

You know the one, when your mailbox fills up with invitation after invitation to your friend's bridal showers, bachelorette parties, engagement announcements and receptions. Yep, it's wedding season.

A fair-weather friend flatters you when the sun is shining and the birds are chirping. Criticize you for being flawed. They see your flaws as features that make you interesting and beautiful. The quality of the happiness between two people grows in direct proportion to their acceptance, and in inverse proportion to their intolerance and expectations. True friends love and appreciate each other just the way they are. Walk away when times get tough. True friendship and good character is all about how a person nurtures another person when they are vulnerable and can give very little in return. So take note of who remains in your life when times get tough, especially the people who sacrifice the resources they have in their life to help you improve yours when you need it most. Seriously, when you come out the other side of a difficult period in your life, look around you. The people still standing beside you are your true friends. Unfortunately, some who seem like your friends will try to hold you back from your full potential. Beware of friends who try to belittle your ambitions. Small hearts and minds always do that. The greatest hearts and minds – the people you should spend time around – make you feel that you, too, can become great. Remember, encouraging things happen when you distance yourself from discouraging people. Hold a grudge over your head. Do not help them by acknowledging their begrudging behavior. Let go of their negativity, find peace, and liberate yourself! A true friend never holds the unchangeable past against you; instead, they help you repair your present and future. If someone relentlessly judges you by your past and holds it against you, you might have to take matters into your own hands, and repair your present and future by leaving them behind. If you know someone who avoids the truth by telling you only what you want to hear, they do so for their own benefit, not yours. Pretend like they have all the answers. Read Tuesdays with Morrie. Take from you without giving back. When you notice that a friend is always taking from you without giving back, you might need to distance yourself from them for a while. If you feel like you are being taken advantage of, respect yourself enough to confront the situation. It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but just as much to stand up to your friends. Sometimes bullying comes from the most unlikely places. Be cognizant of how your friends treat you, and look out for the subtle jabs they throw. When necessary, confront them or distance yourself from them – whatever it takes to give yourself the opportunity to grow into who you really are. Anyone who does so is not a true friend. Gain your independence by taking off the shackles and freeing yourself from these bullies. Read The Mastery of Love. True friendship is never burdened with stressful promises and obligations. What true friends do for each other should be done because they care and because they want to do them. Never, ever force yourself on someone who continuously overlooks your worth. Afterthoughts A true friend who understands your tears and troubles is far more valuable than a hundred friends who only show up for your smiles and joys. Because a true friend accepts who you truly are, and also helps you become who you are capable of being. Friendships like this require more than just finding the right person, they also require you to be the right person. When someone believes in you enough to lift you up, try not to let them down. True friendship is a sweet responsibility to be nurtured, not an opportunity to be exploited. Your turn! What would you add to the list? Leave a comment below and let us know.

Chapter 2 : Wedding Wishes and Messages For Cards | Shutterfly

The fact that you're even considering shaming this so-called friend by not celebrating her new partnership suggests you and your coworkers need to take a long, hard look at the meaning of the.

Some weddings last as long as a week, and this is something to be proud of and remember for years: OK, about day 1. The groom goes to pick up the bride for ZAGS, and then they go to the ceremony of "brakosochetanie" this is a formal word that is officially used to name the ceremony when a bride and a groom exchange rings and put their signatures in the registry. But there is much more before they are allowed to go! Traditionally the wedding is ruled by "witnesses". Those witnesses must prepare a script for the wedding so guests are entertained all the time. They meet before the wedding a few times, make posters, write speeches and invent contests. As was said before, Russians marry early, usually when both partners are still at college or university. This tradition of an entertaining wedding comes from student traditions of making any event a real life comic script. Usually students worked in "stroyotryad" temporary organized group of workers during summer to make some pocket money and at the same time having "work experience" - seldom connected with their future profession, usually in building industry in the country side; this "third working semester" was mandatory for all students. Working and spending all spare time together away from home created a wonderful spirit of community in students. They arranged lots of performances and competitions between different groups inside the "stroyotryad" that made their lives very interesting and fun. Something like a scout camp for adolescents. This is where traditions of current wedding scripts come from. Back to the wedding. There are of course many "ready to use" scripts that are doing rounds from one wedding to another, and witnesses usually review a few to compose their own. A Russian wedding must be fun, or it is not a wedding. I have attended a few western weddings including my own, and compared to Russian ones they are just plain boring. When the groom arrives to fetch the bride he must have some spare time until the ceremony as he is about to fight to get the bride. Each stair-well is a challenge for the groom - he must answer a question to be allowed to make those few steps up. For example, he may be shown a few photos of baby girls and he must say which one is his bride. If he guessed wrong, he must pay cash to pass this stair-well. He can climb up the wall or climb down from the roof - it would be much more fun but grooms are seldom that adventurous. So it can be quite a tough intellectual task to get to the door of his bride. He can be also asked to sing, to dance or anything else. But eventually he will make it of course. After the groom reaches his bride, they go to ZAGS for the ceremony of "brakosochetanie". The rest of the guests only join at the reception. The groom and the bride go in the same train but in different cars. Two crossed golden rings are Russian symbol of marriage that may be also seen on wedding invitations etc. The ceremony in ZAGS is similar to what happens at a civil ceremony in the West - the bride and the groom will be asked if they want to marry each other, and they must answer "Yes", then they exchange rings, then they kiss each other, then sign the registry, then the witnesses sign. The official representative of ZAGS will say a few words of greetings, and play the official hymn of marriage ceremony - march of Mendelssohn. The guests who are present give flowers to the bride, and drink a bottle of Champagne. Nowadays many couples opt for a marriage in a church but church marriages in Russia still do not have official status, and the church requires a civil marriage certificate to arrange the ceremony for the couple the couple must be officially married by ZAGS before the marriage in church. So if the couple plans to have a church ceremony, they will usually go through the civil ceremony a few days before the wedding. The Russian church ceremony is colorful and solemn but the complete traditional ceremony is very long, and as guests and the couple have to stand during the ceremony there are no benches in Russian churches at all; people must stand during all church services, faints are not rare. Most couples wisely opt for a shortened version of the church marriage ceremony. After the marriage ceremony the couple leaves the guests for a tour around the city sights. The couple visits memorials in memory of people who died in the World War II or Russian Civil War of, other famous graves or memorials, and lay flowers there. After hours of the city

As the couple arrives at the reception. Having more than guests is not typical; guests at Russian weddings are usually only family and friends and not anybody you happen to know. Tables for a wedding are moved together in the form of letters "T" or "U", where the couple and witnesses sit on the "top" in the case of home reception tables sometimes go through one room to another. Next to the couple and witnesses sit their parents, then close family and friends, then the rest of the guests but seats are not prearranged exactly, people sit where they want. First thing to start the reception is a toast. The first toast is of course for the new couple. One of the witnesses will announce the first toast, and then the parents have their say. Witnesses will also add some greetings, usually in the form of a poem, and eventually announce the toast itself: They must stand up and kiss each other for as long as possible, and all the guests start counting "1, 2, 3, 4". If the couple was not kissing long enough, the guests can insist that the wine is still bitter, and request another kiss. This happens after almost every following toast, so the couple has lots of kissing during the wedding. Then the witnesses continue running the wedding, reading jokes and poems, and sometimes asking the new couple questions to make fun of them. Witnesses ask one person or another to say the next toast, usually in the order how people sit, one by one. The pause in between the toasts is minutes, when people have time to eat and talk, then the next guest gets up and says the toast. Usually when a person says the toast, he gives his gift to the newlywed. Traditionally money is considered as the best gift, and is given in an envelope. Some time after the beginning of the reception when people start to become drunk the witnesses will ask everybody to give their gifts and one of the witnesses will collect envelopes from the rest of the guests with a tray. Then the first part of the reception is over. During this part people only eat starters and salads but there are usually different types of starters on the table, so no one is hungry usually vice versa, after starters people must take a break of hours before the main course to have space for it. Then people have time to dance. First dance is opened by the new couple. After the music starts, there is no exact script anymore, and witnesses can relax a little. They still occasionally announce a toast but do not entertain the guests with jokes and poems; guests by this time are already having lots of fun and are able to entertain themselves. Movements become quite hectic; some people go out "to refresh", and at some moment in this movement the bride gets She disappears, and when the groom starts looking for her, he is faced with a request for a ransom. A more or less short wrangle about the amount, and he can have his new wife back. But he must watch out - the bride sometimes may be stolen a few times! The groom must pay ransom for the shoe too - the guests enjoy watching wrangles. Sometimes the groom is having so much fun that he does not notice that his bride has disappeared; and his buddies have to tell him about it. The music stops once for the time when the main course is served, then the fun continues. There is no tradition of a wedding cake in Russia though they will probably adopt this western tradition soon; Russians enjoy rituals. They give a cake at the end of the reception which most guests miss dancing and having fun; there is much more dancing at Russian weddings, but there is no custom of bride and groom cutting it together. Often guests leave the wedding in such a condition that they cannot remember what happened. If this was the case with the majority of guests, then the wedding was a huge success:

Chapter 3 : Single people, do you resent, envy or feel bitter on seeing couples? : AskMen

When you get engaged, you want your friends to be just as happy as you are. But the truth is, some of them might not be. A few of your closest pals may be just a tiny bit jealous of your new relationship status.

I am a 64 year-old married women with a wonderful husband. We have been married for 45 years this summer. We have three sons, one of whom is married. Our youngest son is divorced but is getting along fine, our middle son is single and like most people has some problems but is working them out. When our oldest son was married we were thrilled. We just thought his wife was the loveliest girl. As a matter of fact, before we had this family problem I had been saying to a friend how lucky we were to have such a lovely daughter-in-law. They were very strong Orange Lodge people. We did ask our son if he was going to be changing religions. He asked if it bothered us. It did bother my husband but as he said to my son it was none of his business and that our son was an adult and had to make his own choices and that grandma and grandpa would just have to accept whatever decision he made. My in-laws owned several homes and offered them a home in a lovely area for a very low rent. They even fixed the house up for them. I was the one who answered the phone. I remember I just felt as if someone had kicked me in the chest. My son accused me of some terrible things. For example saying that I had planned to sing at their wedding. My son had asked me to sing and I told him I thought I would be too emotional and would rather have someone else do it. I suggested a friend that I had sung with and he was a gentleman that my son had always liked. He thought that was a great idea and talked it over with his wife and she agreed. As it turned out this man got the times mixed up. I had sung with the organist many times and she said come on you know the song, you come and sing. Luckily this was a good time for me and I was so pleased because I wanted them to be happy with it. The gentlemen came and I went to my seat in the church. Oh, I must say this all took place twenty years ago. We went to the reception, which was lovely. We were criticized for this. I have been accused of saying things that are so far fetched it is unbelievable. My husband and I had a long talk with our son and thought things were ok. I must add too that in all the time they have been married we have never been invited to their home for a meal. I just put it down to being tired. They did ask me to look after our grandson when they were having their second son. I thought things were great. I just feel so stupid. My husband was just furious and called her a name, which is really not like him. He hung up and my son phoned and said that he thought we had put a finish to his marriage. My husband, at this point, said "good. Now our son will have nothing to do with us. It is as if he died. My question pertains to the above. Do we just forget him? Our other sons have tried to talk to him. His wife was the one who caused problems in the family. She phoned our other two sons and started saying things about me. They both hung up. They have moved and do not want us to know where they are living. He loves his sons very much. He is angry with him for believing the things that he has been told about me. My husband feels as do I that he lived with us long enough to know me better than that. Last Christmas we got her a Christmas present and found out that she left it in our door, my son came after her and retrieved it. I really feel that there is something more wrong with her. I really think only time will tell. Jan 64 year-old woman Answer: Dear Jan, I found it interesting that your problem was sub-headed under addictions. I wondered whose addiction we might discuss: But assuming he does have an addiction to her, can you "cure it"? No, people have to heal themselves. Are you the "big mouth" your daughter-in-law complained to your husband about? Do you have an addiction to making comments and to gossip? What can you reasonably do? First, you are reaching out to the wrong people for help. Your sons can not help. Tell them that you are aware that you have somehow alienated their daughter without meaning to and ask for their help and advice. Ask if their priest could help with the problem and meet with him. Which brings me to the real issue. She was angry; did you go to her and reach out. Did you make it a point to introduce her to the few friends of yours who came to the wedding. Do you have Catholic friends, and did you have any of them at the wedding? Did you go up to the priest and thank him for performing the wedding? In other words, do you work to overcome your religious

bias? I guess you get the gist of my advice. Good luck, and may Jesus guide all of you toward the peace which He preached. Ken Weene This question was answered by Kenneth A. His orientation is holistic and eclectic. In addition to a variety of contributions to the professional literature, Dr. Weene has published a number of poems. He knows that this is sometimes difficult in the face of physical, emotional, and other forms of distress and sees his goal as helping people to find their inner peace and joy in the face of stress and anguish.

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Chapter 4 : Guilt: Our son and his wife aren't talking to us anymore

At weddings, people expect others to be happy and joyful; if you're not, your niece might take it the wrong way. Better to have a talk with her before the wedding, and explain to her that it would be better for you if you don't attend.

Bitterness is like a cancer that deteriorates the mind and heart. Even the writer of Hebrews wrote, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Each individual has the power of choice to possess an attitude of bitterness or optimism. Let us look at just a few key steps. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, replace your complaining friends with positive ones. We all tend to become like the people we associate with. Solomon once wrote, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, replace your attitude of scorning, with one of thankfulness to God. Paul once wrote, "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, engage in the ministry of the gospel. Paul writes, "Hold out the word of life" in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. When we give out tracts, speak of what Jesus means to us and offer comforting passages of hope to our associates, the Lord fills our hearts with joy. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, replace any bad attitude with a heart of kindness, compassion, forgiving everyone as in Christ, God forgave you. We have the power to choose to be kind, caring and forgiving since Jesus set the supreme example. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, end negative conversations. Paul writes, "Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires" Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. When we learn to speak in an edifying way, it fills our hearts with gladness. Building others up has a way of lifting our own self-worth. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, do not become a mind slave to negative television, newspaper or radio reports. The world is filled with bad news in the media" it gets higher ratings. Instead, fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about the good things in others. Praise God for all of His goodness. Be glad for every single moment. John once wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, watch your tongue. James writes, "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, stop fighting and quarreling. James writes, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. If you want to avoid the bitterness trap, stop slandering one another. James writes, "Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it" There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. Who are you to judge your neighbor? Leave the judgments to God.

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Chapter 5 : How To Get Better - Not Bitter Sermon by Paul Fritz, Hebrews - blog.quintoapp.com

If your friends' wedding was recent, and you are still closeâ€”and if your wedding is on a similar scale as theirs, or is largerâ€”they should already be on your guest list.

Next How to react to a bitter friend not being a bridesmaid? Hope someone can give me some guidance: I got engaged in June , for the first few months we just enjoyed it without making wedding plans. From August we started making wedding plans and we chose our ushers, bridesmaids and our flower girl and notified only close relatives and friends of the wedding date in advance. One close friend, who has never been to a wedding before is unaware of appropriate etiquette. From day 1 I got engaged she was persistent in asking and wanting to be a bridesmaid. Other friends said this in a jokey way, but she was not joking. She never asked or congratulated us on becoming engaged and was far too self obsessed about being a bridesmaid. I told her the date of the wedding and said it would mean a lot if she was with us on the day anyway. She told me it was fine Me and my partner cant afford a house to our selves and we are in a house share with her. Its been awkward all year. She made the choice to stop talking to me and end our friendship because she is bitter about not being asked to be a bridesmaid. She excludes me from arrangements with mutual friends. The other day, I spoke to one of our mutual friends, who said she was very bitter, and is over it now and I could try speaking to her about things. Yesterday I spoke to her, hoping to clear the air in the house more than anything. Also, if someone is bitter and with a character like her, I presume she would have also talked about me behind my back? Id also like to explain the type of character she is: She is an only child, never worked in her life and her parents spoil her rotten. She always likes to be the center of attention and get jealous easily. She very arrogant, and has been passively aggressive towards me every since I got engaged. I am open minded to people opinions and judgments. Many people mistook my words too, which is a common problem online answering boards. I have known this girl for 2 years only, and only through being a housemate. When we got engaged and made plan we were not living with her at the time. I had known her and lived I had known her and lived with her before I met my partner and we were close friends as well as housemates, going out for drinks and shopping ect. I moved in with my fiance, got engaged, made plans. We moved in to a houseshare with the girl that caused us and me such heartache. I, seeing her as a close friends wanted her to come to our wedding intially and I told her so

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Chapter 6 : How to react to a bitter friend not being a bridesmaid? | Yahoo Answers

All my friends had their second kids, but my attempts at growing the family further just did not pan out. As my friends got pregnant one after the other and had babies, I looked at their growing bellies and subsequently, their tiny little bundles of joy with longing.

Your best friend enthusiastically shares some big news. You say all the right things and display the right emotions. You really want to feel happy for your friend. You really want to get rid of these feeling of envy. I responded with appropriate excitement, said the right words, and showed the right emotions. But with each smile, word, and act of joy, I died a little bit inside. The first chance I got to be alone, I wept bitterly. Bad as all this misery was, I felt worse that I had these feelings in the first place. Worse, I might lose myself and become a bitter, resentful person. It took quite some effort to finally come of the situation without ruining my friendship or letting it poison my soul. Here are some of the lessons I learned along the way: Envy is a strong involuntary feeling that you cannot get rid of by just wishing or willing it away. And yet, sometimes when we want something bad and find that our friend got it instead, it fills us up with envy. Research has found that thought suppression is often ineffective, and can actually increase the frequency of the thought being suppressed. Other studies explored this paradox further, and support the finding that trying to suppress a thought only makes it more ingrained. So first thing, stop trying to get rid of these thoughts. Accept them for what they are—normal feelings that arise in a normal human being. Nail down the source of your envy to let the person who made you envious off the hook. At first glance it may seem like the person who made you envious is the source of your envy. However, if you dig a little deeper, you may realize that the reason you feel envious has little to do with the person who brought out the feelings. In my case, the real source of my feelings was that I desperately wanted a baby. Let this knowledge lead you toward personal growth instead of resentment and bitterness. At this point you have a choice. Will you become resentful of those who can, or will you make peace with the way things are? I knew there was nothing that my friend could do about my inability to get pregnant. But separating the source of my feeling from the person made it possible to feel happy for her, in spite of my continued feelings of envy. Ever so slowly, I started to feel excited about her pregnancy and the opportunity to experience the miracle of a baby through her. Focus your attention on addressing the source of your envy, instead of trying to eliminate the feeling. Your envy is probably here to stay—for a while anyway. Instead of fighting it, address the source of it. I knew deep down that four years was a long time to wait to have a baby. But I hated to face it head on. When I realized how easily I fell prey to the green-eyed monster, I knew it was time to take my head out of the sand and deal with the issue. I started infertility treatment. My friend was right there by my side as my biggest source of support through this emotionally exhausting roller coaster. In turn, I was able to share with her the excitement of her pregnancy. In fact, it was a huge motivation to keep going on rough days when all I wanted to do was give up and curl into a ball. I finally got lucky. Five months after she delivered her son, my daughter was born. Our friendship had survived the difficult test. The year that I had my daughter, three of my other close friends had their first kids too, in addition to this one. In the subsequent years, however, it was clear that my little tryst with the stork was over. All my friends had their second kids, but my attempts at growing the family further just did not pan out. As my friends got pregnant one after the other and had babies, I looked at their growing bellies and subsequently, their tiny little bundles of joy with longing. Then I remind myself: Connected Hearts Journal is a keepsake memory book parents put together with their kids and in the process have conversations, teach life lessons, build up self-esteem, instill an attitude of gratitude and so much more! [Click here to find out more.](#) See a typo, an inaccuracy, or something offensive? Please contact us so we can fix it! Did you enjoy this post? Please share the wisdom: You may also enjoy: [Get wisdom in your inbox](#) Join the [Tiny Buddha](#) list for daily or weekly blog posts, exclusive content, and promotions.

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Chapter 7 : 9 Things a True Friend Would Never Do

Giving away the bride is a centuries-old custom, but you can make this antiquated tradition into a modern and meaningful part of your wedding day. and friends, I.

Chapter 8 : When Your Friend's Happy News Fills You with Envy Instead of Joy

A true friend won't not be friends with you because your not cool enough. A true friend tells you everything they need to get out and trust you to not do tell anyone else, and will also do the same to you.

Chapter 9 : Be Better, Not Bitter

Revealed: Identity of the bride who wrote scathing letter to 'bitter' parents telling them why they were not welcome at her wedding. The letter was posted on a social networking site.