



BEAUTY MEMO

Leighton Meester: ‘I always give a lot of grace to my young self’

The pop culture icon on her go-to beauty products, embracing imperfections, and being the face of Elizabeth Arden’s new perfume.

BY FIONA EMBLETON

1 April 2026

Claudio Lavenia/Getty Images

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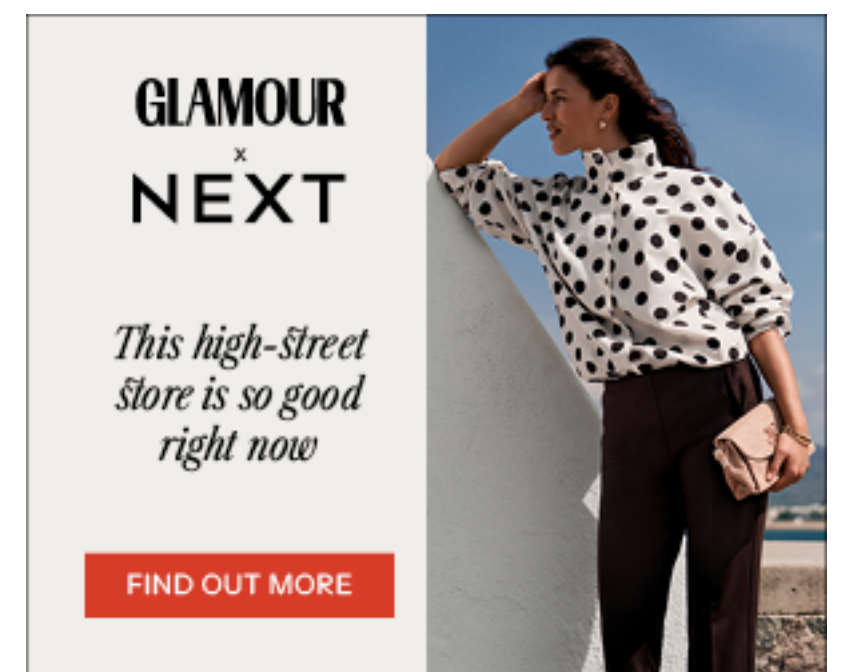
Leighton Meester is incredibly down-to-earth for someone who's a pop culture icon. Her role as Blair Waldorf in *Gossip Girl* propelled her to instant stardom in 2007. Then she and Adam Brody – *The O.C.*’s Seth Cohen – became noughties high-school drama royalty when they dated and eventually married in 2014.

The Leighton I meet is makeup-free, in sweats and keeps apologising for the fact that I’m chatting to her on a Saturday evening London time – all of which is at odds with her impossibly glam, waspish ‘Queen B’ character. “I’m in mountain time,” she grins, referring to Calgary, Canada, where she's filming a Netflix romantic comedy entitled *The Bodyguard*.

Even on Zoom, her energy is fun to be around. “I pre-ordered pizza today. That’s how serious I am about vegging. They’ve been telling me that a place called Noble Pie is where I need to get pizza. You have to order at midnight the night before. It’s like pizza, but then you get hot honey for it. So that’s what I have to look forward to and an episode of *Drag Race*, I’m going to watch that.”

“Scent can really unlock memories, or put you right back into a place that you were, if you reflect and spritz on a perfume that you used at a certain period in your life.”

This upbeat vibe isn’t just a state of mind – it’s also how Elizabeth Arden’s new perfume is making Leighton Meester feel. The 39 year-old actor, who started her career aged just 10, is the new face of Eternal Aura, a scent that we both agree isn’t a dainty floral.



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BEAUTY

I'm a beauty editor and I've not had a facial since using this new serum

BY FIONA EMBLETON