



# 7 brides' wedding drama & hear what the experts have to say!

Compiled by Angelia Ooi. Photos by Jeff Lee Studio.

## I don't want this ring!

When William proposed, he did it very romantically: with roses, down on his knee, declaring his unending love for Ann, and what she meant to him (every girl's dream, isn't it?). When Ann opened the ring box, her heart dropped not because of the diamond's size, but glaring back at her was the most hideous looking ring.

William then goes on and on about the ring coming from his great-great-great-great grandmother, carrying over many generations and countries, and how it is always passed on the first born of the family. He then stressed, how important the ring was as a family heirloom, and how happy his mum and grandmother would be should she to carry the tradition.

Ann's love for William and her excitement of spending the rest of her life with William went beyond the ring, so she said 'yes!' 'I've got my 'something old' that's perhaps a little too old and it gives me the creeps to wear it, but the ring is obviously something William and his family are proud of. What can I do?' asks Ann.

*Hideous as the ring may be, it is still a family's tradition and it's advisable to respect that. Since it is an engagement ring, Ann can still choose the wedding ring she likes to wear. Since it is a family heirloom, it's best to have it kept safe and sound, says Adeline of Weddings by Events Horizon.*

## To pay or not to pay (dowry)

Lily and Ben have been together for the past two years, and when Ben popped the question, Lily said yes. Although a modern couple, Ben a traditionalist, insisted on asking Lily's father, her hand in marriage and offered to pay dowry.

Lily's father was flattered with Ben's offer. He requested for a sum of dowry that was beyond Ben's budget. The wedding was already drying his account and he was considering postponing the wedding until he had saved enough money for the dowry.

*Lily should just talk to Dad and tell him that she really loves Ben and wants to spend the rest of her life together, dowry or not. Lily's dad should lower the dowry and try to work out a compromise, says Leticia of Elysium Wedding.*



## Thanks but no thanks mum!

Kath said yes, and they are eager to break the news to their parents, and, as expected, everyone was thrilled, especially Mark's mother.

Mark's mother, without losing any time, started calling the wedding planner, booking the banquet dinner, scheduling gown fitting, and so on. Half of the guests on the list was Mark's mother's friends. Both Mark and Kath were merely informed and not consulted in the planning. It reached a point where Kath felt this was more of Mark's mother's wedding than her own. It was rather heartbreaking for Kath, who was looking forward to planning her dream wedding with all its frills and thrills.

*Mark should sit down with his mother and nicely but surely tell her that it is their wedding and the decisions for planning should be with the couple, but find a compromise where there is something mum can be in charge of so that she doesn't feel left out, says Leticia of Elysium Wedding.*

## The Other Bride

When Peggy and Alvin broke the news to Alvin's parents that they were getting married, Alvin's grandmother did not appear thrilled. She has had her eyes set on the neighbour's daughter, Elisa, for Alvin's hand in marriage.

Each time Peggy went over the wedding plans with Alvin's family, Alvin's grandmother disapproved, and remarked how the neighbour's daughter would have done it differently. Elisa would sometimes come over to Alvin's house and his grandmother would try to match make them. Peggy was starting to feel that she was not welcome to be her granddaughter-in-law.

*Alvin should have a talk with his grandmother and tell her he really loved Peggy, but they should not take grandma's concerns to heart because the wedding was about the two of them and not the extended family, says Leticia of Elysium Wedding.*

## She's a show stealer

“At our casual, intimate wedding, Patrick's cousin walked into the room with a gorgeous, sexy white number that made my dress pale me in comparison, although the invitation card said smart-casual,” Tessa wonders; Isn't there an etiquette or unspoken rule, that guests are not supposed to wear white or outshine the bride?

*It's an unspoken rule that guest should not wear white, but at this stage, there is nothing the bride can do, except sit Patrick's cousin in the back of the room at the children's table, says Leticia from Elysium Wedding advice. sw*



## Mother-in-law wants me to wear a horrible dress

Jane grows up, imagines every little detail of her dream wedding dress, down to the cut, the colour, the lace. She dreams of walking down the aisle in her beautiful wedding gown with 'oohs' and 'aahs' from her friends and family. What she didn't foresee was Derek's mum insisting on her wearing the vintage dress, better envisioned as drape, that has been passed on since her grandmother's day. "It is a miracle it survived 3 generations, and now, me at generation 4 is to carry on the tradition of wearing the gown that already has more yellow spots than white colour in it, which by the way, is 2 sizes too small and has a dreadful odour to it!", Jane exclaims. "I'm at a loss. I want to please my future mother-in-law badly but I don't want to wear a horrible wedding dress."

*Firstly, Derek can help the situation by telling his mom that it will be unhealthy to force Jane to lose weight to fit into a dress two sizes too small. Jane can speak with her mother-in-law and tell her how important her mother-in-law's happiness and traditions are to her and, perhaps, they can work around to make the gown a very important part of the wedding. Suggestions: If the vintage gown has some details like lace appliqué, embroidery detail, it is possible to detach these details and incorporate them into Jane's desired wedding gown or sew them into a ring pillow. The 'heirloom' now serves a much greater and more important purpose: holding the rings that will bind her and Derek to a lifetime commitment, says Kim of Wedding Concierge.*

## I don't want you to bake my wedding cake, got it?

Ken and Mary met at a bakery when they were both reaching out for the last Kermit the Frog cupcake. Fast forward a few years later, Ken proposed and Mary said yes. The couple are over the moon that their long-awaited, and diligently-planned wedding is around the corner.

But there is just one thing. Ken's sister insisted on baking the wedding cake for their big day. The couple are expecting 450 guests, which would require a professional baker to prepare the cake. Mary fears Ken's sister might not be able to deliver the wedding cake.

*Mary should suggest Ken's sister bakes a small wedding cake for the rehearsal dinner or a family affair, and then just order 450 Kermit the Frog cupcakes for the main event, says Leticia of Elysium Wedding.*



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