



My life as a perfect 10

(that's foot size, sadly)

If Prince Charming intends to seek me out with a glass slipper, he may be waiting a while. Coming in at 6ft tall with size 10 feet (the left is actually a 10.5, but more on that later), life as an OTT-proportioned woman has dealt me some mild footwear issues.

Take my first day at secondary school. As if standing a head above your new classmates, not to mention your principal, wasn't bad enough, I was rocking a pair of Kickers. But weren't Kickers quasi-cool? Not at size 8 from the boys' section. After a fraught summer of shoe shopping, they had been staring at me from their (big) box for months. I slipped them on and, at 11 years old, could already see the shape of things to come.

I continued to expand over the years, vertically and horizontally, before plateauing at my current statistics, aged 16. Those millimetres really do add up. Flipper feet, The BFG (that's Big Footed Giant) and Clodhopper became just a few of my identity tags - and I was slowly filling a piggy bank for my cosmetic surgery operation. Chop off a toe? Fine! Balance? Not important! To look at me then, a career in fashion wasn't exactly on the horizon.

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Tallgirls.co.uk, Long

Tall Sally and Magnus (somewhat of a sizeist theme going on) certainly have sensible options, but their dowdy offerings don't sate my sartorial appetite for Balenciaga boots and Jimmy Choos.

So it was with a long sigh of relief when I learnt that the shoe company French Sole has recognised this glaring space in the market. Promising to cater for "larger women", it is launching a new Pirouette collection for sizes 9-11. Today's generation is growing apace - a mixture of diet and exercise, apparently - and the average shoe size is now 7/8. (I laugh at a size 8 but at least there are more girls for my gang).

Brands such as Duo and Amber & Jade are already more fashion-forward and a slew of big-foot confessions from the likes of Kate Winslet (size 9) and Macy Gray (size 10) can only help the march towards larger shoes for "trendy" people.

I've finally found my feet in men's boots and brogues - Marks & Spencer and Hudson do great selections if an air of masculinity is your thing.

As for Prince Charming, he can keep his glass slippers.

Jane McFarland

