



Brainstorming designs



MAY 2013

My boyfriend of two years, Karim, proposes in beautiful Mexico. I am thrilled.

AUGUST 2013

We decide on a small wedding in Mumbai in November. What to wear? An Instagram from a Rohit Bal show serves as inspiration.

OCTOBER 1, 2013

Bonnie Takhar, president of accessory label Charlotte Olympia and one of Karim's oldest friends, calls. She tells me about their 'To Dye For' range, a collection of nine classic silhouettes that can be customised and then dyed to the exact shade of your outfit. I think Charlotte's humorous designs will add a modern edge to my traditional lehenga. We also talk about making an insert to match the embroidery for a Perspex box clutch. It's something I will keep forever.

OCTOBER 29, 2013

I head to the bijoux Mayfair boutique to talk shoes with Charlotte. I want a thick heel for comfort, a platform for height (Karim is over 6ft tall) and double ankle straps (I later regret this when I have to take the shoes on and off for the ceremony). I leave Charlotte to work her creative magic.

NOVEMBER 26, 2013

Bonnie arrives in time for the wedding with my bespoke shoes and bag. The shoes—based on the Ursula platform sandals—are a stunning sindoor red with a 145mm platform. The embroidered fabric from Rohit Bal has been used to make a zipper pouch that sits inside a transparent 'Marry Me' box clutch finished with a crystal engagement ring clasp. What more could a girl need?

NOVEMBER 30, 2013

The big day! My sister offers to carry my handbag—apparently, the bride doesn't usually carry her own stuff—but I don't want to part with it.

DECEMBER 1, 2013

I wake up and my gleaming red shoes remind me of Dorothy's ruby slippers. I consider putting them back on, clicking my heels thrice to go back to the beginning and doing it all over again. ■



EXCLUSIVE

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

When writer MALIKA DALAMAL wanted to inject some quirk into her wedding look, she turned to accessory guru CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA DELLAL. The result—sindoor-red heels fit for an Indian wedding. *Vogue* has a behind-the-scenes look



Dalamal with designer Charlotte Olympia Dellal



Showing off the custom-made clutch



Dalamal getting ready on her wedding day



The final shoes

'To Dye For' is available at Charlotte Olympia boutiques in London, New York and Los Angeles. Charlotteolympia.com

PHOTO: ALUSTAIR GUY; SEPHI BERGERSON; BRIDAL HAIR: KAUSER SHAIKH; BRIDAL MAKE-UP: MICKEY CONTRACTOR