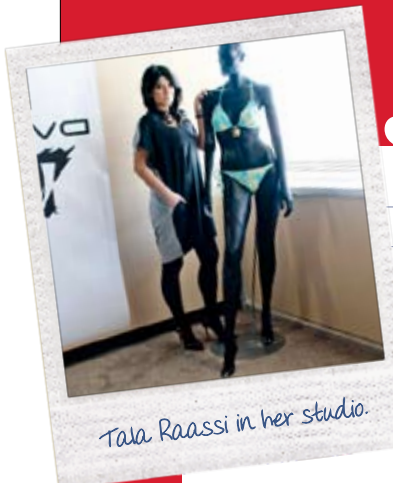


Joanna's JOURNAL



Tala Raassi in her studio.

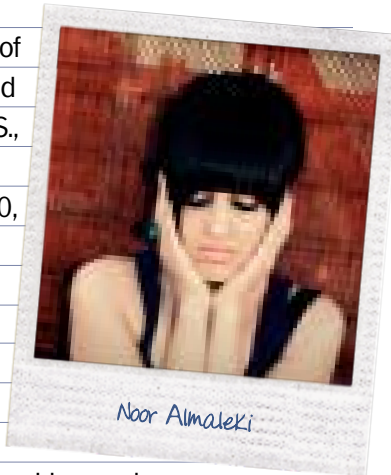
■ **I sometimes feel** that a story is over once the magazine's on sale, but as you continually show us, a *Marie Claire* story takes on a life of its own once it's in your hands. We were reminded of this when **Tala Raassi**, the extraordinary Iranian-American woman we profiled in the May

issue, came to visit our offices recently. Tala received 40 lashes on her 16th birthday for the crime of wearing a mini-skirt in a private home; after the beating, she moved to the U.S., where she was determined to become a designer, because to her, fashion now means freedom. After her story appeared, Tala was flooded with e-mails and calls. Even Donald Trump took notice and suggested that she design the swimwear for this year's Miss Universe pageant. Not usually on my DVR, it will be top of the list this month.



Wearing my new favorite cuff. Check it out at nadasaway.com.

■ **A story in this issue** I hope will catch fire is about the shocking arrival of **honor killings in America** (p. 98). We have all heard the stories from abroad about women being murdered for "shaming" their families. But in the U.S., the few reported cases of honor crimes have gone largely unremarked. *MC's* Abigail Pesta flew to Arizona to learn the story of **Noor Almaleki**, 20, killed by her father. *MC* has also teamed up with Human Rights Watch in a campaign to renew the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which funds lifesaving domestic-violence shelters for women but expired in 2008. To lend support, go to marieclaire.com/honorkillings.



Noor Almaleki

■ **Now for the serious stuff:** At the recent *Marie Claire* Paris conference, I learned many things from the editors of our 35 editions around the globe, and solved one of the world's greatest mysteries: How do French women get such great skin? I found the answer in **Dr. Alain Butnaru**, who smothered me with vitamin C and a plaster mask (see left). I am now fluent in the international language of antiaging. Send us *your* beauty secrets at marieclaire.com/beautytips.



With my colleagues Nancy Berfer Cardone and Diane DePaul in Paris.

■ **OK, now talk to me!** Whatever concerns you, tickles you, or ticks you off about *Marie Claire*, I'd love to know. Bear with us if you don't hear back immediately.

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