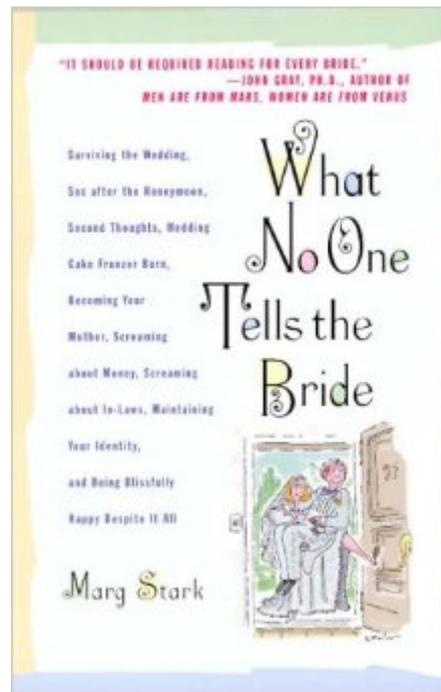


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What No One Tells The Bride: Surviving The Wedding, Sex After The Honeymoon



Synopsis

What No One Tells the Bride is the inside scoop--good and bad--on what it's really like being married. In these pages, journalist Marg Stark breaks the newlywed code of silence and exposes the profound adjustments brides often experience. Stark and 50 married women tell their stories--showing others how to handle turbulence on cloud nine--and reveal marital truths, such as: You don't feel like a "Mrs." Sometimes you even dream about old boyfriends. You write all the wedding gift thank-you notes. So you are doomed to your mother's life--60 years of doing more than your share? Making love is the last thing on your mind when you have the flu and haven't showered for days. But he still wants to. You tell him you got these incredible bargains and quietly resent having to justify your spending. You have shining moments when marriage feels absolutely right, but nevertheless you pine for something more. Humorous and compassionate--with advice from marriage counselors, ministers, financial advisors, and sex therapists--What No One Tells the Bride is not only a practical guide for every newly married woman, it also makes the perfect wedding shower gifts. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Hyperion; 1st edition (June 3, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 078688262X

ASIN: B000S6NBT8

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (96 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,827,211 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Weddings > Honeymoon](#) #9364 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Marriage & Adult Relationships](#) #21175 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel](#)

Customer Reviews

I purchased this book on the recommendation of my best friend (a newlywed) when my boyfriend and I started preliminary discussions about "the future." A fiercely independent, practical, 25 year-old, I was looking for some insight into the feelings, worries, and expectations associated with early engagement and marriage. I was amazed by this book. Thank goodness for Marg Stark! Stark's insightful, frank text is intended for female newlyweds, brides-to-be, or women

considering "taking the plunge" who want to get some insight into the ups and downs of marriage. Written from the perspective of Stark (a writer/newlywed) and based on interviews with 50+ recently married women, this book covers everything from mourning the loss of singlehood, to addressing and overcoming the money/power dynamic, to finding fulfillment in sharing your life with another person - while still maintaining your independence. So many books out there are about "Planning Your Dream Wedding." However, this book gracefully avoids talk of wedding (except in two of the early chapters), instead concentrating on the time after the honeymoon. Engagement and marriage is a difficult time. Not only must a bride deal with the pressure of a wedding, but also the joy/dramas associated with sharing her life with someone else. Often times, this happens at the same time a bride is trying to earn a living, raise children, go to school, find a new apartment, etc. With each chapter, Stark chips away the stereotypes associated with brides and marriage. Brides don't have to plaster on a smile all the time just because they're told that "this is the happiest time of your life." Marriage can be fun and sexy. Also, the book carefully avoids the declarative feel of a "how to" book. Stark simply shares her observations and leaves it up to you to make the decisions. You'll put down the book feeling like you just had a conversation with a sage, understanding friend over a steaming latte. Here are a few notes: - Both the author and the majority of the brides she interviewed are college-educated, 23-33 year-old professionals. That being the case, the content is skewed to that particular demographic. - Stark uses many anecdotes from her own life (and that of her husband Duke) to illustrate her points. I found this engaging and enlightening. Some may find it repetitive and biased. - The book is content-rich with well organized chapters. Readers can easily go back to re-read sections that interest them. (However, I strongly recommend reading it cover to cover.) - This makes an excellent bridal shower gift. This is not a book to miss. Highly recommended.

This book is Horrible Advice for young women who are honestly seeking reassurance during an incredibly stressful time. I believe this book does a grave disservice to young women by making it cute to be a spoiled brat. Stark goes on and on about the difficulty of letting go of her wonderfully exciting single life but it is her husband, Duke, who turns out to be the exemplary character in the book. Duke is the voice of calm and reason to the author's selfish whining. The worst part is when Stark explains that one bride's way of dealing with pre-wedding jitters was to have a "fling." What Stark calls a "fling," most normal people call adultery. (And I'm not religious or conservative.) Any half-baked marriage counselor can tell you that having an affair can be disastrous for a relationship. It gets worse: "To this day, her husband does not know about the fling" (p.48). After that brilliant piece of advice, I didn't have a shred of faith in this author and could not continue reading this book.

If you're nervous in anticipation of your wedding, Good! It's an important, exciting time!

I received this book as a gift before I got married almost two years ago and I have not seen anything quite like it since then. It is humor-filled and easy to read. A welcome distraction from the stress of planning a wedding. It is a great book for newly engaged or newly married women. When I got married, many of my friends had already taken the plunge. They all acted as if life was a fairytale and gave me no warning that my trip down the aisle would be anything but perfect and blissful. By reading this book I came to understand that weddings and marriage are just like anything else in life - there are bound to be some problems, but you can work through them and they don't have to ruin all the wonderful things about getting married. Understanding that made it much easier to deal with. This book demystifies the engagement and wedding and the early years of marriage. By reading this book I was comforted in knowing that I was not alone in some of my experiences. I never had any doubt that I wanted to marry my husband but reading this book was helpful because I was able to relax and let go of some of my anxiety about marriage. Many phenomena that were confusing to me were explained in this book in an easy to understand and humorous way. Marg also gives some great, simple and common-sense advice about beginning a marriage that everyone can use. My husband also found comfort in many of the book's revelations. The author's experience was as an independent, older bride, however, much of her advice and information is relevant to brides of all ages and backgrounds. Many younger brides (like me and most of my friends) who may be idealistic about weddings and marriage and have unrealistic expectations will be better prepared to deal with unexpected but inevitable problems they will face during this period in their life. The book will reassure them that what they are going through is normal, and will help them focus on the really important thing - their love for their fiance/husband and the lifelong relationship they are building together. I have been waiting to be able to buy this book for my few friends who have not yet gotten hitched. I am excited to be giving it as a gift this week.

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