

# boudoir photography



PHOTOGRAPHY: This page and facing page, Claris Photography

HAIR: Amy Nicoson



## ...intimately yours by Steven Sears

I wish I could turn back the clock...September 26, 1987. My wedding day. 75 degrees, clear blue skies; the only day of the week it didn't rain.

I had just returned from delivering roses to Natoli's, the catering hall that our reception would be held at later. They were a surprise for my bride, Lucille, which would be sitting atop the head table when she sat down.

The front doorbell rang, and, there, standing in front of me, was a delivery boy holding a package. I unwrap the box, and inside is a lovely wedding album, something I had been anticipating. I open the album, and there she is—the woman who at 3:00 o'clock that afternoon would become my wife. Blonde hair, blue eyes, and white lace corset and garters...

The first two paragraphs are factual; the third, a wish. Boudoir photography is the process of a groom's fiancé scheduling a photo shoot the day of or prior to the day, taking photos in her most intimate and sexy clothing, and having those photos presented to her future husband the morning of their wedding.



“As with all fashion trends, it (boudoir) is just recently on an upswing and becoming a gift and personal memory item,” says Liesl Clark, who has owned Claris Photography in Milford, New Hampshire, for eight years. “It probably has been done at one time or another by many photographers in the industry but has not reached any attention until lately.”

“It has the potential to get people’s attention, particularly women, who want to have something special to remember themselves by.”

Boudoir photography is a definite attention getter, and goes way beyond the normal, standard wedding album a bride and groom can look at with their children years down the road.

Danielle Klein-Williams, owner of dani.fine photography in Easthampton, Massachusetts, explains.

“Brides have gotten artsier and interested in the photos telling the story of their life. On their wedding day, they’re in the greatest shape of their lives and want to show it off. Boudoir has become popular as a gift for the groom. I love it! It’s very classy. Some of the best moments of the day are right before the wedding. The anticipation, anxiety and happiness are building, and to capture those moments is a real treat.”

Cheryl Havens of Cheryl Haven’s Photography in Cookstown, New Jersey, echoes these sentiments. “What better way to give a new husband a beautiful collection of intimate boudoir images of yourself looking your absolute best as wedding gift on the night of your wedding?”

PHOTOGRAPHY: This page and facing page top left, LoLo’s Boudoir, Lone Schneider Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY: Facing page, Claris Photography

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And who initiates the idea? “I feel it is crucial to the beauty and essence of my work that a woman initiates this type of photography,” says Liesl. “I refuse to push the button if I feel in any way that my model is not “into it” or is being otherwise co-erced by someone else. The whole process of my work involves collaboration and a full comfort level from the person on the other side of my camera.”

Danielle Klein-Williams senses that comfort level so much, she often suggests it. “I can tell if it’s something the couple would be interested in. I can feel it out ahead of time.”

Trust between the photographer and the bride is a huge factor as well, and it leads to the process being much more fun. “It comes very naturally to me, as a woman and photographer,” claims Liesl. “I only shoot in a manner that makes a woman feel her most comfortable and sexy, so she has no worries or fears.”

Boudoir is one step beyond the regular wedding gift from bride to groom. Combine this passion with a passionate photographer and you’re all set for inspiration and memories for years down the road.

If only it were 1987 again...LB



