



The 10-Minute Cheat Sheet

Books aren't for everyone—just ask any Hollywood studio executive. That's why we're giving you the literary equivalent of the carpool lane. You'll miss out on the wit, humor, and insight that reading this entire guide offers (plus there's free money hidden within), but on the flip-side, you'll have way more time for push-ups. You're getting into wedding shape, right?

General Planning

DO (AT LEAST) THESE 10 THINGS

- Register for gifts
- Find and book an officiant, DJ/band, caterer, baker, florist, and photographer
- Make a guest list and seating chart
- Reserve hotel rooms for your wedding night, and for guests
- Rent your tuxedo or suit, and choose groomsmen attire
- Buy your partner a gift, pick up wedding rings, and get groomsmen gifts
- Attend and survive your bachelor party
- Book and pack for honeymoon
- Write your vows and a toast for the reception
- Get a haircut and try on your suit

CHOOSE YOUR BEST MAN AND GROOMSMEN

Narrow your selection to five guys who have been like brothers, if not your actual brothers. Come to think of it, include your brothers if you have any. Be sure your best man is trustworthy and responsible—he's got a lot to handle.



HAVE AN OPINION

If you don't want to use your own ideas and opinions to help plan, someone else will make those decisions for you. The result? Often, regret and disappointment.

GUEST LISTS SUCK—DO THIS

Stand your ground. Make a list that ensures you'll be able to visually identify every guest, and be happy to see them.

THE 3 BIGGEST QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY VENDOR

- How many weddings have you done?
- How do deposits and payments work?
- What happens if you are sick or unable to work the day of my wedding?

Ceremony

DON'T BRING YOUR PHONE

Live in the moment and let your guests, and your expensive photographer, take photos.

ON CHOOSING AN OFFICIANT

Choose a legally qualified, eloquent, entertaining person with whom you connect—and, if desired, who represents your chosen religion.

ON CHOOSING A MEANINGFUL SYMBOLIC ACT

There's nothing wrong with the classics, but consider whether the act you choose is actually meaningful or unique to you and your partner.

THE BEST USE OF WEDDING PHOTOS

Frame them! This solves the "out of sight, out of mind" problem of the wedding album.

Reception

CHOOSE YOUR DINNER

- Sit-Down: The most formal and often the most expensive option.
- Family-Style: Fosters a feeling of togetherness, with lower formality.
- Buffet: Medium formality, medium price, medium chance you'll run out.
- Food Truck: This is not your grandpa's wedding. Unless he loves tacos.

ON THE GROOM'S CAKE

If it doesn't look like an advertisement, you're doing it right.

LATE NIGHT MUNCHIES

Plan a snack that will keep your guests (safely) drinking and (recklessly) dancing.

ON THE QUESTION OF DRINKS

What do you mean, "question"? An open bar is the only answer.



ON THE QUESTION OF MUSIC

A live band brings the experience to you. A DJ allows you and your guests to create the experience. Choose your destiny.

CHOOSE A FIRST DANCE SONG

Ideally, the song will have special meaning between you and your partner, be event appropriate, and avoid cliches.

THE PERFECT MUSIC MIX

Keep them dancing, and occasionally moon walking, to songs they know and love.

No Macarena.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR RSVP CARDS

Ask guests to draw a picture of you and your partner on the back of the RSVP card, and display them in a gallery at the reception.

Crowd-source your playlist by asking that music requests be noted on the RSVP.

Request guests list a little-known fact about themselves on their RSVP, and use the responses to play wedding bingo at your reception, matching responses to corresponding guests.

Post-Reception & Beyond

YOUR AFTER-PARTY SHORTLIST

- Karaoke bar
- Classic greasy-spoon diner
- Alcohol-friendly arcade



ON THE QUESTION OF HONEYMOON TIMING

Don't go back to real life just yet: Delaying your honeymoon means leaving that surreal wedding bubble. Keep the magic alive.

ONE HONEYMOON OOO REPLY:

To: <All Office>
Subject: Automatic Reply: "OOO"

Thanks for reaching out! While you're at it, could you reach out to my lower back? I definitely didn't get sunscreen there. Thanks-resuming honeymoon now.