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BRIDE TO BE: PICTURING WEDDING BLISS

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Sheila knew planning a wedding would not be an easy task—especially since she and her fiancée live hundreds of miles from their parents, siblings and very best friends. But she has set aside this day to get as much planning work done as possible. First up: Sheila joins her fiancée on a video call to set up their gift registry—he dials in on his way to work, and she is logged in from home using her connected glasses to show the sales associate around their apartment. The associate gets a good sense of their style and taste, and she uses this information to help them make decisions about kitchenware, tableware, electronics, decorative knick-knacks, and even small pieces of furniture. Using her own wearable tech, the associate also suggests items that they may have missed, showing them around the store and demonstrating how products work and where they might fit in their apartment. When they have a complete list, the sales associate will upload video images of the couple talking about each item, what it means to them and why they are hoping to receive it.

Next up, Sheila meets with an event planner to tour a potential wedding venue in Hawaii. The guide is on site at the property, using wearable technology to give Sheila a “see-what-I-see” view of the venue. The view from the beach where they would exchange vows is breathtaking, although from the looks of the honeymoon suite, she and Jacob may never want to leave the room. The event manager also shares floor plans of the space available to them, using his-and-her avatars to show exactly how they will proceed through the ceremony, where they can take family photos, and how guests will move from the “I dos” to the reception for cocktails, dinner and dancing. He finishes up with a video menu, showing Sheila all the options for appetizers, entrees, desserts, specialty drinks and even a magnificent wedding cake as they are prepared, plated and served. She can’t wait to show the video to Jacob when he gets home from work that night.

Dreaming of sand and sunshine, Sheila takes a break from planning and participates in her regular Pilates class from home. She misses being able to share her happy news in person with her workout buddies, but she doesn’t really miss the sweat and smell of the exercise room. After a quick shower, she joins her bridesmaids for virtual dress fittings. The salesperson at the online bridal store is able to virtually put the dresses on each of her four closest friends, even though they are all located in different states, using measurements they sent in along with photos and video of them standing,

walking and even dancing. Sheila has already settled on a dress, but she wants to show it off to her bridesmaids, and she needs their feedback on accessories. Meanwhile, for the bridesmaid's outfits, the saleswoman suggests alternative colors and designs based on the feedback—some vocal, some based on facial expressions and subtle body language—she gets from watching the four very differently shaped women. At the end of the session, the saleswoman sends each participant a video enactment of what they will look like in the chosen dress, along with an invitation for a follow-up session for final alternations in a few weeks.

Sheila's final activity for the day is settling on a classical quartet for the ceremony and a pop band for the reception. She hits the Web to check out videos of the performers she's considering; the variety of the events they've played at amazes her, and she feels confident that the musicians she chooses will be able to curate a play list that will appeal to the four generations of guests who will attend the wedding. She downloads her two favorite videos directly to Jacob's dashboard, setting the file to play as soon as he starts the self-driving car for the ride home.

After a long day, Sheila pours herself a glass of the red wine they plan to feature at the event and works on whittling down the guest list. With the event taking place in Hawaii, she knows a lot of people won't be able to attend in person—and she smiles at the thought of them all watching from their homes and workplaces, live, via 4D video conferencing. Not only will they all be able to see everything in 4K resolution as it happens, they'll be able to smell the seashore and feel the ocean breezes as they carry Sheila and Jacob into the start of their beautiful new life together.



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