

# VANITY FAIR

JULY/AUGUST 2021

*On Jewellery*

*Superhero  
in  
Waiting*

*Nicola  
Adams*

*Photographs by*  
DAMIAN FOXE





## Lady of Leather

Stud earrings in diamond and white gold; necklace in emerald, diamond, platinum and white gold, both by **Graff**. Black Love large and small rings in 18kt gold by **Jacqueline Rabun**. Viking ring and torque; Late Bronze Age bangle. All in gold from **Symbolic & Chase**.



# Ring in the New

Interview by  
ANNABEL DAVIDSON

Fancy footwork is something of a Nicola Adams trademark. Two Olympic gold medals in boxing and a phenomenal jive on BBC Television's *Strictly Come Dancing* are proof enough of that—but try and get Adams, 39, into a pair of high heels, and you'll see a reverse quickstep to truly impress the judges.

"That was the one thing I wasn't going to do," laughs Adams, recalling her refusal to wear heels. "But this shoot truly reveals a whole new side of me. It was fun, not serious, and that helped me open up more. When I saw the images I was totally blown away with the transformation. And I think it shows my femininity in a different way."

The jewellery chosen for these pages runs the gamut from ancient to futuristic. There are ninth- to 11<sup>th</sup>-century gold Viking torques from Symbolic & Chase ("They should be worn by an Olympian—the Vikings would have loved that!" quipped the firm's director, Sophie Jackson) and pieces from Van Cleef & Arpels' Heritage collection. We got first dibs on Boucheron's extraordinary Holographique suite from the upcoming Carte Blanche high jewellery triumph, and borrowed an exquisite Senegalese ear cuff, circa 1970, from the Goldsmiths collection. Our cover girl rocked all of it with poise.

Adams, who recently moved back to London from her hometown of Leeds with partner Ella Baig, a model and influencer, is back doing something she had to give up when her boxing career took over: acting. "I'm reading scripts and having coaching," she says. "And I'll be starting auditions when the right roles come up. I'm just testing the waters for now, but I'm super excited."

It turns out that Adams was offered the role of stunt double for one of the characters in *Black Panther* a few years ago, but had to turn it down because of her demanding training schedule. Now that she has two gold medals and a W.B.O. female flyweight title under her belt, there will be no bit parts—Nicola Adams has proven herself to be leading lady material. ■

Photographs by **DAMIAN FOXE** Styled by **ELAD BITTON**