

Viewing the bride of the '90s in 3-D

Centuries ago, the ancient Egyptians believed that the vein of love ran from the fourth finger of the left hand directly to the heart. Today, diamonds are gracing the fingers of both the bride and groom. Don't forget when selecting your diamond, know the 4C's: cut, clarity, color and carat.

These four variables determine the quality of the diamond.



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underwear, however, seems to be the return of padding to the brassiere, though much more subtly than yesterday's stand-alone bras. For all-out sex appeal, pair a dressy bra with a garter belt and stockings. These little nothings are anything but practical.

However, your lingerie investment will also get additional mileage this season. "Lingerie has come out of the boudoir," says Harriet Dunsky, owner of the Robette Shop in Waterford. Barely there, meant-to-be-seen lingerie looks for spring '92 include fluffy tulle slips, lacy little slip dresses, lace-encased bustiers, silky camisoles, satin bras and sheer body suits will dual for day and evening affairs.

◆ DIAMONDS

The magic and romance of bridal bliss begins with the engagement.

Choosing the diamond is one of the most important investments a bride and groom make. Statistics show that approximately 81 percent of all first-time brides received a "diamond" engagement ring and 75 percent of all couples choose the ring together.

Whether dropped into a glass of vintage champagne, hidden in the petals of a single red rose or nestled in a box of Cracker Jacks, it is important to become an informed consumer, before purchasing your precious gemstone.

Four variables define the quality of a diamond and are the important guidelines to romancing the stone:

Cut . . . which determines the sparkling fire of a diamond.

Color . . . effects the diamond's brilliance; the best color is no color.

Clarity . . . refers to the degree of freedom from natural internal inclusions.

Carat Weight . . . the larger the stone, the rarer and more valuable it is.

"We are selling less wedding sets and more individual rings," reports Steve Tupper of Tupper Jewelers in Southfield. "Couples are choosing either contemporary bezel rings, where the diamond is set in the ring without prongs. Also classic platinum solitaire or Tiffany settings with baguette or trillion are the two significant trends in wedding rings."

It has been noted that the choice of diamond "shape" can determine your personality. The six traditional shapes to choose from include round (or brilliant), oval, marquise, pear, emerald and heart. New to the marketplace are the princess and trillion cuts.

◆ DELIGHTS

After a year of planning, phoning, decisions and disappointments, how does a one-hour, tension-reducing, soothing European body-massage with

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