

The Ultimate Resource for Before and After "I do"

# BLACK BRIDE

MAGAZINE

Vol. 12

Fashion Model,  
Actress, Activist

MAME  
ADJEI

ON HER ENGAGEMENT TO  
KWABANA  
SETH ODURO

Actress  
Raven Goodwin  
& Wiley Battle  
SHARE THEIR  
*love story*

*Plus*  
Couples Share  
Lessons of  
Love and Life  
AFTER THE  
AISLE

## THE FASHION ISSUE

LOOKS TO WOW ON *Your Wedding Day*



124 *Cover Story*  
A LOVE MET WITH  
PURPOSEFUL  
INTENTION  
*Mame Adjei & Kwabana Seth  
Oduro*

# BLACK BRIDE

Volume 12

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**74** *Actress Raven Goodwin shares how she met the love of her life, Wiley Battle*



**140**

**Be Your Own  
Relationship Goals:  
Create Without  
Comparison**

Cheryl Polote Williamson

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## DEAR BRIDES,

**Happy New Year!** Congrats on your engagement. Whether you are newly engaged, or you've been waiting to marry the love of your life for months or even years, we commend you for being patient, flexible, and creative as you navigate your way down the aisle. Just like 2021, 2022 is gearing up to be a very busy wedding season, and we cannot wait to see and share your love stories and the details your creative professionals design for you.

This issue is all about bridal fashion! As we continue to navigate through to a post-COVID life, we recommend working with a planner who can help you to navigate the CDC's ever-changing gathering guidelines. We also take note that there have been many changes to the world as we knew it. Part of the change helped move the industry forward and pivot into a new direction as it relates to bridal style and a desire to move past traditional white dresses with lots of tulle and sparkle. The looks in our cover story are a variety of designs from various 2022 collections that showcase classy, elegant styles suitable for everything from your bridal shower to your wedding day and beyond.

Of course, this issue is all about love, too! I sat down via Zoom with "Being Mary Jane" actress Raven Goodwin, who shared her endearing, manifested love story and intimate dream wedding with her financial executive beau, Wiley Battle, in Santorini, Greece. Also, be sure to check out the cover story featuring stunning model, actress, and activist Mame Adjei and her dapper actor fiancé Kwabana Seth Oduro. Mame is a real gem to work with — a professional that moved about like a chameleon in each look we styled for her.

As you flip through the 2021/22 winter issue, know we are so honored and excited to share Black love stories! We hope you can see your own story reflected back at you as you read about the love between real couples, and we hope you feel inspired by the work amazing wedding professionals are doing to bring your vision to life on your big day. Like all of the content we share, we curate it just for you — and I'm so excited for you to explore every page.

Cheers to love, health, and 2022!

*Mary*

**Mary Chatman**  
Editor-in-Chief

For more inspiration and wedding vendor information, visit our website at [www.BlackBride.com](http://www.BlackBride.com), follow us on Instagram [@BlackBride1998](https://www.instagram.com/BlackBride1998).

Email us at [hello@blackbride.com](mailto:hello@blackbride.com) and let us know what you think of the winter issue.



CHECK OUT OUR EDITORS' TOP PICKS FOR THE SEASON →



## How to Choose Your *Bridal* Makeup Artist

WRITTEN BY B. GANDY

**S**o, you're getting married! What an exciting time! You've booked your venue, maybe even selected your photographer and are now ready to nail down your glam squad. Between Instagram, Pinterest, and your friend group chat, I'm sure you've seen tons of looks and may even be a little overwhelmed at this point — decision making fatigue, as they call it. Here are a few tips to help you find the best Beauty Pro for you!

### **CONSIDER THE 3 PS: PROFESSIONALISM, PORTFOLIO AND PRESENTATION!**

You can find out a lot in a simple scan of a vendor's page and website. Ask yourself if what you see is the level of professionalism you would want for your big day. Then look at their portfolio to see if their work is in alignment with your style. Lastly, do they take pride in how they present themselves and their work? If so, you're heading in the right direction!



## CONSISTENCY IS KEY!

In a world of Snapchat filters, Photoshop, and edits, it may be hard to determine if an artist's work is a true reflection of their skillset. Look for consistency in the quality of looks being produced. If you're unsure, schedule a preview, and give yourself an opportunity to see the makeup in person.

## REPRESENTATION MATTERS

As WOC it's often difficult to find images of brides that look like us. With that said, you want to be sure the artist you choose for your wedding day is well versed in doing makeup for different skin tones and types. Make sure you see yourself, and women like you, present in their work.

*Do you know the difference between being a makeup artist and a bridal makeup artist?*

## E AND E

Do you know the difference between being a makeup artist and a bridal makeup artist? Experience and expertise! From logistics to crisis management and scheduling, there are many factors and scenarios that a bridal makeup artist is expected to handle that do not occur in other settings.

## REVIEWS & REFERRALS

Is it just me, or do you love to read reviews too? Formal reviews via Google and Yelp or even comments on Instagram and Facebook are all great places to go to get the inside scoop on a vendor from real clients. Of course, personal referrals are always great because they're from someone you know and trust!

## WATCH OUT FOR RED FLAGS

Did an artist send a quote with a cost that's significantly less? Is the artist inexperienced? Could they be using subpar products, or cutting corners in sanitation guidelines? What about artists who take weeks to respond to you? These are red flags you should take into consideration before booking an artist for your big day. 🚩



**Make sure you see yourself and women like you present in their work.**



Photo Credit: LaJoy Photography, Ashley Nicole Photo, Andre Brown Photography, Lorraine Dawkins Photography

**B. Gandy** is a highly sought after Luxury Bridal Makeup Artist based in Atlanta, Ga. With over 15 years of expertise in beauty, Bee has dedicated her career to creating Iconic Red Carpet Inspired Looks for Women of Color. As a leader in the industry, Bee has expanded to education and continues to raise the bar as it relates to makeup for Black Women. It is her belief that every Bride deserves to look and feel her absolute BEST on her wedding day.

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