

Bridal Trends

Love & Lace



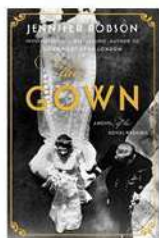
ALEXYS BERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

Wedding gown tales prove captivating

Written by **SAMMY BALDWIN**
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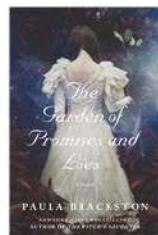


When I was a teenager, a friend and I attended a wedding expo and pretended that her dad was marrying my mom so we could take in all the glitz, glam and wedding wonder. While the cake samples were certainly tasty, my favorite part was, and has always been, the wedding dresses. Whether they are new and covered in beads or antique and adorned with lace, there's a style to fit every bride. If you're looking for some inspiration, perhaps you'll find it in the pages of one of these books.



"The Gown" by Jennifer Robson (historical fiction)

Some of the most talked about wedding dresses are those worn by royals or royals-to-be. That was no different in 1947 with the wedding of Princess Elizabeth. In 2016, we meet Heather, who inherited embroidered flowers from her grandmother, Ann, which she recognizes from Queen Elizabeth's wedding dress almost 70 years prior. Heather travels to England to learn more about Ann, and discovers plenty about herself in the process. In 1947, against the backdrop of post-war London, we follow Ann and Miriam, who are working at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell, where future Queen Elizabeth's dress was made. This is a book of friendship and secrets, which are uncovered decades later.



"The Garden of Promises and Lies" by Paula Brackston (fantasy)

This is the third installment in Brackston's "Found Things" series, a tale about a time-traveling woman named Xanthe who can sense the past of antique objects. With this power, Xanthe and her mother decide to open an antique shop called The Little Shop of Found Things. After the return of an old nemesis from the far past, Xanthe is looking for an antique to call out to her, hoping that by helping it, she could remove this nemesis from her life forever. That's when an antique wedding dress begins to sing to her at an auction, directing her back to 1815. What story does this wedding dress have to tell, and why does it need Xanthe's help?



"The Grace Kelly Dress" by Brenda Janowitz (chick lit)

We can't have a wedding dress list without mentioning Grace Kelly. Janowitz's multigenerational novel follows three women and the journey of their hand-me-down Kelly look-alike gown. Rose, a seamstress and the matriarch of the family, is originally tasked with creating the dress. So, how did she end up wearing the dress in order to pass it down? Read and find out! Her daughter Joan wears the dress as well, but wants it altered to have puffy sleeves like Princess Diana. Rocky, Joan's daughter and Rose's granddaughter, is not as eager to wear the dress, or a dress at all. The timelines of these three women weave together beautifully to make a heartwarming story of family and a lifetime of love. —places