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by Jennifer Bowman



I'm going to be honest. Wedding planning isn't as stressful as I thought it would be. Not to say that it isn't stressful, because it most certainly is. But it just seems that my life is so stressful anyway (working a basically full-time job at almost minimum wage with no benefits, and hours of class with professors who like to imagine that their students have no jobs, lives, or any other responsibilities) that maybe I'm just used to it. How sad is that?

Also, I cheated. I hired (er, my parents hired) an event planning company to do a lot of the work. It's not as expensive as you would think and it takes a lot of pressure off. With my crazy, stressed out life I should already probably be on Xanax for my nerves, but if I had to be responsible for the food, flowers, and decorations in addition to everything else, and being away in England for eleven weeks? I'd be a sight to behold and fear.

The absolute worst part of wedding planning thus far has been assembling invitations. It took me, my mom, and very helpful bridesmaids over a week to get them done. And then, after all that work and hundreds of dollars on stamps, some people still don't have the courtesy to send in the free RSVP. It makes me extremely irritated to know that people can't take a simple card, write their name on it, and mark "yes" or "no" and then stick in the mailbox and put up the red flag. Yes, folks, that's how easy it is to send an RSVP. Some people don't include stamps on theirs, but I did.

And it's frustrating to find out that lifelong friends are choosing to go to the Church of God General Assembly over my wedding. Now, to be honest, I'm not surprised. I guess it's okay that the Church of God takes precedence over friendships. I'm just a little disappointed by the people who are deciding not to come.

So please, if you receive a wedding invitation to anyone's wedding, anyone at all, please send back their RSVP. They don't care if it's negative – at least they'll know you took the "effort" to get back to them and let them know after all their hard work whether or not you're coming to their wedding. Okay, vent over.

But seriously, it is one of the most exciting times in my life. I never got excited about high school graduation – it was lame and boring. Prom was the stupidest, most worthless experience of my life. (Obnoxiously drunk people and one slow song the entire time? No thanks.) Starting college was a little bit exciting, but I had been afflicted with senioritis since I was in 8th grade, so it was really just a long time coming. Okay, maybe the excitement of eleven weeks overseas could beat the excitement of wedding planning. But not by much.

I'm realizing though how much more important that preparing for *marriage* is rather than just preparing for a wedding. A wedding is just one day, but a marriage is forever. One should spend more time preparing for the marriage than the wedding. Daniel has moved into what will be our apartment, I'm realizing how drastically my life is going to change. At least it's going to change with someone I will love eternally.

So, I'm not going to concentrate on the people who are not coming to my wedding because of a silly church thing, or the people who are apparently refusing to be courteous enough to send an RSVP. Daniel is going to be there, and so are our parents and close friends. I can't wait to start my life with him, being supported by the people who matter the most.