

COSMOPOLITAN

JUNE 2013

get it on!

MAKE SEX HOTTER

20 WAYS
TO LET LOOSE
TOGETHER!

WHAT
GUYS
DON'T
TELL
YOU AND
WHY

Is Your Friend
Holding You
Back at Work?
P.105

MUST-READ

WHEN
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FLIRTY DATES,
REAL ROMANCE
+ BEACHY LOOKS
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THE ULTIMATE *Wedding Season* SURVIVAL GUIDE

It's here. The onslaught has begun. Celebrities walk red carpets, high school kids have prom, and the rest of us go to weddings. It's one of the few times a year when we get to dress up and show off our hot new [fill in the blank—body, boyfriend, job, life], all while munching on canapés and toasting to soul mates embarking on their love journey together. The pressure system starts building the minute you see that engagement-bling shot on Facebook. With every hour you spend scouring Rent the Runway for the perfectly appropriate (yet stunning) party dress, the requirements of wedding attendance can get overwhelming. When you're slammed with back-to-back wedding invites, the *guestzilla* emerges. We get it. We've been there too...and we still need help sometimes. Read on, and we'll all witness those I-dos like the best guests ever.

The flowers are so pretty, right? But don't take centerpieces unless someone gets on the mic and says you can.

BY HELIN JUNG
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARCUS NILSSON

You never know who you might meet—bring gum!

Put the phone down once in a while.
It'll be your pretty face showing up
in the wedding photos—instead of the
back of your phone case.

Smile like you
mean it.

How Are You Going to Pay for Everything?

When multiple friends get married in the same year, it can do some serious damage to your cash flow. We're talking transportation, lodging, wardrobe, gifts, and more—not to mention the bachelorette party, bridal shower, and everything your date needs. And that's just for one wedding! Here are some easy ways to save some change.

1 Check the wedding hotel's other offers. "The room block might not necessarily be the lowest price you can get," says Sharon Naylor, author of *The Bride's Guide to Freebies*, noting that the hotel's budget packages might have a better rate. Groups of friends can also share a suite or rent a house nearby. "It turns into Party Central, and everybody gets a break on their expenses."

2 Play it safe: Buy a gift from the registry and pounce on it early. You'll get first dibs on the best items that fit within your budget. You can also pool with a group of friends to buy one of the bigger-ticket items on the registry, or combine a bunch of smaller items and create a themed grouping of presents.

3 Coordinate travel with other guests—carpooling can be a huge money saver. You can all pitch in for gas, tolls, rental-car fees, and snacks. Road trip!

PARTY FAVOR

Walk up to the parents and thank them. The family will appreciate your making the effort!

What Are You Going to Wear?

Yes, it's her special day, but let's be real here—you want to look amazing too. How do you turn heads and get compliments without upstaging the bride? Play by these rules.

♦ Always leave white, sequined, or skimpy things at home. (But black is okay!)

♦ Stick to the dress code:

Black tie = long evening gown.

Black tie optional = long or cocktail-length but kind of fancy. Semiformal = LBD-level of formality. Beach = fun and breezy.

♦ Pick shoes that will be kind to your feet. You'll be wearing them for hours! If you're set on hotness over comfort, pack a pair of flip-flops in case you decide you need to tear up the dance floor.

♦ If it's an outdoor wedding, skip the stilettos. You'll end up sinking into the mud and grass.



Have an accessory swap with friends to save \$\$\$.

Set a drink limit for yourself. Keep it to one drink per hour, max.

TOTAL DISASTER!

Cosmo readers tell their stories of weddings gone wrong. (We won't be sharing names in order to protect the innocent.) "One of my friends wanted to look extra skinny on her wedding day, so she asked her bridesmaids to tie her sash super tight. She looked great, but after drinking some beer, she threw up into the bushes. Everyone saw!"

Who's Going to Be There?

Weddings come in all shapes and sizes, and we're not talking winter wonderland versus beach chic. There's the family wedding, the coworker wedding, the college-friend wedding. Or the kind of wedding where you're thinking to yourself, "It's been nine years since I've seen these people," and panicking about what they'll think of you. Well, guess what? Those girls from high school you haven't kept in touch with probably feel as insecure as you do.

The secret to having a good time no matter what the circumstances is to be social.

SOME TIPS FOR HOW TO DO IT GRACEFULLY...

Be the bigger person and "assume the burden of other people's comfort," suggests Debra Fine, a communications expert.

ACT LIKE YOU'RE THE HOST OF THIS PARTY. Try to make the people around you feel good. That means talking to strangers, introducing old friends to the people you've just met, and engaging with all of them.

Think about it this way: Being a good conversationalist makes you look just as amazing as your new outfit does, so add that extra bit of sparkle and make the effort.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR TABLE. If you're with a date, don't use him as a crutch and ignore everyone else.

SLOW DOWN. It helps with remembering names and feeling comfortable.

COME UP WITH TALKING POINTS AHEAD OF TIME. Socializing isn't as scary when you have things to say. This is also a great time to ask questions—show people you're interested in them and they'll usually get rolling!

GIVE MORE THAN A ONE-WORD ANSWER WHEN SOMEONE ASKS HOW YOU'RE DOING.

"Give them a sense of your life," says Fine. "Give them some description." (Just give them the abridged version, not the novel.)

Everybody Dance!

Stand-up comedian Paul PK Kim has emceed hundreds of weddings, and he's seen it all, from bloody noses to grandmas flashing their boobs. Here, his rules for the dance floor.

- ◆ If you request a song, dance to it.
- ◆ No clapping to the music. It's awkward.
- ◆ No grinding. "Men will be pitching tents when we haven't eaten cake yet," says Kim. Yikes!
- ◆ Don't be too cool for the dancing contest or the bouquet toss. "The people who win at weddings are the ones who don't care."
- ◆ Smile while you're out there. "You were fed free food and drinks," says Kim. "If you're going through something, fake it. Have fun!"

"How I Survived Going to 10 Weddings in One Year"

"It was the year that a dozen of my friends got married, and as the invitations rolled in, I was doing the math: \$250 for a plane ticket to Cincinnati, \$200 a night for a hotel room in Puerto Rico. I have a not-a-banker salary, and I was stressing out. How was I supposed to pay my regular bills on top of all this extra stuff for other people? But I quickly snapped out of it: The fact was, I'd been a good enough friend that these couples wanted me at their wedding. That's such a compliment. I realized that I just had to suck it up and get thrifty. So I used frequent-flyer miles to get to as many of the weddings as possible. I shared lodging with other guests—even ones I didn't know before the big event. It wasn't perfect, but it was fine... and it was fun. True, I'm still behind on wedding presents. But I made my priorities: Get to the wedding first, figure out a gift later. (Mom, I have a year!) Here's one compromise I wish I hadn't made: I skipped two weddings because I didn't see how I could afford any more plane tickets. In retrospect, I should have gone. I've never regretted going to a wedding, but I regret not going to those two. So even if I get 15 wedding invitations this year, I'm going to RSVP yes to all of them."

—KATIE KAUSS



PARTY FAVOR

Put the number to a cab company on your phone so you can get back to your hotel safely. Good call!

What's Your Relationship Status?

We'd love for every wedding to be the kind where all the guests are your closest friends—you're practically guaranteed an amazing time. Most weddings, though, are littered with land mines. Despite our best intentions, people do and say dumb things. Here's what to do when...

♥ YOU'RE FLYING SOLO

WATCH OUT. When you're unattached at a wedding, it can be a huge bummer. It's such a joyful, romantic day that if you're not careful, you can start to throw a pity party for yourself.

SAY WHAT? "You're still not dating anyone? You have such a pretty face!"

YOUR COMEBACK: "I know! Outrageous, right? This pretty face needs to mingle...so I'll catch you later."

⚡ TOTAL DISASTER!

"I went to a wedding where a guest was really sad because her crush was dancing with his new girlfriend. She got drunk and started caressing a groomsman. The guy wasn't cool with it, and neither was his sister, who yelled out, 'Who the hell is that girl stroking my brother?'"

being so head over heels you never want it to end? We're in the moment now and happy to be here with everyone sharing in this celebration."

♥ YOUR EX IS GOING TO BE THERE—WITH THAT GIRL HE DUMPED YOU FOR

WATCH OUT. Jealousy is powerful. It's going to be tough to rein in your inner wounded animal, but you must.

SAY WHAT? You tug on his shirt sleeve and urgently say, "We need to talk." Things escalate into a major fight.

THE BETTER MOVE: Be the first to approach—play nice!—and get it over with. "Just say, 'Hi, good to see you. Have a good time,'" Naylor suggests. "You won't be looking over your shoulder all night wondering when you're going to run into each other." It's empowering to make the first move and set the tone.

When Abby Larson, editor of StyleMePretty.com, had to go to a wedding where she knew she would see an ex, she gave herself a new personality. She says, "I was on top of the world and put all the little woes aside."

♥♥ YOU'RE COUPLED UP

WATCH OUT. If you just started dating, going to a wedding together means you're on display as a couple. And if you're traveling any kind of distance, you'll be logging days together without any downtime to breathe, which can raise the stakes of a new relationship.

If you've been dating for a while and you've been wanting to get married yourself, someone else's wedding can unearth sore feelings about the status of your relationship.

SAY WHAT? "Been together a while now, huh? When's it going to be your turn?"

YOUR COMEBACK: "We're just so in love, you know? Do you remember that feeling of

⚡ TOTAL DISASTER!

"My cousin married a man from a very Catholic family (they said grace in both English and French before we ate). It was mortifying when our drunk grandfather, whose name is Adam, went to the microphone and told an Adam-and-Eve joke about how huge Adam was!"

Open Bar

Even if your friends think it's going to be awesome—yesss, unlimited free drinks!—you don't want to be the sloppy one who can't keep it together. There is a time and place for that (later, somewhere else), but nobody wants to look antisocial either. Jackson Cannon, co-owner of The Hawthorne bar in Boston, shares his trade secrets for keeping your buzz without getting out of control.

✔ **Tip the bartender up front and ask him to make your drinks weaker than normal.**

✔ **Mix your alcohol with juices and a splash of soda. "Having grapefruit juice with your vodka will slow you down but still give you flavor," says Hawthorne.**

✔ **Make sure you eat. Don't let the drinks keep flowing while you're on an empty stomach.**

SIDE NOTE: What if it's a dry wedding? It's tempting, but please, for the love of all things civil, don't bring a flask.

888-81-COSMO Call in to Cosmo Radio (SiriusXM Channel 109)

to vent about wedding hell. Our host, Taylor, will be waiting to hear your story on June 7 at 9 a.m. ET.