

ACCORDING TO *alison*

PORTRAIT AND PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHY CARLO MENDOZA.
HAIR & MAKEUP DAVID GOVEIA/ARTISTGROUP/LIMITED.COM.



1 Monique Lhuillier
Cameo Deluxe Ribbon Sash. This belt will add flash to your aisle style. \$670, whitetoronto.com.



2 M.A.C. 10 Strokes Eyeshadow and Blow Dry Lipstick from the "Brunette, Blonde, Redhead" Collection. Makeup that complements my fair complexion and ginger hair. \$17 each, maccosmetics.com.



5 wedding essentials

3 Prada Tendre Parfum de Sac. A chic fragrance that's perfectly packaged for honeymoon travel. \$88, at Holt Renfrew.



4 Wedgwood Golden Birds Salt and Pepper Shakers. This adorable duo will be the talk of your next party! \$50, wedgwood.com.



5 Gladycakes Cupcakes. Sweet treats to tempt everyone's taste buds. Price available upon request, gladycakes.ca.



I've just read an article in *Vogue* penned by Contributing Editor Plum Sykes that's hit a nerve. In the feature, Sykes extols the virtues of long-sleeved dresses and how sleeves really are a girl's best friend. "A sleeve softens and slims the arm," Laura Mulleavy co-designer for the label Rodarte tells Sykes. My sentiments exactly! As a girl who's not a fan of her arms (apart from maybe Madonna, I don't know too many women who are), I've often wondered why dresses with sleeves are such an anomaly, wedding gowns in particular.

Allow me to backtrack a bit. Today's strapless and sleeveless designs have not always been the trend in wedding gowns. From the early '80s through the mid '90s, dresses with bulky, King Henry VIII-inspired puffy sleeves were *de rigueur*, but when Carolyn Bessette married John F. Kennedy Jr., she changed the landscape of wedding dresses in a New York minute. Out went the busy, over-detailed, long-sleeved gowns; in came the sleek and sleeveless sheath, which still routinely tops the best-seller charts.

Don't get me wrong, I adore the look of a sexy slip dress or a strapless ballgown, but there aren't a lot of us out there who feel we can carry the look off. I can't count the number of times I've heard from readers struggling to find a gown they love—and love themselves in—because they can't find one with arm coverage. If this sounds like you, I've got great news: sleeves—from cap to three-quarter to full wrist-grazers—are slowly but surely making their way back into bridal! On the spring 2009 runway shows in New York last April, *Weddingbells'* assistant editor Nicole Keen spotted sleeves everywhere and the trend continues for the fall 2009 collections. This issue, you'll notice we've included a few of the brand-new sleeved designs for your dream dress consideration (you can see even more online at weddingbells.ca).

What else do we have happening in this issue? Some of the most romantic real weddings ever. We take you inside the inspiring celebrations of: Cheryl Hickey, host of *Entertainment Tonight Canada* ("Ever After," p. 87); Greta Hodgkinson and Etienne Lavigne, dancers with the National Ballet of Canada ("Centre Stage," p. 90); actor Michelle Giroux of the Stratford Festival and *The Border's* Graham Abbey ("Shakespeare in Love," p. 92); plus four other gorgeous wedding parties thrown by couples across Canada. Please enjoy and let me know how *Weddingbells* helped you plan your day, your way.

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