



POSH IN BOOTS

FASHION WRITER GEORGIA DEHN PUTS HERSELF IN VICTORIA BECKHAM'S HEEL-LESS SHOES FOR A DAY

AS I tottered down the street, through the open window of his cab a London taxi driver yelled, "Are those the boots Posh wore darlin'?" They were indeed said boots.

After Victoria Beckham grabbed headlines with her heel-less, thigh-high Latex boots recently, I couldn't resist *Grazia's* challenge to road-test a pair for the day. You see, extreme footwear is having a real moment right now.

So far at the fashion shows we have had heel-less and sole-less. At this rate, in a few weeks' time Posh will step out wearing no shoes and, emperor's new clothes style, everyone will be beating down the doors of shoe boutiques wanting to know how they too can get the "barefoot" look.

So when the FedEx box containing the black rubber leggings with hooves on the end arrived at my desk — direct from the designer Antonio Berardi's Parisian studio — a wave of excitement and determination washed over me.

Finally, I thought, I would find out how it feels to walk on air. However, it wasn't quite as simple as I imagined it would be to "slip them on". There's a zip up the back from heel to boot-top, but doing it up on my own proved problematic.

With no muscle-bound, soccer-playing husband on hand, I enlisted the help of a female colleague, who stretched the rubber around each of my legs and secured me in.

I felt like a cross between a fetishist and a mythological goat. They are a real feat of engineering, and so they should be for the whopping \$7500 they cost.

When I first stood in them, I expected to wobble about before falling as fast as a Prada model at the Milan fashion shows. But they're perfectly weighted in the platform front and as soon as I was up, it was easy. I almost wanted to start running. I did a few speed-walking laps of the office to gauge a reaction.

Sadly, the only comment I got was from a colleague who told me to hoist them up a bit as they were wrinkled around the ankles.

The outside world was scarier. As I tottered past a building site, one guy stared at my feet in confusion.

"Are you alright, love?" he said. "What's happened to your shoes?"

But these boots weren't meant for builders — they are fashion forward and fashion fabulous.

So it was all the more gratifying when a gaggle of super-cool teenage girls surrounded me. "They're so coooool," they cooed in admiration. Well, they may look cool but they sure didn't feel cool. My feet and legs were so hot that I felt I was in shoe hell.

But yes, of course it was worth it. I may not have a swanky new pixie crop, my own fashion line, or a recently launched fragrance, but I can walk in no heels as well as Mrs Beckham.

And that counts for something, surely.

Head over heels: Posh loves Brit designer Antonio Berardi

PHOTOS: ALEX TREIGUERE; SHAPFENT MEDIA