

Stuff I Swear By

Every influencer has that perfectly curated list of things they “just can’t live without,” like a cashmere scarf, a Diptyque candle, and jeans that cost north of \$300. Here are the fabulous things I, a mom of two boys, “heart.”

by **CLAIRE ZULKEY** / illustration by **MARINA ESMERALDO**

CLOTHES

These are a must whenever I travel. Airplanes can be uncomfortable, so I like to try and stay warm and cozy by throwing on some clothes before I board.

AN UMBRELLA

This is just the most clever little thing. When it rains, you push a button and it keeps most of you dry! The only trick is that you have to remember to take it with you before it rains. Otherwise: genius.

A SET OF 20-YEAR-OLD TOWELS

These are so great to have. First, buy towels and never get rid of them. Then, start keeping them in your basement as they get old and tattered. Then, use them to clean up disgusting things. The best.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

That’s where we go when we need to unwind. Maybe you’ve heard of it? It’s two hours from my house, and my friend Lauren lives there.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Kind of a splurge, but sometimes you have to go to the doctor and the hospital, and it’s just nice. It’s my little way of taking care of me.

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

You need them to shop where I live. I like to customize mine by filling them with onion skins and old receipts.

TISSUES

You never know when you’ll need to blow your nose or someone else’s. A guest once told me she appreciated that there was a box anytime she needed one, and I was like, that’s my signature style.

AN EMPTIED DIAPER PAIL

I am obsessed—obsessed!—with my house not smelling like human feces.

