

IT'S *vintage* DARLING

Our bride-to-be, Clemmie, goes on the search for the perfect vintage dress...



I've always wanted a wedding dress that's a bit different – maybe even one of a kind – but with a very tight budget I know it's not going to be easy. So with my two bridesmaids/sisters in tow I decided to head off to the Hammersmith Vintage Fashion Fair in the hopes of finding the dream dress with an even dreamier price tag!

We started by shyly walking around the big hall gazing at the Aladdin's cave of goodies when one of my sister's spied a very pretty and simple cream brocade dress. We all agreed it was lovely and when we spotted the cost (£30!) I knew I had to try it on. The changing rooms on offer were the equally glamorous toilets or fire escape (I plumped for the latter) and I was amazed to find that this lovely gown (kind of) fit. For the first time I felt like a bride and I couldn't



Clemmie loved vintage lace!



Fairs are great for unique finds



resist swishing my skirt around a bit and enjoying the compliments from the random ladies also trying on vintage fashion finds.

Buoyed by this mini success we began scouring the hall for anything wedding-related and before I knew it I was flinging on '20s beading, antique bustles and even a particularly amazing '70s Temperley boho smock. Sadly though, none of the above were quite right for my big day and after too much time on the fire escape stairs we decided it was definitely time for a jug of margaritas.

Vintage shopping is certainly different. You won't have the same sparkly champagne bridal boutique experience, and stall holders might be a bit rude (at one point I was flatly told that I was too big to try on a silk gown), but if you're on a budget and on the lookout for something completely original, a vintage fair could be the perfect place to start.

My search continues... ”