared to what a Dior Saddle Bag or the hardware heavy bags from this year's collections cost, you really can look smart in every sense of the word (not to mention, make things easy on your back).

Brighton bags and accessories are available at **Brighton Boutiques** throughout the US. For store availability, please visit www.brightonretailers.com/locator/ or call **800.628.7687**.

www.brighton.com

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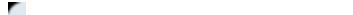


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