Big Fat Indian Weddings
Disclaimer

1. I am Indian (like obviously)
2. These are stereotypical depictions of the Indian society
   a. But.. Stereotypes are often founded in empirical wisdom
3. I am far detached from this and acknowledge my privilege
4. Not here to make light of the societal “challenges”
Background

- Segregation of the sexes
- Parental oversight (overreach?)
- Large joint families
  - Often under one roof
- “Honour”
Stage I: Dropping Hints
How aunties jump to conclusions after hearing a gossip about you

Privacy? What privacy?

I grew up in a desi family, we all are in everyone’s business all the time
Stage II: Pestering

- Relentless inquiry to find out if you’re seeing someone
- Meaningful looks and sighs
- Random aunties asking uncomfortable questions
- Even worse: you dad asks you about your GF/BF 😞 😞 😞
- Younger siblings recruited to spy
Stage III: Despair and Resignation

When your mom forcefully takes you to a wedding

You will get married before 30 or else

And then sees eligible bachelors everywhere

Roses are red, violets are blue

You have an arranged marriage waiting for you
Stage IV: Formation of a Search Committee

1. Association of Bored Aunties and Uncles
2. Create accounts on matrimonial websites
3. Calculate Dowry
4. Arrange headshots
Stage V: Screening Process

1. Define (reasonable) search parameters
   a. Income
   b. Family income
   c. Caste etc.
   d. Colour of skin
   e. Citizenship
   f. Education
   g. School attended
      i. IIT > BITS > NIT >>>> rest
      ii. IIM above everything else
      iii. IIT + IIM = 😍
   h. Number of siblings
Stage VI: In-Person Interviews*

* Chaperoned. By extended families from both sides. Obviously. Like Duh!
Stage VII: “Dates” a.k.a getting to know him/her better *

* Not in the biblical sense
Stage VIII: Finalizing the Contract
(Engagement or roka ceremony)
Wedding Week
Sangeet 🎉🎉🎉
Mehendi (Henna) ceremony
Mehendi (Henna) ceremony
Wedding Day : T-16 hours

- **Haldi (Turmeric Ceremony)**
  - To Keep Buri Nazar (Evil Eye) Away
  - Auspiciousness of this ingredient and its colour ushers in a life of prosperity for the couple
  - For Beautification
    - Makeshift Fair & Lovely

Also has lots of song and dance
Wedding Day: T-12 hours

- Pagri (Turban) tying & Tilak
Wedding Day: T-10 hrs (Baraat)
Wedding Day: T-10 hrs (Baraat)
Wedding Day: T- 8 hrs (Varmaala)
Wedding Day: T- 6 hrs

Awkward dances

Awkward meet and greet

Awkward photo sessions
Wedding Day: T- 6 hrs

Awkward dances

Awkward meet and greet

Awkward photo sessions
Actual Wedding Rituals

-  Kanya Daan (ughh)
-  Vivah Homa : The sacred fire is lit 🔥
-  Pani Grahan: groom takes the bride's hand as a sign of their union
-  Walking around the fire (saptapadi)
Meanwhile...
Finding the bottom of the cash pile
Isha Ambani

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpQ-JQCID5Q

Total Cost: $110 Million

Cost of the dress: 1,208,475,000.00 CAD

Guests: Clintons, Indian PM, BEYONCE
Go get drunk now

Off with y’all

Follow the ABC
(Adam : Beer Czar)