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From jeans to satin

The couple stands at the altar. The bride is every bit the bride in her peau de soe gown, trimmed of course in alencon lace. The bridegroom is the handsome husband-to-be in his white edged-in-black tuxedo.

Together they look like the couple on the cake.

Too bad they don't look more like themselves.

The custom of wearing bridal

attire which is out of sync with the times is apparently new. In the History of American Costume, wedding gowns are repeatedly used as examples of the styles of the day, whether in 1856 or the early 1900s. Even as recently as the 20s, 30s and 40s, wedding gowns reflected the mode.

All that change can be a problem for the bride who still wants to look special without being a throwback to years gone by.

Though available gowns are beautiful and do have a certain appeal, the woman who has never worn a dress in her life, who prefers doing everything in blue jeans is not going to be comfortable in a Victorian princess silhouette gown.

Just because she wants a big wedding with all the trimmings doesn't mean she wants a gown like that.

Fortunately, some bridal gown designers have provided alternatives to the big bride look. Jersey gowns are becoming increasingly popular as are non-fussy cottons, trimmed with unobtrusive ruffles.

But more likely than not, the anti-anti-be-lum bride will have to leave the bridal salon to find the dress that's right for her.



A with-it 1976 bride might wear this gown.

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