

FEMINA

Believe

TRAVEL
HONEYMOON TRAVELS

FOOD
A WEDDING
FEAST FIT
FOR A KING

EXPRESSIONS
NIVEDITA SABOO'S
DESIGNS ON
ROYALTY

FINAL COUNTDOWN
12 DAYS TO THE
BIG DAY!

DID YOU KNOW?
MR RIGHT IS
JUST A CLICK
AWAY

COVER STORY
AISLE SAY!
MARRIAGE VS
LIVING IN?
DIFFERENT WOMEN,
DIFFERENT STROKES

GILT
TRIP
BYZANTINE
BLAZE

WRAPOLOGY
WADING
THROUGH THE
GIFT CRIBE

FLOWER POWER
SHEETAL BAPAT
THE NEW FLOWER CHILD

TRENDS
**TROUSSEAU
TALES**

DESIGNERS' BLOCK
**YOU ARE INVITED
TO A FAIRYTALE
WEDDING**

**BRIDAL
SPECIAL**

FAMILY FRENZY



BIG FAT Indian Weddings

The Indian wedding is extravagant, exuberant and entertaining. Families and friends get together to make it a memorable occasion. But is all the family love enough to sustain a wedding? Divya Mangwani goes behind the scenes

Colour, pomp, glitter, loads of laughter and teary goodbyes... it's the perfect formula for an Indian wedding! But aren't we forgetting the crux of the nuptials—the FAMILY, immediate, extended and adopted? They are the ones who add to the drama behind the scenes, something only a privileged few or, dare we say, those in need of dire entertainment are privy to. I acted as a fly-on-the-wall and heard quite a few interesting anecdotes that are too hilarious to keep to

myself.
ATTACK OF THE FAMILY
If you think marriages start with the groom proposing to the bride, think again! The bride and groom are hardly required, except to be present and look presentable. It's the *mamas, chachas, aunts and dadis* who take over the actual proceedings. Every decision, from the bride's attire to the couple's honeymoon destination, is made and approved by these self-appointed commanders. Now I know why mafia bosses are almost always the heads of

their families.
CRAZY CHARACTERS
Every Indian wedding invariably includes entertainment, in the form of idiosyncratic relatives. And all you unmarried girls at the wedding, beware—you are next on their list.
First you have the loving, quiet and soft-spoken grandma who scandalises everyone by moving from bedtime stories to sexual positions. Then come the bullying and catty aunts who want the bride to be dressed in a certain way and the groom to be married to someone else! The over-jovial *chacha/mama* slaps everyone on the back and cracks lewd jokes. One wonders whether he is in good spirits or has in fact had a few. And just when you think the groom is finally ready to get hitched, in