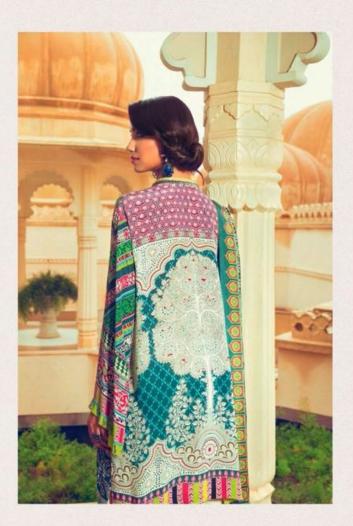


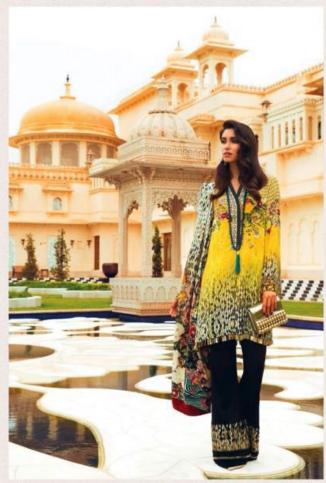
BADA MAHAL



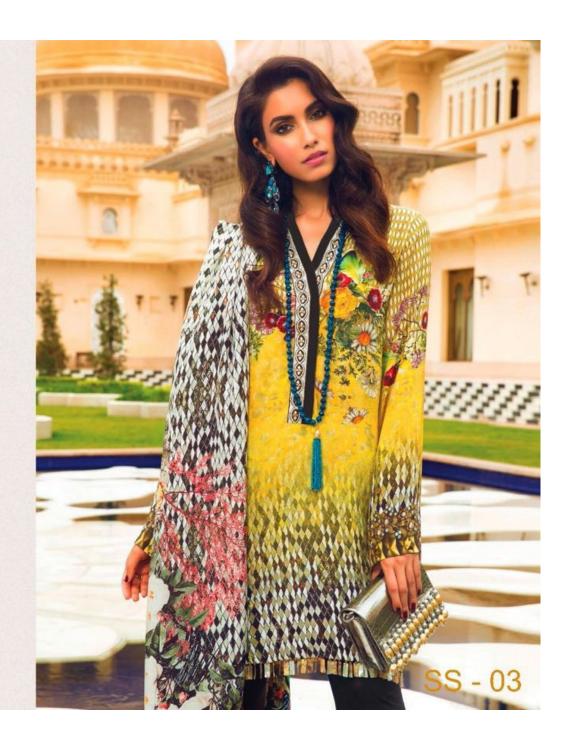
I walk through to the 'Bada Mahal', a structure built by the erstwhile Maharana as a hunting lodge for recreation and animal sightings to view the beautiful birds. The stone steps lead to an open courtyard from where I can watch deer and the emerald feathered birds being fed.



ROYAL SS-03 Corus



One of the bearers comes to inform me that dinner is ready, and it will be served at Surya Mahal, where my cousins wait for me. I start making my way towards the grand hall, so as to not make them wait any longer, and remember 'there's going to be Dal Baati for dinner. I laugh at the thought that if most people were to hear that the Maharani wants to have something as common that I have something as common that



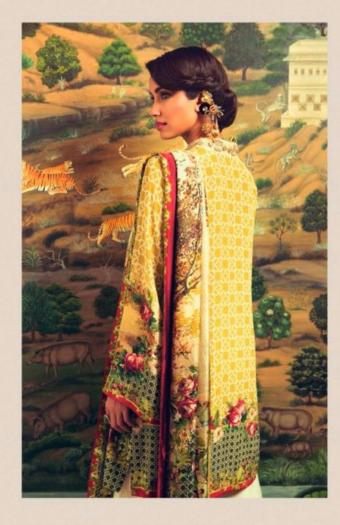
TEXTILE DEAI



Walking towards the car I see hordes of people surrounding the family's red 1950 Pontiac Catalina. It was my father's first and favorite car, and now it's my favorite too.







Having resided the last few years away from home, I find my taste being unfairly influenced by the nostalgia of my childhood in Udaipur.

The innocence of a time when I was naïve and unaware of exactly who I was, and what I was being groomed for.





The Udaipur sun glares in the afternoon, as I am lead through the courtyard, shaded by an umbrella; I feel the shade of the entire dynasty upon my shoulders.



I pace by the sundials, water bodies, lush foliage and a series of cottages to reach my own oasis where numerous servants attend me. The wide arched window views the craggy peaks of the mountain range. As I gaze upon the mountains, I find myself lost in thoughts about the City Palace Museum, and our latest restoration project, when suddenly I am pulled out of my mediations by the glorious sound of peacocks calling.

SS - 05