



Alta... churi... feeta

Always a bride, never a wife.
Always a dream; never a reality!
The quintessential Bengali belle is no longer here, yet her unmistakable image is so deeply impregnated in our minds and imaginations, we fail over and over again to shrug away and dissociate with that romantic notion, which may just be a label and nothing more.

The belle is a likeness of the goddess to romantics; a literary or visual imagery handed over generation after generation of writers, novelists, painters and sculptors, not to mention the roadside Romeos! Times have changed, yet the look of a quintessential girl is the exact same — taant, alta, churi, feeta...

Eons have passed since a girl from the metropolis has wandered around fields so vast that it meets the sky at the horizon. From the stories heard on a rainy day, she imagines the company of a duckling, Hashu, no more than a week old. Her feet dyed with alta, the hue in the brightest shade of red that promises prosperity, and shuns away all pessimism and negativity — an unfortunate reality of our urban existence.

She has a payel wrapped around the webbed feet; a token of love Nitu's granny had put around her tiny feet the very day she was born, a decade ago!

Nitu too has put alta using a Q-tip along the sides of her feet; wore a silver anklet that chimes with every step. Yet, all she knows is to run like the wind, Hashu, comforted by the warmth of her palms and Jori, her faithful billy-goat, hopping and leaping just for the heck of it.

They are all set on adventure, one that ends as one meets the blue sky at the end of the earth, in the horizon!

The warmth comforting palms of Nitu makes Hashu feel at ease. On her two tiny hands Nitu wears bangles, churi...reshmi churi that shines in a riot of colours as the sunbeams bounces off them.

The possibilities are endless — a myriad shade of green lends a positive vibe, which can easily be subsided by the flamboyance of dazzling reds; or subdued in shades of grey!

Model: Arpita
Wardrobe: Bibiana

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