

# OUT & ABOUT

May 2013

CULTURE, LEISURE, AND OTHER PURSUITS

## BELLES LETTRES

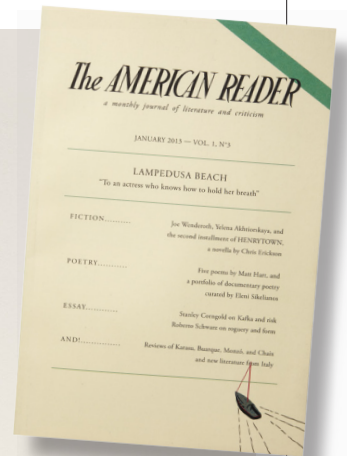
Uzoamaka Maduka has launched *The American Reader*. Miu Miu coat (\$4,085), [miumiui.com](http://miumiui.com); de Grisogono white diamond Boule earrings and Allegra bracelet (prices on request), [degrisogono.com](http://degrisogono.com).

SPOTLIGHT



## Lit Girl

*The American Reader*, a new journal with all the marks of a classic, reflects the incandescence of its young dynamo-in-chief.



AT THE SKY LOBBY OF NEW YORK'S MANDARIN Oriental, Uzoamaka Maduka, who goes by Max, arrives bearing her worldly possessions in a bright red bag. At 25, the Princeton grad is a beauty in transition, from coltish to statuesque. Her new magazine, a throwback with the suitable title *The American Reader*, launched eight months ago. A slim amalgam of the *Paris* and *Partisan* reviews, the journal publishes fiction (new and rediscovered), poetry, and criticism with the modest goal of “restoring literature to its proper place in the American cultural discourse.” As you listen to Maduka discuss everything from J. Edgar Hoover’s “charismatic bureaucracy” to the estimable swagger of Katharine Hepburn, her mission doesn’t seem so far-fetched. Erudite but unpretentious, she sparkles when she talks about books. A childhood attempt at the Great American Novel—a spirited plundering of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, promptly dismissed as derivative by an older brother—led her to wonder whether she were more editor than creator, “less Kafka and more Max Brod.”

Let this give the impression of a cop-out, consider Maduka’s ambitions for the *Reader*, which she describes as “outsized, whether we end up a marvelous success or a handsome failure.” Her staff includes such luminaries as novelist Ben Marcus, poet Dean Young, and art world muse and former *T&C* cover girl Shala Monroque. Maduka attributes her fearlessness to her mother, a chemical engineer, and her ingenuity to being the youngest of four. “My sister just graduated from Harvard Business School. My brothers are in finance. It really takes the pressure off. Your parents are like, ‘We’ve had some successful children. Go do whatever!’” **GEMMA SIEFF**

ROBERT KATO/STUDIO D (JOURNAL); HAIR BY CHARLIE TAYLOR FOR AVEDA AT WALTER SCHUPFER MANAGEMENT; MAKEUP BY JUSTINE PURDUE FOR CHANEL BEAUTÉ AT TIM HOWARD MANAGEMENT; MANICURE BY ANA-MARIA FOR CHANEL BEAUTÉ

Photograph by BLOSSOM BERKOFSKY

TOWNANDCOUNTRYMAG.COM

T&C/37

MAY 2013