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according to *alison*

THE VIEW
EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm the first to admit I have a fabulous job. Being behind the editor's desk at *Weddingbells* puts me in touch with lots of gorgeous things and beautiful people, from whom I glean tons of inspiring ideas to pass on to you. Some of the most interesting people I've met and interviewed: Preston Bailey, Monique Lhuillier, Nigella Lawson, India Hicks and, most recently, world-renowned editorial session hairstylist Sam McKnight, who shared one of the simplest yet most poignant pieces of advice for brides-to-be.

If you're not familiar, British-born Sam is practically God in the fashion and beauty world. He has over 60 British *Vogue* covers to his name. He's created looks for virtually every designer runway show on the planet, and he serves as a P&G Beauty global ambassador, working exclusively with Pantene. And his client list? Kate Moss, Gisele Bündchen, Cate Blanchett, Kate Winslet, Cindy Crawford, Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington and Agyness Deyn are just a few of his mane ladies, and he was the exclusive stylist to Princess Diana for eight years. While he was in Toronto to meet with editors, I scored some one-on-one time with him to chat about bridal beauty. When asked for his top tip for getting gorgeous, he said something surprisingly simple: "Look like yourself on your wedding day."

As the Brits would say, I was chuffed to hear Sam's answer, because that's the philosophy we at *Weddingbells* live by. Think of your wedding as your red-carpet moment. When you're watching the Oscars, isn't it always the stars who look most like themselves (their most glamorous incarnations, of course) who top style lists and linger in your memory? Looking great is all about feeling great, being comfortable in your own skin and staying true to you. This is especially true when it comes to planning your aisle style. If you're naturally a curvy girl, don't feel you have to drop four dress sizes—tone up and work that body in a gown that adds extra va-voom. Love your Posh bob? Keep it razor-sharp and be the quintessential modern bride. Let your style comfort zone be your ultimate planning guide.

While we're on the subject of planning, it's time for me to stop talking and you to get down to it. Here are just a few things I'm particularly jazzed about in this issue: our cover girl Tara Spencer-Nairn's ultra-chic Toronto Wedding ("Enchanted Evening," page 81); glorious tulle gowns ("Beautiful Girl," page 96); pink cakes and flowers ("Tickled Pink," page 116); and honeymooning in Iceland ("Northern Exposure," page 161). Enjoy the issue and let me know what stories and ideas you loved—I'm always looking to hear how *Weddingbells* inspired you. Email me, or better yet, let's chat on my blog at weddingbells.ca.

Alison

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my ⁵wedding essentials



1 **Tiffany & Co.**
Little Blue Book
(\$50, tiffany.ca).
A teeny journal
to record your honey-
moon memories.



2 **Marc Jacobs for**
Waterford Crystal
Daisy Blanc covered sugar
bowl (\$140, at William Ashley).
Registering for designer
tableware is a must!



3 **Cool, Green and Shady**
Bouquet (price upon request,
coolgreenandshady.com).
Dainty pink tulips create a frilly
and feminine bouquet.



4 **Jeanne Lottie**
Croco Day to Night clutch (\$70,
jeannelottie.com). Sass up your aisle
style with a punchy, coloured clutch.



5 **Hermès**
Un Jardin Après La Mousse (\$145 for 100 ml,
at Hermès boutiques). A lush scent inspired
by an Indian garden.