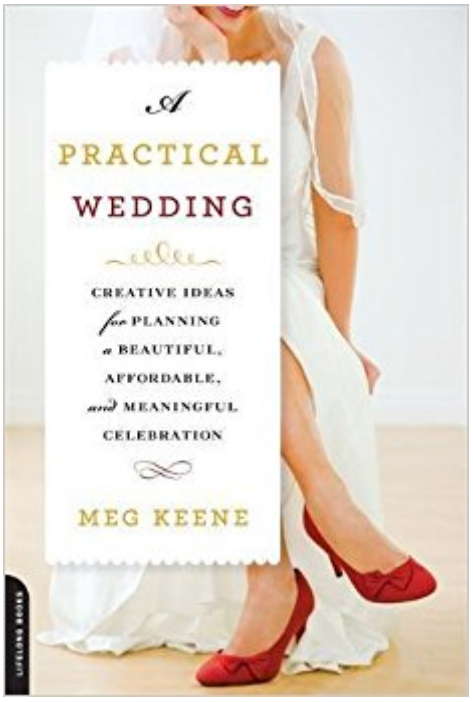
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A Practical Wedding: Creative Ideas For Planning A Beautiful, Affordable, And Meaningful Celebration



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Synopsis

An Insanity-Free Wedding: It Can Happen!Getting engaged is exhilaratingÃ¢â ¬Â¦until it sets in that a wedding costs three times what you thought, and takes five to ten times the effort it reasonably should. And then there are the expectations: from calligraphy invitations to satin chair-covers, all those things that Must Be Done or everyone will be Horribly Offended. Or will they?A Practical Wedding helps you create the wedding you wantÃ¢â ¬â •without going broke or crazy in the process. After all, what really matters on your wedding day, what youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll remember Ã¢â ¬Ëœtil youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re old and gray, is not so much how it looked as how it felt. In this refreshing guide, expert Meg Keene shares her secrets to planning a beautiful celebration that reflects your taste and your relationship. YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll discover:The real purpose of engagement (hint: itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not just about the planning)How to pinpoint what matters most to you and your partnerDIY-ing your wedding: brilliant or crazy?Affording a wedding without having to cut your guest listHow to communicate decisions with your familyWhy that color-coded spreadsheet is actually worth itWedding Zen can be yours. Meg walks you through everything from choosing a venue to writing vows, complete with stories and advice from women who have been in the trenches, the Team Practical brides. So hereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s to the joyful wedding, the sensible wedding, the unbelievably fun wedding! A Practical Wedding is your complete guide to getting married with grace.

Book Information

Paperback: 242 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Lifelong Books; 2nd ed. edition (December 27, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738215155

ISBN-13: 978-0738215150

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 427 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,564 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Weddings > Budget #456 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Reference #4231 inÃ Â Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

Keene’s wedding planning guide is a fresh, sane voice in a field of guides pushing big budget weddings. -Library JournalBizIndia.net “Getting married with grace, joy, and even fun without

breaking the bank is what Meg Keene offers the marrying couple with this handy guide book. It’s small and short enough to read in one sitting as well as filled with myriad details to refer to when you’re ready to plan the various aspects of your upcoming wedding.Ã¢â ¬Â•Library Journal, 12/23/11 “Keene's wedding planning guide is a fresh, sane voice in a field of guides pushing big budget weddings…Keene's book stands out as she empowers brides to find the elements of wedding planning that are meaningful to them and to let go of the rest without regrets or apology. Verdict: Recommended and required reading for all newly engaged couples. Public libraries would be wise to include this practical guide in their collections.Ã¢â ¬Â•ElissaRPhotography.com, 12/22/11 “This book will beÃ Â a touchstone of sanity. When you get derailed by something judgmental your Aunt Muriel said, or you feel inadequate because your wedding doesn't look like something perfectly styled on the pages of a magazine or wedding blog, and you start to reevaluate and question your choices, this book will set you back on the path to stability and reason.Ã¢â ¬Â•PreOwnedWeddingDresses.com, 1/10/12“Every bride could learn something—and cut her stress level—just by reading it.Ã¢â ¬Â•SayYesToHoboken.com “Fun to read (she's got such an approachable tone, very entertaining, just like her blog) and really informative as well.Ã¢â ¬Â•QuirkyGirlsRead.com, 1/9/12 “A fantastically fun, humorous, andÃ Â SANEÃ Â book for any woman navigating the trying waters of wedding planning.Ã¢â ¬Â•BookPage (“top pickÃ¢â ¬Â•), February 2012“Expect a big-hearted, broad-minded, super smart low-down on the indispensable practicalities of getting married.Ã¢â ¬Â•Portland Book Review, March/April Issue “Keene offers couples of all faiths, ages, budgets and sexual orientation a wise and well-written hands-on guide for navigating the complexities of etiquette and cultural expectation. (Five Stars)Ã¢â ¬Â•Wellesley Free Library Staff Picks (blog), 3/30/12“If you have a wedding coming up or know someone who does, treat them to this title. It will be one of the best presents they receive!Ã¢â ¬Â•Savannah Morning News, 4/18

Meg Keene is the creator of APracticalWedding.com, the ultimate wedding planning website for independent-minded brides. Her blog has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, CNN.com, Glamour, Chicago Tribune, Feministing.com, and more. She lives with her husband in San Francisco.Ã Â

I’m a professional wedding planner. When I first started planning weddings five years ago (for

friends, I had no idea at the time that I'd one day be doing this professionally) I read pretty much every wedding planning book I could get my hands on that didn't seem totally insane, because that's what I do when I want to learn about something - I read. And while I picked up some helpful pieces here and there, there was not a single book that I loved overall. I wish that this book had been around then.Now, I didn't learn anything from this book, but that's because, well, I now do this professionally. However, if you're not a professional wedding planner? You will learn things. Good things. Things like how to find an affordable venue, and that it's OK to sometimes cry during the planning process, and why you should focus on your ceremony, and when and why you need to ask for help.It's a wedding planning book that manages to deal with both logistics (important! weddings are full of logistics, and they are often overwhelming) and, probably even more importantly, also deals with the often intense emotional logistics around weddings and marriages. It reminds you that your wedding is not just a big party, it is the start of your marriage.So go buy it, and buy a copy for your mother, and copies for all of your friends who are getting married. This book is definitely my new go-to engagement party gift. If you are a regular reader of the APW blog, rest assured that it's different than the website. The book walks you through wedding planning from engagement to post-honeymoon, all in a concise, smart, practical way. It pulls from many of the wisest posts on the site, but is in fact an entirely new piece of work that is valuable in an entirely different way to anyone who's planning a wedding.The wedding industry in America gets a bad rap for a reason - it's generally full of people and organizations who are trying to get you to buy more, do more, stress more. Couples who are getting married need all the help they can get in getting away from this - it's insidious, and can trap even the most sane, laid back people into thinking that they have to do things a certain way, because it's a wedding and it has to be perfect. My favorite line in the book is tied between "There is a whole wedding marketing machine set up to sell you the perfect wedding, but the reality is, things are going to go wrong on your wedding day. That's fine. It's great, even. It's the imperfections that make the day yours." and (a quote from a real-life former bride) "I honestly just gave it up to Jesus. I mean, WWJD anyway? He wouldn't stress about anyone handing out some program fans, I'll bet you that much."Truth.

As a generally anxious and stressed person, I knew wedding planning would be a test of my abilities to withstand stress. This book was very helpful in calming that stress and helping me realize that I am not the only one feeling that way, and also giving ideas on how to move pass that stress, without spending extra money to do it. I'm an extremely price conscious person, so I appreciated this book's ability to spell out exactly what people were getting for their money. I also greatly appreciate the fact

that the book covers most angles of everything. For example, my issues are not the same as the next bride, but she covers ways to solve each problem, as well as everything in between. I may have gotten made fun of for buying a book to tell me how to plan my wedding, but the stress relief it provided is worth the mockery from a few coworkers here and there.

This book was the foundation of all my wedding planning (I discovered it and ordered it 4 days post-engagement!) and helped me to create a wedding that perfectly suited my husband and me without losing my sanity in the process :) The author has great advice for today's bride from the budget to the getaway car and everything in between (starting with 'what *really* is a traditional wedding anyhow?' and the tough stuff like discussing with others why you are or aren't choosing certain things for your big day without causing offense or hurt feelings). Anyone looking to plan a wedding that is very personal and true to you and your intended, this is the book for you!Also makes a good gift for newly engaged couples :)

This is not a step-by-step how to on planning your wedding. This is how not do go insane while planning your wedding. Meg's book encompasses the entire journey - from engagement to post-wedding. She gives you tips and advice on how to stay sane and keep everything in perspective.To be honest, I didn't read every section. The reason for these skipped sections is either because I'm beyond that point in my planning (venue picking, budget, vendors) or that it did not apply to me (DIY wedding). However, I did scan these sections and they seemed to be just as helpful/informative as any other section I read. Had I not been as far into planning as I am and had found this book a few months ago, I would have read each and every section.An aspect I found to be very cute when when Meg included stories, snippets, or quotes from other married couples in relation to each chapter. Having been married herself, Meg is well aware of the stress wedding planning can bring on, but to hear specifically from other brides regarding DIY, family drama, budget, tradition or the like is a nice touch. She also includes a list of resources you can use along with books she consulted in her research in case you want additional readings to ensure your sanity.While I enjoyed every section, I really liked the section on traditional. She debunks a lot of things people see as traditional when they've really only been around since the 1920s! White dresses, elaborate parities, church weddings - all those things came about in the time. Also, did you know the unity candle was "invented" in the 1970s for a soap opera!?If you are recently engaged or know somebody who is, this is the perfect book to read. Meg does an amazing job of putting things into perspective so that your wedding day will "be the happiest day of your life so far" (204).

Excellent ideas for being frugal in wedding planning in ways that won't affect the enjoyment of your guests! I find myself continually going back to this book throughout the planning process whenever different areas of spending come up. Really has helped keep me sane!

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