

# NORTH OF BOSTON WEDDINGS



## TWO SOULS, ONE HEART

A GUIDE TO PLANNING  
A DREAM DAY TO USHER IN  
YOUR ETERNITY

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INSIDE**

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# NORTH OF BOSTON WEDDINGS

## ON THE COVER

Emily Naaktgeboren and Alex Lannan share a kiss under the flurries. The couple, also pictured above, embraced the probability of snow for their February 14, 2014 wedding. Read more about their big day on Page 36.

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Photo by AMY SWEENEY

# COUNTDOWN

## SCHEDULE FOR A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION

### BEGINNINGS

- ▶ Discuss finances with everyone contributing to the event and set a budget.
- ▶ Set the date and ceremony/reception locations.
- ▶ Establish a guest list.
- ▶ Start thinking about the style and theme of your wedding.
- ▶ Start shopping for a gown.

### 6 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE

- ▶ Mail out Save-the-Dates.
- ▶ Interview and book your vendors; don't forget to get a signed contract.
- ▶ Choose your attendants; shop for their dresses.
- ▶ Order your stationery.
- ▶ Start looking into honeymoon locales.
- ▶ Register for gifts.

### 4 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE

- ▶ Book your hair/makeup help.
- ▶ Plan the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.

- ▶ Shop for wedding bands.
- ▶ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for your guests.
- ▶ Finalize your honeymoon plans.

### 2 TO 4 MONTHS BEFORE

- ▶ Buy attendants' gifts.
- ▶ Get the men's fashions in order.
- ▶ Choose readings/music for the ceremony.
- ▶ Check marriage-license requirements.
- ▶ Meet with your caterer to discuss menu and drinks.
- ▶ Order the cake.
- ▶ Pick out favors.
- ▶ Plan and shop for welcome bags.
- ▶ Arrange party rentals, if necessary.
- ▶ Book your wedding-night room.

### 4 TO 8 WEEKS BEFORE

- ▶ Mail out your invites.
- ▶ Do a hair/makeup run-through.
- ▶ Discuss insurance/bank account

changes you'll need to make.

- ▶ Send ceremony programs, reception menu and place cards to be printed.

### 2 TO 4 WEEKS BEFORE

- ▶ Submit a shot list to your photographer and setlist to your DJ.
- ▶ Finalize the seating chart and prepare escort/place cards.
- ▶ Confirm details with your vendors.
- ▶ Get your final dress fitting.

### 1 WEEK BEFORE

- ▶ Give your caterer the final head count.
- ▶ Pick up your dress; break in your shoes.
- ▶ Pack for your honeymoon.
- ▶ Organize your payments and decide who will distribute them.

### 1 DAY BEFORE

- ▶ Get a mani-pedi.
- ▶ Enjoy the rehearsal and dinner.
- ▶ Get plenty of sleep.

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# THE DETAILS: GIFTS

5 MODERN WONDERS OF THE WEDDING REGISTRY

The wedding registry is one of the parts of planning a wedding that can be really fun for the couple. It's a glorified Christmas list, really.

But at the same time, you're telling people what to buy you. Weird?

Don't sweat it. Guests are prepared to open up their wallets.

According to the latest American Express Spending & Saving Tracker, wedding guests will spend \$109, on average, on a gift. It all depends on how they know the couple. Close friends will spend \$116. Close family members, \$200. Co-workers, \$74.

The takeaway: Your nearest and dearest want to gift you something great. So, guide them with a few updated items for the modern registry. They're less linen-y and more electronic. And if they seem a bit of the steep side, that's all right. Your family and friends will appreciate being able to go in on something (as long as they're not the one who has to put it all together!).

## LINENS AND TOWELS? SO LAST CENTURY

Today, your guests want to gift you the latest gadgets and high-end kitchen appliances



### IPAD

Yes, you can put a tablet on your registry. It's super useful around the home. In the kitchen, use it to follow recipes as you and your new spouse try out recipes. In the living room, stream Netflix. Or, more to the wedding point, use it to browse and share all of your favorite wedding photos. Plus, it's an easy group gift for your younger friends who might not get excited about gifting you something like place settings.

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### HIGH-TECH HI-FI

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**SodaStream Source - \$99**



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## COOKWARE

You want to upgrade the starter pots and pans, but you also don't want spend every night hand-scrubbing stainless steel cookware. This Calphalon Contemporary Unisons Slide & Sear set fits the bill. The pieces in this nonstick set feature one of two different finishes. The "Slide" finish is extra smooth for easy release of sticky dishes like omelettes and sauces. The "Sear" finish is textured for searing and browning meats, seafood and veggies. It's safe on all cooking surfaces, but cleanup is the real clincher: Unlike most nonstick cookware, the Unison set is completely dishwasher-safe, which might make doing the dishes, not cooking dinner, the desired task in your new house.

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# Here's why the 'off-season' has never been more on

Summer has long been the go-to wedding season, but it may be losing its luster. More and more, couples are trading in those warm June weekends for the crisp air of autumn or the beautiful lilacs of spring.

According to the results of the 2014 American Wedding Study, the annual survey by BRIDES magazine, May is now the most popular month to get married, having surpassed June, which now is tied for second with September and October.

Even winter slowly is gaining ground. According to The Knot.com's 2013 Real Weddings Study, 7 percent of couples got married during the winter months in 2013, up from 5 percent in 2012.

There are many factors that have contributed to this shift in trend, not the least of which are cost and availability. Over the course of summer's long-standing popularity, venues became more challenging to nail down, and vendors became more expensive overall.

Lisbeth Levine, co-author of "The Wedding Book" (Workman Publishing Co., 2008) warns that a summer wedding will cost you. "There is so much competition for 10 weekends, really," Levine says. "You're not going to have any room for negotiation. You're going to be paying top dollar for any of the summer weekends."

Levine also points out that couples generally have to start planning summer weddings much farther in advance to get what they want in terms of venue, florist, photography and catering. In addition to the cost savings, sometimes an off-season wedding can



mean better vendor availability.

"By having your wedding in April instead of June, you're much more likely to get your first choice of photographer and the venue," explains Levine. "Having a wedding in one of the slower seasons lets you get your top choices in more categories."

Additionally, couples have to think about their guests and bridal parties. It's important to choose a time when the most people are likely to be available and when hotels and travel won't cost a fortune.

"People are on such different schedules over the summer,"

Levine says. "And I think hotel availability is tight and tends to be higher-priced for guests, depending on location."

Weather always is a factor, too, and different parts of the country have different considerations. Summer can be too hot and humid in some areas and beautiful in others. Spring can be cool and lovely, or it could bring those pesky April showers.

Some couples simply prefer particular themes that go with other seasons — the pastels of spring or the deep hues of fall, for example.

Caili Helsper of Caili Helsper Photography in Chicago, says

that May is her busiest month, followed closely by September and October. And although spring is busy, Helsper says that spring weddings are her favorite.

"Everything is starting to get colorful but still has that softness to it," Helsper says. "I tend to like muted tones and soft colors. The combination of soft, flowering trees and beige grasses turning green is my favorite backdrop for portraits."

The winter, although the weather can be dicey, does offer fantastic possibilities for theme weddings. "Winter weddings are not for the faint of heart, but they

pay off every time,” Helsper says. “Some of my favorite bride and groom portraits have been taken in the middle of a light snowstorm.”

But perhaps the biggest “new” season is fall. Tonya Evans, owner of Occasional Flowers in Herndon, Virginia, says that her bookings absolutely have indicated a change in seasonal preference.

“October has become huge,” says Evans. “I think the advantage to the fall is hopefully you can still have that outdoor wedding. There’s a lot of the foliage around here that’s changing that makes for a really beautiful outdoor wedding.”

According to Evans, many fall floral themes are very popular, too. She says flowers like dahlias and ranunculus are extremely in demand, and they’re easily accessible in the fall. She also has noticed a general shift in aesthetic trends in the industry in general.

“I don’t just see it around me. You look in wedding magazines and you see all these weddings that have all this birch and burlap, and it’s a rustic barn or an



outdoor vineyard, and it just seems like it lends itself to that time of the year,” Evans says.

Budget, vendor availability and seasonal themes all play a role in the decision of when to get married. But perhaps most important

is a general desire of couples to really make their wedding unique and reflective of their style.

“I think that a lot of couples are looking at wedding planning as an opportunity to share with their guests what makes

them unique, and that includes the time of year that they wed,” Helsper says. “Just as your invites and florals help tell your story, I think that the season sets the tone for all the details to fall in line.”



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# #SocialWedding

## WEBSITES CHANGING TRADITIONS

In just a few short years, social media has completely changed the way weddings are planned – and celebrated. In fact, social media has become the No. 1 way for brides-to-be to connect with wedding brands and products, according to the 2014 American Wedding Study from BRIDES magazine.

A new #SocialWeddingSurvey from The Knot and Mashable (the first was released in 2012) further illustrates social's growing impact. Here's a look at some of the latest social stats:

### Status Update

According to the BRIDES survey, after sharing their engagement news with close family and friends, 71 percent changed their social-media status to "engaged." Further, 59 percent posted a ring pic to social networks, and 46 percent shared their news on social media. To keep guests up to date throughout the planning process, 37 percent of brides-to-be post photos and updates from cake tastings and other vendor visits.

The Knot/Mashable survey found that 28 percent of couples changed their Facebook relationship status within hours of getting engaged. After the wedding, one-third of couples will change their status the next day.

### Planning a Wedding? There's an App for That

Nearly 9 in 10 (89 percent) of couples download wedding-planning apps on their smartphones,

Bride and groom selfie



according to The Knot/Mashable survey. The top categories:

- 19 percent – mobile checklist apps
- 15 percent – organizational apps
- 13 percent – budgeting apps
- 12 percent – countdown apps

Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of brides-to-be use an app to plan/shop for the wedding, according to the BRIDES survey

### Pinterest Reigns Supreme

According to the BRIDES survey:

■ 67 percent of brides-to-be pin content on Pinterest, up from 43 percent in 2012

■ 64 percent pin content to come back to/purchase or execute their wedding plans

■ 54 percent share Pinterest boards with their vendors

The Knot/Mashable survey found that 70 percent of brides-to-be pinned to a wedding board before getting engaged

### #HASHTAGS — Yes or No?

Today, 55 percent of couples use a wedding hashtag, up from less than 10 percent just two years ago,

according to The Knot/Mashable survey.

The Photo-Sharing Situation According to The Knot/Mashable Survey:

■ 57 percent of couples are OK with guests posting wedding photos to Facebook and Instagram

■ 35 percent have mixed feelings about what their guests share

■ 8 percent do not like photo-sharing because they want to control what is public.

According to the BRIDES survey, 11 percent of couples institute a social media ban and ask guests not to post photos to social sites.



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## All About the Head Table – and Then Some

Incorporate **simple, stylish décor tricks** alongside a few high-impact areas to create a wedding space that looks ultra luxe – even on a modest budget

**T**he oldest trick for saving money on your wedding flowers and décor is to make blooms play double-duty for both the reception and the party.

Well, it's time for some new tricks.

“Most couples have heard that they should bring ceremony flowers and ribbons to the reception to place on the head table,” says Jessica Swagman, owner of JS Weddings and Events in Grand Rapids, Michigan. “But it's also a good idea to make the head table a little more dressed up than, the guest tables since it's the focal point of the party.”

By focusing on the head table, and incorporating simple yet still stylish centerpieces and table décor for the rest of the room, you can create a wedding that perfectly suits you – and your budget. Here's how.

Think Through Your Flowers

Since you're most likely planning your wedding during a different season than it will take place, floral designer Susan Tom-Nellis, owner of Peony & Plum



Floral Design in Los Angeles, says research which flowers will be in season at the time of your wedding to avoid paying top dollar. Plus, if you're having an outdoor wedding, think about how flowers will hold up by the time you get to the reception. "Just because you see something on Pinterest or online doesn't mean it will be good for your wedding venue or the time of year you're getting married," Tom-Nellis notes.

Swagman suggests purchasing flowers from a wholesaler to save, in addition to replacing some centerpiece flowers with other natural elements. "Greenery is inexpensive and adds more to the table than bouquets and vases. I always suggest a table runner of greenery on the head table; it doesn't have to go the whole table length, maybe just along the bride and groom," she says. "Adding branches is stylish, too, as well as inexpensive. Olive branches are massive, so you can get so much out of one single stem of a branch. Eucalyptus also makes a big statement." Tom-Nellis adds



Design by Jessica Swagman, Photo by Andrew Ingma

that mercury glass, candles, lanterns, tree logs or beds of grass or flowers instead of traditional centerpieces can save money and add

personality.

If flowers aren't your thing, wedding planner Colette Lopez, owner of La Fete Weddings in

Santa Barbara, California, says you can still create visual impact. "Instead of having traditional flowers right in the middle of the

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This page and opposite: Design by Susan Tom-Nellis, Photo by Jasmine Star Photography

table, we may put something in between the tables like a tree or another elegant element,” she says.

### Build Around the Centerpiece

While centerpieces are often thought of as the item on guest tables, Swagman says the details around it can stand out. “Menus are a really fun way to make an impact on the guest tables. You can create an envelope with the napkin and place the menu inside it, tuck a flower next to it, and then place the whole thing on the place setting,” she says.

If you’re skipping menus, adding embellishments such as ribbons, bracelets and brooches to the napkins or getting creative with place cards are other options. “We’ve even seen some chocolate place cards that were a hit,” Lopez says.

### Get the favors in on the charm, too

“Putting them on the table rather off to the side adds another

décor element. You’re kind of getting two for one,” Swagman says.

### Charm with Chairs

Seating the bride and groom in higher-end chairs or ones with a higher back is sure to grab attention. “You can also do the same for the entire head table to set them apart from other guests,” Lopez notes. Sticking with standard chairs decorated with sashes and other embellishments from the ceremony may be a less expensive option, too. “One wedding we worked on, we had monogrammed chairbacks that were placed along the ceremony aisle and then we put them all around the head table chairs for the reception to not only get use out of them again, but to add that extra personalization,” says Lopez.

### Mix It Up

If there’s a flower or particular décor you just can’t do without, Lopez suggests incorporating it into some areas, but not others. Not only will you get what you want, but you’ll also make an



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impression on guests. "We recommend not making every table the same so that when guests walk into the space they see different heights and styles on the tables," she says.

Lopez usually mixes in three to five different styles. For instance, setting the head table with a contrasting colored linen or one with a different fabric than the rest of the tables can set it apart and help with cost. "We might put a real expensive linen on the head table to add texture and then put less expensive linens on guest tables. They'll complement each other, so you really notice the difference in colors and texture," explains Lopez, noting that you can vary linens throughout all the tables for impact.

Same is true with flowers. "To cut the cost of flowers, we might add tall wrought iron chandeliers with flowers around the base on some tables and large pillar candles in hurricanes with flowers in a wreath around the glass on other tables," explains Lopez.

Tom-Nellis says contrasting the entire color scheme of the ceremony from the reception can



make a big impact. "We might have all white flowers or lighter tones and décor at ceremony and go with colorful décor at the reception, or vice versa. It sets the two apart," she says.

### Look up!

Give your guests a break from table décor by drawing their

attention to the ceiling. "Some couples put a majority of their décor budget into the ceiling so that guests are wowed as soon as they walk into the venue," says Lopez. Besides chandeliers, try hanging lanterns, fabric designs, glass globes, frames or flowers, she says.

Tom-Nellis warns that hanging

décor can be difficult and costly to install and suggests selecting certain speciality tables to hang things above, like the head table, gift table, dessert table and cake table.

No matter your taste or budget, with a little preparation you can create the wedding atmosphere of your dreams. //



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in the season's impossibly exciting bridal gowns

**R**eady to fall in love? The fresh-off-the-runway 2015 bridal collections offer fresh, feminine updates on the white dress. With new takes on necklines and backs, fabrications, silhouettes and embellishments, designers have upped the ante for savvy brides who've clicked and pinned their way through previous seasons' collections.

"Now with social media, brides see everything that's out there all the time, and they really want something unique," says Terry Hall, fashion director of New York City-based retailer Kleinfeld Bridal. "They've done their homework, and they know what they're looking for."

On brides' wish lists: Beautiful layers of lace, pretty pastel colors as an alternative to white and ivory, and vintage glamour in the form of shimmery embroidery.

"The overall feeling was extremely feminine, ethereal, soft and romantic," says Diane Forden, editor-in-chief of Bridal Guide magazine, of the spring shows. "I think designers are getting a bit more daring. Brides want to be not only elegant and romantic, but sexy."

To that end, glamorous dresses with plunging necklines, slits and low backs add just the right amount of sizzle, while intricate layers of tulle and lace are equally sweet and show stopping. Subtle embellishments in small crystal details, sequins, or gold and silver embroideries dress up gowns in an unexpected ways that feel both runway and wedding. "Brides



Val Stefani Style D8084



Winnie Couture Style Emilina



Ti Adora by Alvia Valenta



Melissa Sweet Style

want their red carpet moment, but they still want to look bridal,” Hall adds.

## Illusion Necklines and Backs

A higher neckline with an illusion top – a sheer layer of fabric often adorned with lace or crystals – is an emerging look for 2015, says Omid Moradi, CEO of bridal and evening wear designer Faviana. Adds Abby Larson, founder and editor of the popular wedding blog Style Me Pretty: “Brides are looking to leave something to the imagination with a subtle, sheer neck.”

But turn around, and some styles are even lovelier from the rear view. In the newest collections, backs are especially exciting and creative, with subtly draped jewels, alluring panels of sheer netting or delicate lace in intricate patterns that give the ethereal effect of stained glass. “Backs are every bit as interesting, or more so, than the front. Once she turns around, it’s a ‘wow’ dress,” says Bridal Guide’s Forden.



Eugenia Couture Style 3944 Rose



Claire Pettibone Style Raphaella



Ti Adora by Alvina Valenta

## Short and Separates

From detachable skirts to of-the-moment crop tops, brides looking to make a statement are experimenting with convertible dresses and two-piece ensembles. “It’s an edgier bride who wants to be a little different, a bit out of the box, a bit modern – she’s not afraid to be daring and avant-garde,” Hall says of the separates look. A trendy two-piece can be ultra fashionable; think recent celebrity brides like Ashlee Simpson, who wore a boho-chic long-sleeve lace crop top and full lace skirt by Houghton Bride, or style maven Olivia Palermo, who paired a Carolina Herrera cream cashmere sweater with coordinating shorts (yes, shorts!) and a full tulle skirt.

For the slightly more risk averse, a convertible dress – for instance, with a detachable skirt that can be worn long for the ceremony, then shortened for the reception) can be more affordable than buying two separate looks. Or it’s the perfect excuse to do a quick change – after the vows,



Winnie Couture Style Marylou



Melissa Sweet Style MS251082



Watters Brides gown



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brides are slipping into something short to cut the cake and dance in. "At one time it was only the poufy tulle skirt for the entire night; now we're seeing a shift that the bride wants to comfortable," Moradi says.

## All About That Lace

It's a royal look favored by classic brides like Kate Middleton, whose Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen gown featured French Chantilly and English Cluny lace, and just about every designer is featuring clever touches of lace in their newest styles. "It was so ethereal and beautiful; they really did just float down the runway," Forden says of the latest lace dresses.

It's exactly that light-as-air feeling that appeals to brides.

"Brides want lighter dresses, they want to be comfortable ... they want to dance and move and look great, and not wrinkle," adds Hall, who names laser-cut lace as a modern fresh option for its ability to be made in any pattern. A hot trend for spring is mixing lace, like Chantilly over Alençon lace. At Kleinfeld, brides are requesting lace overlays -- for instance, a fitted lace bolero to wear over a gown for a more conservative ceremony, which can then be removed for a strapless look at the reception. "In wedding world we've seen a shift back to formality, and the rise of lace overlays embodies that idea perfectly," Larson notes.

The lace look also layers beautifully with



### Moonlight Couture Style H1277

other dreamy fabrics like tulle, adorned with hints of sequins, metallic embroidery or small crystals that add an unexpected touch of shine that most might not expect in a wedding gown.

## Beyond White

Shades of soft champagne, blush and icy blue have peeked into bridal for the past several seasons, and designers are continuing

to experiment with color whether it's an all-over treatment, or in details like beading and embroidery. "I think we're going to continue seeing brides step out of the white dress box with soft shades of mint, blush, mauve and metallic. While white surely isn't going out of style, modern brides are open to playing with color and bending tradition," Larson says. For those hesitant to wear head-to-toe color, options now about to add just a peek -- for example, colored lace, in shades like light green and blue, and metallic embroidery done in gold and silver, dress up bridal gowns in refreshingly modern ways.

## Armed and Fabulous

Moving away from the ubiquitous strapless look of past seasons, 2015 is all about the sleeve, be it full-length sleeves, cap sleeves, of three-quarter sleeves. "It seemed like every dress had some sort of sleeve, whether it was off the shoulder or a cap sleeve, whereas in past seasons 90 percent strapless," Hall says. The inspiration for the off-the-shoulder look: recent bride Amal Alamuddin, who wore a sophisticated French lace off-the-shoulder gown by Oscar de la Renta for her wedding to George Clooney. "I think it's all about Amal right now, she's the new It girl for the moment. I've had brides call me every day asking for a dress like that since the wedding," Hall says of the soft silhouette.



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Bow back  
from Frill  
Clothing



Sky Blue English net A-line bridesmaid gown with a  
sheer halter sweetheart neckline from Alvina Valenta  
Maids



Satin V-neck dress with wrap front bodice, draped straps and self-tie back from White by Vera Wang



Alvina Valenta Maids



Keyhole back from Noir by Lazaro



Keyhole back from Alvina Valenta Maids



Alvina Valenta Maids



Black chiffon A-line gown, gathered bodice, cut out back with strap detail from Jim Hjelm Occasions

# Real Weddings

**Emily Naaktgeboren  
and Alex Lannan**  
Feb. 15, 2014  
Ipswich Country Club, Ipswich



## Summer Splendor

Exchanging vows amid  
sun and sea

Page 28

## Winter Wonderland

Couple embraces chilly  
February for cozy wedding

Page 36

# *Real Weddings*

Kristen Curcuru  
and Scott Parisi

August 9, 2014

Gloucester



Kristen Curcuru met Scott Parisi  
in college in 2007 through  
mutual friends.



# SUMMER LOVING

## THE BRIDE

Kristen Curcuro, 26, Medical Assistant, Gloucester

## THE GROOM

Scott Parisi, 27, Nurseryman, Gloucester

## DATE

August 9, 2014

## HOW THEY MET

In college in 2007 through mutual friends

## THE PROPOSAL

Christmas 2012, while decorating their Christmas tree. "It was very personal and it included a bottle of Korbel to celebrate," Kristin Parisi said.

## THE RING

Vintage-styled, platinum .85 carat center, 1 carat total weight from Joseph Gann jewelers in Boston. Scott went to pick it out with Lisa (bride's sister) after he unloaded a big truck full of Christmas trees at his job at Wolf Hill in Ipswich

## EARLY PLANNING

After a slow start, the big picture items came together quickly after lots of thinking. "Asking friends for recommendations and actually going out to visit places



Koozies bearing the wedding date served as both favors and napkin rings at the reception.

and meet people really helped. You can only learn so much from behind a computer," Parisi said. "Our photographer and DJ we met at two of our friends' weddings."

## APPROXIMATE COST OF CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

\$20,000

## WHO PAID

Some help from both the

bride's and groom's parents, but mostly the bride and groom.

## THE BRIDAL PARTY

Lisa Drinkwater (Matron of honor and sister), Marissa Curcuro (sister in law), Lia Parisi (groom's sister), Brianna Ellis (friend), Diane Curcuro (friend), Lyn Chadder (friend)

Jeff Drinkwater (Best man, husband of Lisa), Philip, John and Nick Curcuro (bride's brothers),

Anthony Curcuro (friend), Tom Waldron (friend), Brandon Burke (friend)

## THE INVITATIONS

WeddingPaperDivas.com had the casual beachy look we were going for.

## COLOR SCHEMES

Blue and Green. "Our favorite colors and they look great together," Parisi said.

By GAIL MCCARTHY • Photos by BAREFOTOS PHOTOGRAPHY

Kristen Curcuru with her bridesmaids: Lisa Drinkwater (Matron of honor and sister), Marissa Curcuru (sister in law), Lia Parisi (groom's sister), Brianna Ellis (friend), Diane Curcuru (friend), Lyn Chadder (friend).



Groom Scott Parisi hams it up with the groomsmen: Jeff Drinkwater (Best man, husband of Lisa), Philip, John and Nick Curcuru (bride's brothers), Anthony Curcuru (friend), Tom Waldron (friend), Brandon Burke (friend).







Kristen and Scott Parisi pose outside the schooner office. The ceremony was held on the Schooner Thomas E. Lannon just off Ten Pound Island with Robert Whyntott as the officiant.

## BRIDE'S DRESS

Lace, backless, sweetheart neckline from David's Bridal. "First selection of all our wedding planning," Parisi said. [davidsbridal.com](http://davidsbridal.com)

## ATTENDANT DRESSES

Navy Blue Cotton from David's Bridal. Crisscross neck and pockets. "More casual and perfect for our boat rides," Parisi said. [davidsbridal.com](http://davidsbridal.com)

## GROOM AND GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS

Rental from Men's Wearhouse. Charcoal with no coats for the groomsmen because of the heat of August. Navy blue Sperry Topsider boat shoes for the casual boat theme. [menswearhouse.com](http://menswearhouse.com)

## ACCESSORIES

Beach-glass bracelet and green clutches. Fun socks and Sperry Topsider for groomsmen. Bridesmaid and groomsmen Koozies for the boat rides.

## BRIDAL PARTY HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Lia Giacaleone, Event Glamour [eventglamour.com](http://eventglamour.com)

## FLOWERS

Blue and Green Hydrangeas. Rope wrapped tins made by the bride for the centerpieces. Kristyn Chafe, Wolf Hill Home & Garden Center, Ipswich [wolfhillhomeandgardencenter.com](http://wolfhillhomeandgardencenter.com)

## THE CAKE

A three tiered raspberry champagne flavor with navy blue accent ribbon, and two sail boats on top. Cakes by Sonja, Sonja Doucette, Gloucester [home.comcast.net/~sonja\\_doucette/site/?/home/](http://home.comcast.net/~sonja_doucette/site/?/home/)

## FAVORS

Koozies from Totally Promotional [totallypromotional.com](http://totallypromotional.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Barefotos Photography, Liz and Dan. "We met them at Diane and Anthony Curcuru's wedding the year before and we really liked



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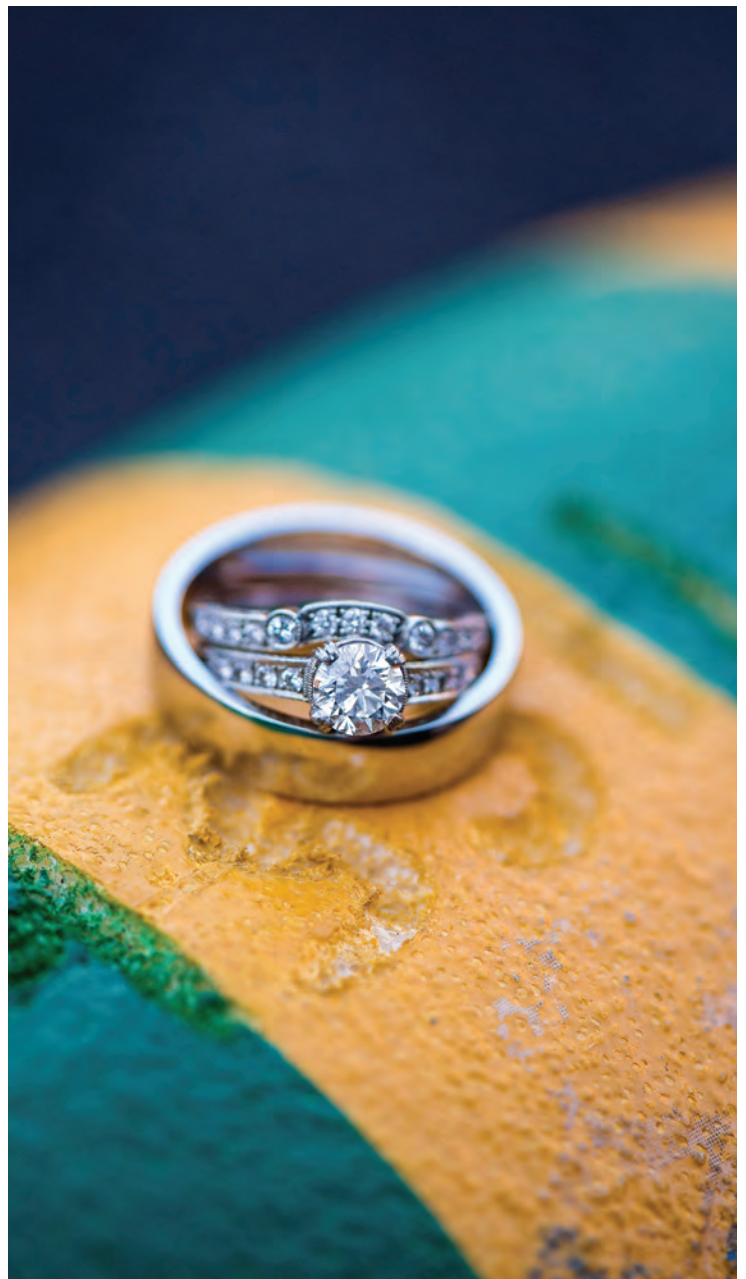


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Vintage platinum rings from Joseph Gann in Boston.

them. They are so easy and fun to work with and the pictures came out amazing," said Parisi.  
[barefotos.com](http://barefotos.com)

Island. Officiant was Robert Whynott.  
[schooner.org](http://schooner.org)  
[bobwhynott.com](http://bobwhynott.com)

### REHEARSAL DINNER

Hosted by the groom's parents at their home in Gloucester – lobster rolls and chowder from Seaport and Charlie's Place yum!  
[Seaport Grille, cruiseportglouces-ter.com/SeaportGrille](http://SeaportGrille.com/SeaportGrille)  
Charlie's Place, 83 Bass Ave., Gloucester. 978-281-5002

### MUSIC FOR THE CEREMONY

None

### RECEPTION

Held under a tent at Cape Ann Marina.

Scott's brother Matt Parisi filmed the ceremony on the Lannon, which could only hold 50 people. "Our reception was for 135 people, so he showed the video of the whole ceremony before we had the DJ introduce the wedding

### CEREMONY

Held on the Schooner Thomas E. Lannon just off Ten Pound



The wedding's nautical theme gave inspiration to the table centerpieces, which included hydrangeas, rope and other sailing elements.



The bride wore beaded sandals with her dress.



This lace, backless dress was the first thing Kristen Curcuru bought for the wedding.

party," Parisi said.

At the reception, the couple incorporated many personal touches. They set up a wine rack of empty blue and green bottles – numbered with years – and little slips of paper, for guests to write messages on for the couple to open on future anniversaries.

Carrying on the nautical theme, instead of a guest book, they had guests sign a "guest oar," and instead of name cards, they had sand dollars with guests' name and table numbers. There were also buoys – a yellow and green one to mark the groom's chair and a leopard one with bright pink

ribbon for the bride's chair.

#### FOOD

Plated Baked Haddock and Tuscan Chicken. "We found them online and they were a great price and awesome to work with," said Parisi. "Food tasting was relaxed and making changes was easy. Also available for any question you might have and the food was awesome lots of compliments from our guests."

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#### RECEPTION MUSIC

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The wedding ceremony was held on the schooner Thomas E. Lannon.



The bride takes a turn on the dance floor with her dad, Phil Curcuro.



Instead of place cards, the couple used place sand dollars, in keeping with the wedding's nautical theme.



The champagne-flavored cake was topped by two sailboats.



At the reception, guests wrote messages, to be opened on Kristen and Scott Parisi's future anniversaries.

and Mike Chadder's wedding, and Scott immediately loved his taste in music," Parisi said. "His enthusiasm for his work can make it seem like he is more excited for your wedding than you are!"

"He also has a great website. You can adjust all the music and MC planning right through a form," she said.

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Artemide in Rome was a great spot within walking distance to all the sights and had a beautiful rooftop restaurant.

**OVERALL HIGH POINT**

"Us two on the bow of the King Eider, heading through the Cut bridge with a bottle of champagne, realizing that we just got married and were heading to a reception seeing all of our excited friends and family waiting for us at the dock," Parisi said.

**OVERALL LOW POINT**

"Managing the stress and chaos that comes with all the preparations for one 'perfect' day. But we did our best!" She said.

**HOW'S MARRIED LIFE?**

Not too different, just more to plan for. *W*



Kristen Curcuro and Scott Parisi say their vows then kiss. The ceremony was held on the Schooner Thomas E. Lannon just off Ten Pound Island with Robert Whynott as the officiant.



*Real Weddings*

Emily Naaktgeboren  
and Alex Lannan

Feb. 15, 2014

Ipswich Country Club, Ipswich

Emily Naaktgeboren and Alex Lannan had a romantic winter wedding. Both the ceremony and reception were held at the Ipswich Country Club. Photographer Kristin Griffin captures a kiss.

# Winter Warmth



By CHERYL RICHARDSON • Photos by KRISTIN GRIFFIN

## THE BRIDE

Emily (Naaktgeboren) Lannan, 24, originally from Tampa, Florida, a Chiropractic Assistant in Burlington.

## THE GROOM

Alex Lannan, 25, of Reading, a Service Manager at Lannan Mazda

## HOW THEY MET

The couple met at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, during the first week of school freshman year. “It took a few months for the two of us to reconnect, but once we did we were inseparable,” Emily said. They quickly became best friends, and within months it was clear they were falling for each other.

## THE PROPOSAL

Alex really wanted to celebrate New Year’s Eve in Boston. Emily wasn’t feeling well, but after seeing the excitement on his face she



The engagement ring is white gold with three round brilliant diamonds, representing the past, present and future.

decided it would be a fun night. “I has just moved to Massachusetts from Florida two months beforehand – needless to say, I

was freezing,” Emily said. They spent the night walking around the bay front, checking out the ice sculptures and window shopping.

After a few hours of bouncing around the city, Emily, who was unbearably cold, asked Alex for his coat. He wouldn’t give it to her, however, and instead suggested they wait in a candy shop until it was time for the fireworks to start. Ten minutes before the fireworks began, they walked to the bay front, talking about their goals for the upcoming year and their future. They arrived just as the fireworks started, and Alex dropped to one knee. “Of course I said yes,” Emily said.

## THE RING

Long’s Jewelers, 60 South Ave., Burlington, 781-272-5400, [longsjewelers.com](http://longsjewelers.com)

White gold with three round brilliant diamonds, representing the past, present, and future.

Early planning: “We had a longer engagement – just over two years. Planning seemed like it was going to be so easy due to how much time we had, but it almost

The bridesmaids wore chiffon and charmeuse dresses with a rounded neckline in peacock from David's Bridal. They are: Maid of Honor Stacey Palmieri; bridesmaids Katie Fredrickson, Teaira Marque and Kristen Lannan.



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made it harder to stay focused on what needed to be done and to stick to just one theme. We started with the guest numbers and finding a venue. After seeing four venues we decided to check out the Ipswich Country Club. It was perfect for us. We wanted something beautiful, but not over the top formal. After we picked the venue we decided on colors. Alex was inspired by his Miller Lite (blue and silver). Wanting this day to represent both of us, we took his blue selection and added purple (a favorite color to both of us). We worked around our winter date, Feb. 15, 2014, hoping for snow, and avoiding anything that screamed Valentine's Day. Early on, we knew exactly who we wanted standing next to us on our special day and quickly picked our bridal party. Once the big pieces were done, the rest of the puzzle seemed easy to finish," Emily said.

**WHO PAID**

It was a group effort between both sets of parents and Alex and Emily.

**THE BRIDAL PARTY**

Maid of Honor Stacey Palmieri; bridesmaids Katie Fredrickson, Teaira Marque and Kristen Lannan; Best Man Jason Gage; Groomsmen Zachariah Fredrickson, Michael Kelly, Sam Gordon and Martin Naaktgeboren.

**THE INVITATIONS**

**Katie Fredrickson, kfredrickson515@gmail.com**

"Katie was a fabulous asset to getting anything designed," Emily said. "She helped with the save the dates, invitations, place cards, donation cards, seating chart... If it needed to be designed, she made it!"

**COLOR SCHEMES**

David's Bridal peacock, purple and white

**BRIDE'S DRESS**

Bella Sera Bridal, 85 Andover St.,



Alex's mother has rosary beads that belonged to her grandmother, which she placed in Emily's bouquet. "It was my something old, and meant a lot to me," Emily said.

**APPROXIMATE COST OF CEREMONY AND RECEPTION**

\$25,000



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The groom wore a charcoal Vera Wang tuxedo and vest, with a paisley, striped tie. The groomsmen also wore charcoal Vera Wang tuxedos with peacock ties and vests.

Danvers, 978-774-4077, bellasera-bride.com  
 Casablanca — sweetheart satin and lace

### ATTENDANT DRESSES

David's Bridal, davidsbridal.com  
 Chiffon and charmeuse dress with a rounded neckline in peacock

### GROOM AND GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS

Men's Wearhouse, menswear-house.com  
 The groom wore a charcoal Vera Wang tuxedo and vest with a paisley and striped tie. Groomsmen also wore Vera Wang charcoal tuxedos with peacock ties and vests from Men's Wearhouse.

### ACCESSORIES

Alex's mother has rosary beads that belonged to her grandmother, which she placed in Emily's bouquet. "It was my



The Flower Shoppe of Eric's provided flowers for the event.

something old, and meant a lot to me," Emily said.

The bride's hairpiece and maid of honor's accessory were purchased at The Nest, 3 Barnard St., Andover, 978-474-1995. Earrings were purchased at Nordstrom's;



Though the groom's grandfather Stephen Paul Lannan passed away before the wedding, the couple left a spot for him at the ceremony, so he could be with them in spirit.

the veil was purchased at Bella Sera Bridal.

### BRIDAL PARTY HAIR AND MAKE-UP

From Hair to Eternity & Beyond, Saugus, 781-558-1111, specialday-by-carolina.com

### FLOWERS

The Flower Shoppe of Eric's, 10 Brande Court, Reading, 781-944-0547, theflowershoppeoferics.com

### THE CAKE

Cakes For Occasions, 57 Maple St., Danvers, 978-774-4545,

[cakes4occasions.com](http://cakes4occasions.com)

White chocolate mousse cake was half decorated traditionally, the other half decorated in a Batman theme as a surprise for Alex.

### FAVORS

Donations in lieu of traditional favors

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Kristin Griffin Photography,  
508-320-2670,  
[kristingriffinphotography.com](http://kristingriffinphotography.com)

### REHEARSAL DINNER

Spinelli's Function Hall, Route 1  
South, Lynnfield, 781-592-6400,  
[spinellis.com](http://spinellis.com)

### CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Ipswich Country Club, 148 Country Club Way, Ipswich, 978-356-4822, [www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Ipswich-Country-Club](http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Ipswich-Country-Club)

Music for the Ceremony and Reception: Modern Entertainment (DJ Paul Bazdanes), 58 Lamb St., Lowell, 978-869-9310, [modernentertainment.org](http://modernentertainment.org)



Emily Naaktgeboren shows her groom, Alex Lannan, the cake made by Cakes For Occasions in Danvers. It was half decorated traditionally, and half decorated with a Batman theme as a surprise for Alex.

# Cristina's

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## OVERALL HIGH POINT

“My overall high point was definitely seeing my soon to be wife walk down the aisle. I had been wondering for weeks what she would look like in her dress. The first time I saw her, she was more beautiful than I could ever imagine. It’s a moment I will never forget,” Alex said.

“I had been bursting at the seams to share my cake surprise with Alex. I couldn’t wait and as soon as we were officially married I took him to see the cake. He was so happy with the work – he could only see the traditional side of the cake at this point. The colors were perfect and the cake was exactly what we had talked about. However, as we continued to move around the cake, a huge grin took over his face. And he was laughing while telling me



Ewwwww, gross! Kissing!

how awesome the cake was. It was priceless,” Emily said.

## OVERALL LOW POINT

“We were heading home in a blizzard at the end of the night.




After about 45 minutes in the car ride I realized that I had forgotten the house keys in my bag at the venue. A few frantic phone calls later we found one of our guests to meet up with us and bring us the keys,” Alex said.

“Saying goodbye to everyone at the end of the night was bittersweet. The majority of my family had come in from out of town and it’s never easy to say goodbye,” Emily said.

## HOW’S MARRIED LIFE?

“We have been together just under seven years, so we’ve known for a while that we were meant to be together, so being married hasn’t changed too much,” Emily said. “The silliest change has been how I refer to Alex when talking to friends and family... It’s apparent that ‘husband’ is my new favorite word.”

“Married life is great,” Alex said. “I am so lucky to have found someone that challenges me and makes me a better person daily. I am looking forward to many happy years to come.”




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# Everything A Wedding Guest Would Ever Want To Know

‘Save the Date’ author Jen Doll has been to more than 30 weddings in her lifetime. Let her be your guide through the wedding-guest minefield

There is no shortage of tips and pieces of advice for brides and grooms. After all, it is their day. The wedding industrial complex has them covered. But what about the dozens or hundreds of guests who will be at each wedding? To whom do they turn to for guidance?

Enter Jen Doll, author of “Save the Date: The Occasional Mortifications of Serial Wedding Guest” (Riverhead Books, 2014). Yes, serial, as in dozens of weddings. Doll’s wedding memoir doubles as a sort of wedding-guest handbook – someone who’s been to that many weddings surely knows what is (and what isn’t)

acceptable behavior.

Here, Doll shares what she’s learned about weddings along the way:

**Q.: In the book you write about 17 weddings? How many were excluded?**

**A.:** I’ve been to something like 30 at this point. At some point I almost stopped counting. The most recent was my brother’s, in September [2014]. But I think it’s been about 30, and when I was writing the book I think I probably wrote [about] 25 of them. In the book they serve different purposes, to drive people forward, and you kind of really don’t need

to tell the story of every wedding you’ve ever been to or your book is going to be a thousand pages, which no one wants to read.

**Q.: Was it hard to recall them?**

**A.:** It was surprisingly not difficult, and I think that’s because whether a wedding is good or bad they’re sort of burned into our brains. Pictures of you were taken at these weddings. And you just remember. It’s more important and a bigger deal than a regular day. So probably if you close your eyes and think ‘What was the last wedding I went to?’ you actually have a visual remembrance of it. And it may have been 10 years ago but you can still remember. Weddings have a more evocative place in our brains.

**Q.: Other than your brother’s wedding, have you been to many weddings after the book was released?**

**A.:** The book came out in May [2014], and I feel like I went to one over the summer but I can’t remember ... Oh god! I don’t remember who it was who it was. There was (one) in April that I went to.

**Q.: Do you feel different or, more so, are you treated**

**different at wedding events because you’re ‘Jen, the woman who wrote the wedding book?’**

**A.:** Kind of! The one I went to in the spring ... a lot of conversations were about “Wait, and your book is about weddings! I’m sitting next to the wedding expert!” Sort of having conversations like that. There was a wedding I did go to in the early summer – I remember now! – and it was like “Oh my gosh! Tell me about your book! Are you going to write about this wedding?” Stuff like that.

**Q.: When I read it, I was really struck by how positive you always were going into weddings. Is that always the case?**

**A.:** No, I think you’re right. Like, the wedding I went to in June, I remember being really nervous and excited about it. And I like wrote a note in my phone: I am always excited to go to weddings! It’s so strange! You’d think that you would just be over it or you would even dread it – and I know some people do dread it – but I think it’s a combination of me liking parties, and every one is a different experience, and they can really be so much fun and so lovely and so full of love. Most of



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the weddings I've been to have been really wonderful.

**Q.: Not sick of them yet?**

**A.:** I still really like them. I hope I keep on getting invited to them! They're so much fun! It all just seems like a great party. I love a lot and like to be around people who are in love. And it's an honor to be invited to a wedding where you get to share someone's special day with them.

**Q.: So, how does a 'serial wedding' guest put on a good face?**

**A.:** This sounds silly or shallow perhaps, but one thing is wearing something you really like and you feel really comfortable and good in because, you know, if you're kind of dressing up and looking your best you just feel great going to what you're going to, and that is always helpful. I think now, as opposed to, say, 10 years ago, if there was a wedding I felt really unsure about or I could not put on a happy face, or naturally just feel really happy about, I think I would not

# A FEW OF JEN DOLL'S FAVORITE WEDDING THINGS

**Best Wedding Location**

New Orleans is wonderful because you can second line down through the street. When do you ever get to walk with a band and feel like you're a superstar jazz musician? That's really fun.

**Ideal Wedding Itinerary**

It doesn't have to be a far away destination, but I like it when people all go somewhere together and kind of all get to hang out for a couple of days. I've never been invited on a ski weekend wedding, but I think that would be really fun. I've always wanted to have a ski wedding if I get married.

**Favorite Wedding**

Well I have to say my brother's, probably. Because I officiated.

Because it's my brother. Because it was small and lovely and right down the block from my apartment. And it was just both elegant and also kind of low-key at the same time. It was just a very nice vibe, and everyone got along, and my mom twerked, which was an amazing sight.

**Go-To Outfit**

I usually like to buy something new because it's an excuse to buy something new, which is maybe terrible. I feel like it's important for the guests to treat their selves a little bit. Like, if you go and it's a destination, maybe you can stay an extra day. Or go early. Or get a massage. Or buy a new dress.

**Go-To Drink**

Pinot grigio. Totally. It's just safer!

**Best season for a wedding: Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter?**

Winter. I don't know why, I'm just saying that. They don't happen that often! Winter you have a chance to make it so dramatic and also so cozy. And then fall is like basically summer but not as hot, so that's great. And probably cheaper, too. Fall is really nice.

**Do you have a go-to gift?**

I don't, and I probably should at this point. I tend to either give something very personal that relates to my relationship with the couple or something I know they're going to like or need. I like to not buy on registry, if I'm close to them, because I want to buy them something personal.

go. And I think in my life prior to now I just went, and I maybe shouldn't have.

**Q.: Do you feel like when you were younger and you first started going to weddings and**

**your friends first started getting married you felt an obligation to go?**

**A.:** Yes. And also that this was going to be the most important thing that I would ever experience in my friend's life. And you realize

as you get older you're going to experience lots and lots of things. Weddings are less important to the marriage than the actual marriage, just like weddings are less important to the friendship than the actual friendship.

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**Q.: You said you'd be happy if your book opened up a dialogue to talk about wedding guests as people. Do you feel like guests have a bad rap or stigma? I know myself from planning a wedding, as much as you love and appreciate your family and friends, and co-workers, they oftentimes can just really be a dollar sign when you're putting together wedding.**

**A.:** Yes, yes, which is understandable. But also, I think that we all lose sight of what the moment is about. And this is not the fault of the people getting married and it's not really the fault of the guests, but it's kind of the fault of this false ideology of a wedding, that it's supposed to be this perfect moment we see on TV and that everyone behaves a certain way. And that guests can either be the witty sideshow or the ridiculous disaster, maybe. Or they can be the mother of the bride and being a terrible pain and wanting everything her way, or they're just like nothing and they just sit back quietly and do whatever you say and help the

day be perfect. But no one is really any of those things. We're all way more complicated than that.

The thing about weddings is it's just not that the bride and groom suddenly own the emotions of the day. We all still feel emotions on that day, and we all still have our own lives, we've done things to be there at that event, and we want to be there, but we also don't want to check all of our real self at the door. And can't. I think that some of the disasters that happen at weddings come from suppressing all of these feelings and trying to pretend like everything is perfect, and then things do not go perfectly and then there's this big explosion. But if we can be a little more honest and realistic and practical, maybe it would be less dramatic on both sides.

**Q.: Any tips for bringing the new person or being the person?**

**A.:** If you're bringing a date and that person does not know anyone and you're the connector to the wedding, make sure you are talking to that person, introducing them to the person. It's kind of your

job - because you got invited and they didn't - to make sure they're a part of the scene. And if you want to go off on your own or do your own thing, make sure they're okay with that. Or don't bring them because you don't have to have a date for a wedding.

If you are the new person, similarly but oppositely, do feel like you can go out on your own. You don't have to feel stuck with your date. And I think one thing that's really nice about weddings is that they break down that barrier of talking to strangers pretty quickly, and you'll find people just want to connect on basic levels. So, really simple things - "Aren't these flowers beautiful?" "How do you know the couple?" - are great ways to start it out. And everyone is in a great mood usually, so they want to talk and they want to know who you are. And you want to know who they are. So it's really easy, and you shouldn't feel nervous about it.

**Q.: How does a wedding guest recover from a less than graceful performance?**

**A.:** Apologize immediately

to everyone. Maybe in writing, depending on how bad your grievances were. And, I think just apologizing and letting people know that it wasn't about them, it was about you, and you know you messed up and you're really sorry, and you're hopeful that they'll understand. In some circumstances, maybe it takes a while for them to cool off. You apologize, then you follow up and apologize again.

**Q.: Any Dos/Don'ts for attending the next 30 weddings?**

**A.:** Yes! Drink water between every glass of wine. Don't go to weddings where you don't want to see the couple get married. Go ready to have a good time and not with a lot of really complicated internal wrangling, if you can help it.

I think that if you're feeling really complicated about it but you have to go, go talk to someone beforehand. Maybe someone who's not a therapist, or someone who is not affiliated with those people. Let your feelings out somewhere - just not at the wedding. //

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