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Bridal Bargains, 9th Edition: Secrets To Throwing A Fantastic Wedding On A Realistic Budget (Bridal Bargains: Secrets To Throwing A Fantastic Wedding On A Realistic Budget)



Synopsis

The national best seller the wedding industry does NOT want you to read! Bridal Bargains teaches couples all the tricks to saving money on a wedding-and how to avoid pitfalls and scams. With the average wedding costing in excess of \$20,000, Bridal Bargains is the solution to tying the knot without breaking the bank.

Book Information

Series: Bridal Bargains: Secrets to Throwing a Fantastic Wedding on a Realistic Budget

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Windsor Peak Press; 9th ed. edition (November 25, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1889392294

ISBN-13: 978-1889392295

Product Dimensions: 4.4 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,351,420 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Weddings > Budget #8351 in Books > Textbooks > Reference #133493 in Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

Denise Fields and Alan Fields write a monthly column for Baby Talk magazine. They have written several best-selling books, including Baby Bargains and Bridal Bargains. They live in Boulder, CO.

Unlike those on "Platinum Weddings", and all those other UN-reality wedding TV shows, I had/have hardly any wedding budget to work with. Bridal Bargains (9th Edition) has been unbelievably, without a doubt the biggest help of ANY resource ANYWHERE. I am a researcher so had spent hundreds of hours pouring over thousands of sites, pages, chats, search engines, you-name-it to find help in my area of SW Florida for inexpensive wedding/reception sites (none exist!)--I even emailed brides from OTHER STATES via Trip Adviser to find out where they got married in my own city!!! (Let me amend that by saying I couldn't put together a wedding for less than \$5,000 and we just don't have it.) Anyway, after reading reviews of this book here on , it seemed it might have at least SOME help, but could be outdated. Not at all. Even after 7 mos researching online, having been to 3 overwhelming wedding shows, interviewing a few vendors and reading numerous bridal mags

before even getting the book, I found its info relevant, informative, pertinent and so engrossing I read 2/3s of it the first night! One thing I didn't expect was letters from brides with real-life problems pertaining to each of the sections (such as Apparel, Ceremony Sites, Wedding Flowers, Invitations, Reception Sites, Catering, Photography, Videography, etc)., with the corresponding answers/comments from the authors, in addition to basic data on the subjects. Of course, the info is so important that I've got a million scraps of paper (as bookmarks) sticking out from every other page practically! I got my father to read the part about Reception Sites since he's coming with me to the negotiation--we needed to get our skills bolstered! :) He agreed that the book was a great purchase. (Though it doesn't specify HOW exactly to negotiate, just that one COULD/SHOULD and on which specific items/fees--but I didn't know any of that before.) I actually haven't gotten through the whole chapter on dresses yet b/c I'm saving that til after I get my venue secured. THEN I'm dress shopping! Soooooo, I can't comment on the validity of the book's references there, but the beginning of the chapter on how the shops operate is eye-opening. If you're already disgusted by how sleazy the bridal industry is, just wait til you read this! All I can say is, these people were banned from bridal shows by the vendors BECAUSE they told the truth about those people's practices!!! I mean, hurray for the Fields'! :D They should be getting medals and keys to cities for exposing the horrid business practices and ridiculous price-gouging that wedding businesses propagate. I can't say enough for the book. It may not be exactly specific to one's location, and perhaps certain URLs aren't current (I can't say yet), but the information and experience they've provided me thus far is INVALUABLE! Btw, the authors also a guarantee that if they don't save you at least \$500 on your wedding, they'll give you a refund! No kidding.

A friend recommended this little book for my budget-conscious (but quality-important) wedding and it is just packed with information -- found it best to skim through the sections with a pencil and dog-ear pages useful to me. The authors do a good job refraining from advising what's best for you and your wedding (unlike everyone else in your life while you're wedding planning). What this book really is is a compilation of all the information you're unsuccessfully trying to search for on Google -- a helpful, narrowed-down-but-still-plenty-of-options bullet-point bible of resources, tips and advice from real brides/grooms. Most useful to me were the lists of questions to ask vendors (sites, caterer, photographer, videographer). Typed them out, reworked them, and brought them along with us to meetings and phone calls -- we learned all we needed to know in our communication with vendors in the planning process, and would not have without those question guides. After all, you really have no idea what to ask these wedding-specific vendors unless you've planned a wedding before. Would

suggest reading/skimming this early on to get a good idea of the overall wedding planning process.

Read bridal magazines. Search the internet. Even pick up the awesome Knot guide on weddings. THEN READ THIS BOOK!!!! This book is seriously amazing. Its not just a "things you can do to be cheap" book like some I've seen, no its actual ways to save money and make your wedding dreams even more realistic. Even if "daddy" is picking up your wedding tab, I'm sure he would appreciate saving more money. More money that can be spent on future things, even your honeymoon! Its actually set up pretty well too- divided into sections such as dresses, bridesmaid dresses, catering, etc. Now, this isn't the end all only wedding book you will ever use kind of book. This is just a common sense way of thinking about weddings and how not to get screwed out of your money. I actually recommend reading this after you read some of the other great wedding books (see my reviews) but a must before you spend money on anything!

25 years ago I was a wedding photographer, and on the side I was a bridal consultant. I worked the wedding scene for many years. Now that my daughter is getting married and my husband and I are responsible for the bill. I wanted to know how much things have changed in the wedding business. I read the Bridal Bargains Book and to my surprise not much has changed. The wedding business is a ripoff in all aspects. You say the word wedding and the price goes up at least 50%. This book is a world of knowledge on how to avoid over spending and gives key tips on saving money. There is very sound advice in this book. I highly recommend this book! I will be buying it for all the brides to be and their parents in my life.

After reading the book and having still 13+ months til my big day this book has already saved me over \$1,000.00 and I can only imagine how much more I'll be able to save! Every bride should read this book. Don't get sucked into the wedding industry's mind control that to be fabulous it has to break your bank. It doesn't and this book has some wonderful points & ideas. I will be giving this book to all my girlfriends who get engaged. Finally a wonderful, practical (and enjoyable) wedding planning book. Proof that your "dream day" doesn't have to cost a fortune. The good news here is you don't have to sacrifice what you want or do it on the cheap, this book just helps you do everything you want - smarter. This is a must-read for every bride-to-be.

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