

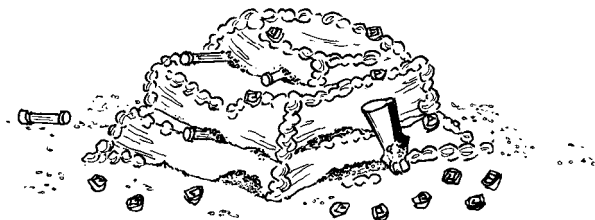
# The WORST-CASE SCENARIO Survival Handbook: WEDDINGS



## HOW TO:

- ♥ Make an Emergency Ring
- ♥ Clean a Stained Wedding Dress
- ♥ Repair a Dropped Cake
- ♥ Avoid a Nervous Breakdown...

By Joshua Piven, David Borgenicht, and Sarah Jordan  
*Authors of The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*



The  
WORST-CASE SCENARIO  
Survival Handbook:  
WEDDINGS

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By Joshua Piven, David Borgenicht, and Sarah Jordan  
Illustrations by Brenda Brown



CHRONICLE BOOKS  
SAN FRANCISCO

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# WARNING

When a life is imperiled or a dire situation is at hand, safe alternatives may not exist. To deal with the wedding worst-case scenarios presented in this book, we highly recommend—insist, actually—that the best course of action is to consult a professionally trained expert. But because highly trained professionals may not always be available when the safety or sanity of individuals is at risk, we have asked experts on various subjects to describe the techniques they might employ in these emergency situations. **THE PUBLISHER, AUTHORS, AND EXPERTS DISCLAIM ANY LIABILITY** from any injury that may result from the use, proper or improper, of the information contained in this book. We do not guarantee that the information contained herein is complete, safe, or accurate, nor should it be considered a substitute for your good judgment, your common sense, or the advice of your mother and/or wedding planner. And finally, nothing in this book should be construed or interpreted to infringe on the rights of other persons or to violate criminal statutes; we urge you to obey all laws and respect all rights, including property rights, of others, even your new in-laws.

—The Authors

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“For better or for worse . . .”

# INTRODUCTION

Your wedding day is going to be the best, most wonderful day of your life, if you believe what you've been told by your family, friends, romantic novels, soap operas, movie musicals, and countless magazines that sell fashion and lifestyle.

And it is entirely possible that it's true—there is indeed something magical and transforming about standing in front of the people you love and know best and declaring your endless devotion and commitment to your soul mate.

On the other hand, why should everything go right? Just because you want it to? There's more than a passing chance that the wedding reception is costing way more than you budgeted. That the band won't show up. Your wedding gown or tuxedo will be too tight, or something will spill on it. Your in-laws will hate you. A friend of the groom's will offer a truly offensive toast. A fight will break out between the guests. Or simply that the stress of the event will be too much for you to handle.

For some reason, and it's been true since the first exchange of vows in front of an audience, people become quintessentially themselves at weddings. Whatever tendencies and quirks they regularly have become wildly exaggerated, even more so if they are in the wedding party. Think of the shortcomings and annoying habits of everyone on your guest list—including yourself and your spouse—and expect to see those traits in spades. Is someone rude? Is someone

else a hypochondriac? Have a relative who is self-centered? Invite anyone who is mean spirited? Know anyone who likes to drink too much?

Now you're beginning—but just beginning—to grasp why we felt it necessary to prepare you for the full range of worst-case wedding scenarios.

By comparison with what comes next, deciding to get married is the easiest step: all you have to do is say yes. One person asks one question, the other person gives a one-word answer: done. But then, almost immediately, other questions pour out—beginning with when and where—and you and your betrothed are caught up in a vortex of decisions, uncertainty, complications, and the realization that lots of things could go wrong.

Whether your wedding is a formal affair, inventive and exotic, or laid-back and casual, you can't escape one fundamental fact: Every bride and groom experience significant tension during the planning phase of the wedding. It's simple. If you didn't care about these people, about whether they'd attend and what kind of time they'd have, you wouldn't be having a wedding reception in the first place. And so okay, you've decided to have a reception, but who pays for it, and whom do you invite? That leads to endless discussions about picking the menu, the band, the bridesmaid dresses, and the flowers—and remember that stress causes insomnia, pimples, rashes, strains on relationships, and an increased likelihood of accidents.

Weddings seem to be designed for accidents anyway. Who decided that veils, trains, and high heels go

together, especially when they are to be worn by someone who is excited, moving around a lot, and possibly drinking champagne?

If you haven't already paid the caterer, you may still be able to elope: Grab a few things, run out the door, and get hitched in front of a court officer and witnesses you've never met before and will never see again. You would be reducing some of the risks covered by this book, but not all of them. You still are not safe. You cannot stop reading.

As with our previous *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbooks*, we've consulted dozens of highly trained professionals in the hope that we can preempt a nuptial nightmare. We spoke with florists, public speaking consultants, chefs, emergency medical physicians, wedding planners, dentists, nutritionists, sexologists, and dozens of other highly trained professionals who have provided step-by-step answers to the most likely nightmare scenarios within.

This handbook takes you chronologically through the wedding process, from planning to the honeymoon, from surviving a bachelor or bachelorette party to treating wedding day-related injuries, from finding a groom who has gone missing to making emergency rings. We've even included an appendix with a handy Gift Evaluator/Thank-You Note Generator.

So forget about something borrowed, something blue. When you walk down the aisle, carry this book. Here's to the happy bride and groom.

—The Authors

CHAPTER I

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**PRENUPTIAL  
SURVIVAL SKILLS**

# HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE WEDDING

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- ★ Ask family members to pay for specific expenses. Have numbers ready to justify costs. If you sense resistance, threaten to elope or to have the reception at a seedy nightclub. For grandparents, offer upgrades at the reception in exchange for funding, such as seating at a table far from the band, their food served first, or wider, cushioned seats.
- ★ Register for wedding ceremony and reception components. Instead of a bridal registry for china, crystal, and silver, register for floral arrangements, the band, limousine service, liquor for the reception, and each course of the meal.
- ★ Hold a raffle. Offer the guests a chance to buy tickets to win the wedding dress, a ride in the limo, or a chance to join the honeymoon.
- ★ Wash guests' cars. Hire a student at a low hourly rate to sell expensive car washes to the guests as they attend the ceremony and reception.



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