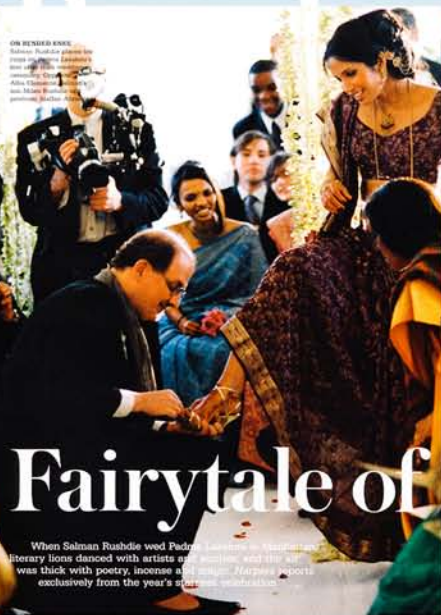


# HARPERS & Queen

JULY 2004 BRITISH EDITION £3.40



**ON BENDER KNEE**  
Salman Rushdie kneels before Padma Lakshmi as they exchange vows on their wedding day in New York City. The bride is wearing a traditional Indian sari. The groom is wearing a white kurta and a white shawl. The ceremony is taking place outdoors.

## Fairytale of New York

When Salman Rushdie wed Padma Lakshmi in Manhattan, literary lions danced with artists and families, and the night was thick with poetry, incense and magic. *Harpers & Queen* reports exclusively from the year's most magical celebration



Flash!

## Flash!



Flash!

**BEAUTIFUL HARMONY**  
Rushdie became entranced on Padma's beauty. From our night photographer's special photo gallery, we reveal the bride's look of glory in a flash.



**Y**ou could be forgiven for thinking it was a scene from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. At a smaller and more intimate ceremony than the one you might expect, Salman Rushdie and Padma Lakshmi exchanged vows in a flash of glory in a flash. The bride's look of glory in a flash was a heady event, one that would have any man who had been transformed into a Bollywood-style superstar gazing upon it with a heady smile. The bride's look of glory in a flash was a heady event, one that would have any man who had been transformed into a Bollywood-style superstar gazing upon it with a heady smile. The bride's look of glory in a flash was a heady event, one that would have any man who had been transformed into a Bollywood-style superstar gazing upon it with a heady smile.

"I married Padma not only because she is the most beautiful, funny, intelligent woman I'd met in my life, but, most of all, because she said 'yes'."  
—SALMAN RUSHDIE

literary light

## The Rushdie affair

Exclusive:  
Salman & Padma's incredible New York wedding

## Flash!



The party, the people, the place... the



Flash!

"I think the bridesmaids are downright pretty."  
—MEAN RUSHDIE

HARPERS & QUEEN

\$ 7.99



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ma is one of the major goddesses. us, Lakshmi is the goddess of prosperity. So here she is, two goddesses in one!  
—SALMAN RUSHDIE



**PHOTO: PAUL SHERIDAN**  
Padma Lakshmi in traditional Indian attire.

One m

ses and a baby...  
rley's island fantas

# Flash!

'I said to Padma, if this is your first marriage, it is definitely my last'  
SALMAN RUSHDIE

**IN TENTS FEELINGS**  
Tamara Tobil and newly-wed Padma Lakshmi in one of the cushioned chill-out tents



Momen Sameer



Wishes Sir Hanveer and Paul Auster. Above, from left: Neela Subramanian and Mami Nathan, Zadie Smith and Nick Laird.

Alan Strangell and Anne Marie. Clockwise from right: Padma Lakshmi, Padma's cousin and dancer Jill Shree, Thomman Arjun, Bruce Wagner and Eric Childers.

**SOUNDING FANTASTIC**  
• Traditional Indian songs being the centerpiece  
• Chhathpuri DJ's mix and audio tracks of classical  
• DJ Bahar's infectious Bengali beats

**BEHIND THE SCENES**  
• Rina Wynant, whose beautiful cake tasted of happiness everywhere  
• Wedding planner Mami Meen, who hired everyone from Indian whelms to jeans and Prada for Tobi's NYC

Jean and Alan Lightman and daughter Elyse. Above, from left: designer Luca Orlandi with Salman Rushdie, DJ Rekha with actress Rosario Dawson

# Flash!

'How can my Muse want subject to invent/ While thou dost breathe?' Padma's aunt Neela Subramanian read Pablo Neruda's poem 'In My Sky at Twilight,' and everyone was held spellbound as Padma's other aunt, Premia Nairan, chanted verses from the Rig-Veda. The stillness was only broken when Salman put the ring on the wrong hand and the crowd burst into spontaneous applause. Padma had tried to point out the mistake quietly, but was overheard by one onlooker who shouted: 'That's only the beginning, Salman, believe me!' He fared better when it came to the giving of the toorings, an ancient Indian tradition, in which the groom places a ring on the second toe on each of the bride's feet. 'You're great,' he said later, 'but there's actually a marriage tradition which concerns sexual pleasure? Apparently, there's an erotic pressure point on the toe next to the big toe.' When asked whether it actually had an effect, he joked, 'Well, I suppose I'll find out later tonight!'



'I love dancing, but Diane Von Furstenberg always tells me it's time to leave, and I'm like, please, just one more dance...'  
CHRISTIAN EOL BOUTIN

Authors Helen Zadie Smith with Wellesley Richard Marden and Ar

Stephen Auster. Right: Art dealer Kim Heister and Staffan Ahmberg. Above, from left: Neela Subramanian and Mami Nathan, Zadie Smith and Nick Laird.

musicians Laurie Anderson and Lou Reed

# Flash!

Someone once said it takes 50 years to raise a child. With Padma, it took a universe  
VIVIAN KASHMIR, Padma's mother



New York club scene. Any dance, from hip-hop to salsa, was on the menu. It seemed only fitting that the couple should have not just one but two first dances. The first was a slow, romantic ballad by the late, great Prince and the New Power Generation. The second was a more upbeat, energetic number by the late, great Prince and the New Power Generation. The couple danced to the music of Prince and the New Power Generation. The couple danced to the music of Prince and the New Power Generation. The couple danced to the music of Prince and the New Power Generation.

'He's renowned for the fact that he loves beautiful women - but they don't get any more beautiful than Padma.' IMAN

'They make both visceral and mystical sense together'

BRUCE WAGNER

