



Lingerie special

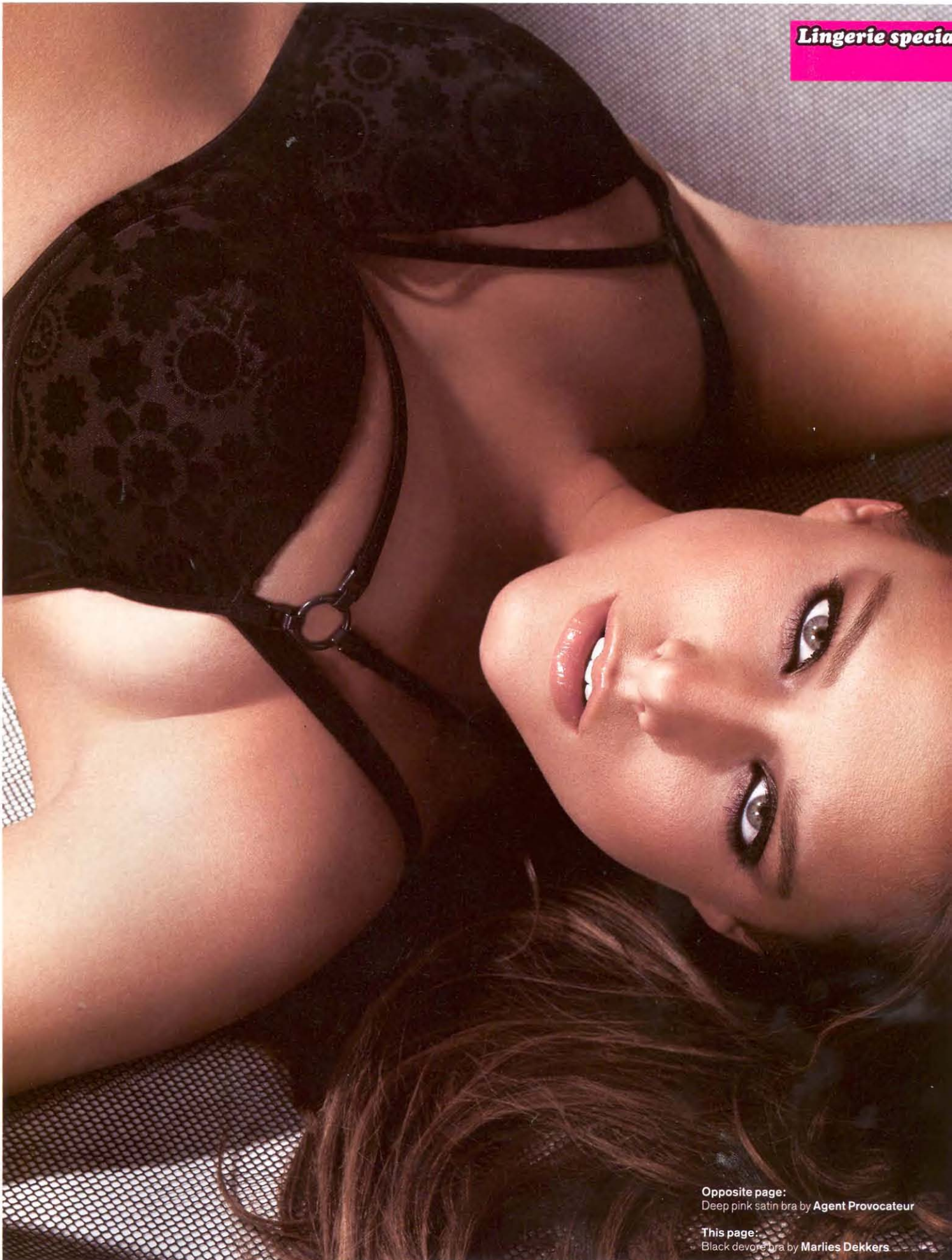
To mark the bra's centenary, *Arena* presents the season's sexiest styles as **Michael Martin** reviews his relationship with pads, straps and hooks. Then we meet a girl with an outstanding dressing-up box. But first, legendary lothario **Leslie Phillips** pays homage to his favourite plaything

"The bra marks the very beginning of any relationship that becomes remotely sexual. It is the overture to making love, which is what everybody wants to get round to, no? When I was 12 I flicked somebody's bra strap at school. You could see it through her shirt, feel it. It made a bit of a 'thwack'. I loved it.

I also love the Victorian idea of showing a certain amount of breast. I don't like it thrown at me, but it's splendid when a girl shows a bit of what she's got. If a man is decent he doesn't glare – that's the worst thing you can do. But you do take it in. Hmm. It's very attractive. In fact, the bra is an integral part of any woman. It's her privilege which one she chooses and the wonderful thing is that each woman is different. You don't have to be a dirty old person to appreciate that.

When you're attracted to a woman (and they to you) they love to take off their bra, or have you take it off for them. There's nothing nicer. I don't mind who takes it off to be honest, as long as it comes off. Lovely."





Opposite page:
Deep pink satin bra by Agent Provocateur

This page:
Black devore bra by Marlies Dekkers