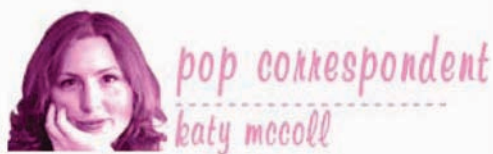


5 Things to Do With a Bottle Of Rum

I am **pleased as punch** to introduce the newest Pink of Perfection Correspondent, the inimitable **Katy McColl**. You may remember Katy from **her guacamole instruction**, her **awesomely helpful career book for creative people with big dreams**, or her **killer writing chops** as the Lifestyle Editor of **Jane** (RIP). Impressive pedigree aside, she is also my beloved sister, a fellow redhead with a penchant for cocktail hours (word to the wise, we like 'em *strong*), whittle-waisted skirts, flea markets, Designing Women, and blue cheese. I could not be happier that she is here, and I hope you are too.



Your summer, like my summer, may have felt a bit thin on vacations, but I don't think that means we should skip straight to **Cotswolds-style back to school fantasies** just yet. Instead, let us dedicate these last warm days to the redemptive powers of rum drinks.

There's a lot of crappy rum out there. In fact, if you had been with me at the liquor store, you might have made a quip about this whole rum experiment being doomed from the start, because I was doing my shopping alongside three women debating whether or not to get the pineapple, the coconut and the melon-flavored rums or if two bottles (rum and coconut) would suffice.

Now, cocktails that require you to buy **\$60 worth of ingredients** in order for you to tie one on don't interest me in the least. Nor are they very POP. So here's the deal: you buy bottle of rum (the darker the color, the more it will taste like a vacation--pardon the use of brand names here, but **Gosling's Black Seal** is my favorite) and I'll help you finish it off.



#1 Pina Colada

I don't want to inspire a rash of **agoraphobia** or anything, but there are some drinks you have to make at home, and one of them is the pina colada.

1 part cream of coconut (heat it up a little first; it congeals when it's cold)
1 part pineapple juice
2 parts Goslings
Twist of lime

Shake up the whole shebang in a cocktail shaker, or, frankly, a glass jar with a lid. Serve with something salty, like banana chips, while reading Salinger's "**A Perfect Day for Bananafish**".

#2 Rum and Tonic

My father-in-law first prepared this drink for me in Maine, on Somes Sound, in August, so I associate it with tennis skirts, Triscuits and library books. But Rum & Tonics needn't be the exclusive domain of the WASPs, so feel free to enjoy under the Brooklyn Bridge and whatnot. Goes nicely with mystery novels, like P.D. James' **The Skull Beneath the Skin**.

1 part Goslings
1-2 parts tonic
Twist of lime



#3 Watermelon Cocktail

Fruit syrups are one of those things that sound like a total pain in the ass, but are quite easy. The basic premise is to boil a cup of honey or sugar with a cup of water and mash in fruit (blueberries, watermelon, raspberries, etc). Then you can store it, as a suspension, in the fridge for easy refills. Without further ado, I give you watermelon cocktails.

2 parts Goslings
1 part watermelon syrup
club soda and basil leaves, to taste

Have you actually read [Valley of the Dolls](#)? It's fabulous.



#4 Dark & Stormy

I'll be honest, they're not my favorite, but that's only because I find ginger beer to be...aggressive. Instead of a book recommendation, let's all take a [Myers-Briggs](#) test online, shall we?

2 parts Ginger Beer
1 part Goslings

#5 The Cuba Libre

The Rum Diary inspired a great affinity in me for expat newspapermen in Havana who spend their days crunching the ice cubes in their Cuba Libres. Unfortunately, it also made me feel woefully unaccomplished (Hunter S. Thompson wrote it when he was 22.) Read it now while you can still think of it as a lovely novella written by the man who once asked me if I had any girl-on-girl action at Smith College and not as [a movie starring Johnny Depp](#).

1 part Goslings
1 part Coke (Have you tried Coke Zero? Why not?)
Copious amount of lime

Also, I may have neglected some crucial rum drinks here, and as such, hope that you'll add your favorites in the comments section. Then we can move on to...whiskey?