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*The 6 Things
We're Obsessed
With Right Now*

LIST

BY HIKO MITSUZUKA @THEFIRSTTECHO

Springtime is the right time to fall in love with new things.
And we have plenty to love this season...

1. VENQUE BACKPACKS

Looking for form, function, and fashion in a carrier? Then check out our travel must-haves: The Amsterdam (if you're seeking a weekend adventure) and The Classic (if you're commuting to class, work, or a writing sesh) from the Toronto-based designer's line. Both come with a sleeve for a 15" laptop and plenty of pockets to help your transport go as smoothly (and slickly) as possible. (venque.com)



2. DEAR EVAN HANSEN: ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST RECORDING

Your next Broadway musical obsession (sorry, *Hamilton*) took the Billboard charts by storm when it debuted at #8, the highest for an original cast album... since 1961! Oscar-nominated songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul's outstanding tribute to "the outsider in us all" is chock-full of unforgettable pop-rock numbers (listen to "You Will Be Found" ASAP) and a particularly powerhouse performance from star Ben Platt as the reluctant titular hero.

3. MAXINE'S HEAVENLY COOKIES

Normally, when you hear “gluten-free vegan cookies,” you tend to conjure up images of plywood and dirt. But NOT when it comes to these cookies. Say goodbye to guilt this spring while you munch on these tasty treats perfect for any occasion. Our favorite: Almond Chocolate Chip. (maxinesheavenly.com)



4. HUNT A KILLER

True crime and mystery junkies, listen up! Interactive entertainment just got a lot more intriguing. Hunt A Killer is a monthly subscription service that puts you directly into a fictional murder mystery. Simply apply to become a member of the carefully curated community (only 250 applications are approved every week). As a member, the killer sends you a box each month filled with items such as tools, codes, letters, ciphers and more to haunt you throughout your investigation. And look out for a 3-day “Live Hunt” later this year. (huntakiller.com)



5. MUNA'S "I KNOW A PLACE"

This gorgeous, soaring anthem from this trio (off their fantastic debut album *About U*) is also an uplifting response to last year's Orlando shootings -- check out the powerful video as well. We need more socially-conscious electro pop like this. Also download-worthy: the haunting “Crying on the Bathroom Floor.”



6. TODRICK HALL'S "STRAIGHT OUTTA OZ"

The viral superstar-turned-Broadway performer-turned-R&B-pop dynamo recently released his complete, star-studded visual album for *Straight Outta Oz*...and it. Is. Magnificent. The deluxe 22-track collection is an outstanding musical autobiography accentuated by a mesmerizing *Wizard of Oz* motif that resonates, chronicling his life from its oppressive beginnings, through his years of self-discovery, to his rise to fame as an undeniably gifted singer-songwriter-dancer.