



## **Bad Bridesmaid: Bachelorette Brawls and Taffeta Tantrums--Tales from the Front Lines**

*Siri Agrell*

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**Bad Bridesmaid: Bachelorette Brawls and Taffeta Tantrums--Tales from the Front Lines** Siri Agrell  
A laugh-out-loud look at the most underrated supporting role in today's maxed-out wedding world, featuring "bad bridesmaids" who've had enough taffeta to last a lifetime

I just can't have any negative energy around my wedding." This is what Siri Agrell's best friend told her just before kicking her out of the wedding that Agrell had spent many months--and dollars--preparing for. Her offense? It's not that she slept with the groom, or even the best man. She didn't get drunk at the shower. She didn't buy the cheapest casserole dish on the registry.

But she did question the role of today's much-maligned bridesmaid in an article she wrote for a national newspaper. Despite the bags of fan mail the piece generated, the bride was not amused. Agrell was booted from the bridal party in favor of a similarly sized cousin--and no, she did not get reimbursed for the \$100 gold shoes she'd already bought to match the bridesmaid dress.

Now she's putting all that experience and fan mail to good use: like no other book on the market, *Bad Bridesmaid* is a hilarious tale of weddings gone wild, full of anecdotes and advice from women worldwide, and the perfect gift to get former, current, and future bridesmaids ready for action (or therapy). It's time to give the bridesmaid back her voice, her independence, and the natural waistline that has long been hidden under layers of responsibility and badly constructed tulle!

## **Bad Bridesmaid: Bachelorette Brawls and Taffeta Tantrums--Tales from the Front Lines Details**

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## **From Reader Review Bad Bridesmaid: Bachelorette Brawls and Taffeta Tantrums--Tales from the Front Lines for online ebook**

### **Kat says**

I've been in, involved with, assisted, etc etc etc. over 18 weddings and I'm only 24 years old. I adore my friends and family; I am truly honored to be invited into their special day. Having stated this, I must say the following:

Siri Agrell is dead-on! People change when they are placed under social expectations and high stress; this is the definition of the modern day wedding! Whether it's the bride or the bridesmaid, no one is perfect and people can let the details take control. This book is written using real-life stories Siri received from various readers and associates, from a wide range of ages, ethnicities, habitats, and backgrounds. They can't all be making it up. I've personally experienced two of the events in the book, and I've shown symptoms of both an "Underprepared (University Student)" Bridesmaid in one wedding, and I've been the crazy "Über Bridesmaid" in another.

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### **Amy says**

Siri Agrell is a journalist who made the 'mistake' of writing and publishing an article poking fun at the role of the modern bridesmaid. The mistake was making the glaringly bad choice of publishing this article while still fulfilling her role as bridesmaid in her friend's wedding. Her friend's, the bride, reaction was to kick her out of the wedding, reasoning "I just can't have any negative energy around my wedding."

Stupid move? Yeah. Funny book? Oh, yeah!

Agrell interviewed and recounts the stories of numerous beleaguered bridesmaids. You'll laugh along as they describe the hideous dresses they were made to wear, the ridiculous amount of money they had to spend for 'just one more pre-wedding event', and the hilarious melt-downs had by bride, bridesmaids, and mothers-of-the-bride.

Agrell also takes a serious, hard look at how planning weddings has changed in the internet age and how the pressure of the 'ideal' can ruin the reality. Once relatively simple, these events have turned into monstrous productions in which the bride often too-fully embraces the illusion of being 'the princess'. Her bridesmaids are expected to be her ladies-in-waiting, catering to her every whim and subject to harsh reprimands if they should question any task expected of them.

Both funny and wince-worthy honest, this book is a must read for anyone who has been a bridesmaid, has accepted the role of bridesmaid, or God forbid! a Maid of Honor. It would also act as a wonderful, precautionary tale for any brides-to-be about avoiding the Bridezilla Complex.

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### **Anna says**

After getting kicked out of a friend's bridesmaid lineup for publishing an article questioning the pressures

and expectations on wedding parties, the author collected a variety of wedding prep horror stories from other bridesmaids, and shares them in this short book (I read it over 2 days, with a fair bit of snickering on the bus and in the lunchroom). Though the author is not without fault (seriously, you made THAT joke in that place?), she does point out a great deal of silliness, barriers, and dilemmas that arise for wedding attendants as recent trends have evolved. The book ends on a warm note, though, so it's not just a grouchy litany of misery.

Suitable reading for anyone who is planning a wedding (as bridesmaid, bride, or whatever) or has ever been involved in one. I found the chapter on bridesmaids' dresses especially funny.

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### **Kelsie says**

I was lucky to receive this book from another bride-to-be! It is filled with hilarious stories about dress shopping, bridal showers, bachelorette parties, and wedding days. It was my lunchtime read and had me laughing numerous times within my 30 minute lunch breaks! Not only were these stories amusing, but the book also provided some interesting factual information about the history of all things wedding.

The bridesmaids' stories were so funny! However, there was a time or two that I actually agreed with the bride! Two of my bridesmaids announced their pregnancy on the SAME day! Sooo I feel you brides, I do.

However, as a 3x bridesmaid (so far), I really enjoyed reading about all the crazy things these girls must endure! If you're a bride, bridesmaid, or just simply enjoyed the movie *Bridesmaids*, this book is a must read!

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### **Tamara Evans says**

Usually when a woman gets engaged, after figuring out things like cake choices and flower selection comes assigning the role of bridesmaids. What "Bad Bridesmaid" seeks to do is provide readers with a front row seat as to the worst situations that can happen to a bridesmaid like being kicked out of the wedding or having to be in a wedding for a person you barely know.

The book starts out with the author's own tale of going from a good bridesmaid to a bad bridesmaid. Mainly, after the author was chosen to be a bridesmaid in a friend's wedding, she wrote a newspaper article asking why bridesmaids were necessary in a wedding at all. Although others were amused and some sympathized with her opinions, the bride did not feel that way and told the author she was fired as a bridesmaid and was to be replaced by the bride's cousin. The remainder of the book is made up of stories from other former bridesmaids who also suffered the fate of being labeled a "bad bridesmaid."

I feel "Bad Bridesmaid" has a split personality complex in that it goes from discussing the history of bridesmaids and their role in weddings to personal stories from other women who have been bridesmaids. I personally feel that the author of this book should have picked to either focus on the stories from former bridesmaids or the history of bridesmaids but not both.

Another issue I had with the book was the way in which it was organized. While each chapter was introduced with a catchy title, interesting quote and a nice picture, there was no definite separation between

the bridesmaid history and the former bridesmaid stories. Also, it was easy for the reader to get confused when confronted with all the different former bridesmaids who are involved in making this book. That being said, I think it would have been easier for the reader to have had a chart before the start of the book start the woman's name and how many times she served as a bridesmaid. I just think that a chart would have a lot more helpful so I would remember that the Giselle from Chapter 3 was the same Giselle in Chapter 8.

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All in all, this was a funny book which will make you think twice before saying "I do" to bridesmaid duty.

### **Emily says**

Tales of bridesmaids deemed "bad" by The Bride, usually a Bridezilla. Very funny, with some good commentary on the Fantasy Wedding Industry, and made me feel better about my own relations with my bridesmaids.

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### **Sharon says**

Oh my god, this book was so darn funny, I found myself wincing at times, at the things these poor girls endured.

I confess, I have been a bridesmaid 3 times, but never to such bridezilla's that feature in this book (thanks, Debbie, Narelle and Lorraine)

I doubt that I was as bad (only my sister will know, and she still talks to me) I agree with one reviewer, who says this book should be given to every newly engaged bride with a warning, that if they ever start to behave in such a manner, the bridal party walks.

Read it, and have a laugh at how outrageous some brides and their family can be in the pursuit of the "perfect" wedding. (A stupid idea to me, as the rest of your life together is more important in my book, than the one day)

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If you have been a bride, or a bridesmaid, and you recognise yourself, cringe!

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### **Jill says**

Having been in six weddings now (I think, it's a little hard to remember for sure at that point), I know a thing or two about being a bridesmaid, and yes, even probably being a bad bridesmaid. This book was an entertaining read for me about weddings and bridemaiddhood gone wrong. Why I remembered this book is that I am off this evening to try on bridesmaid dresses. Wish me luck! Here's to no big butt bows hoopskirts, parasels or pink tafetta! And to Rachel, who will be reading this, I am sure you will be the coolest bride ever (unless Sue is reading this, then, except for you, Sue! : ) ).

## **Paige says**

This...didn't need to exist. It's just a round up of random "horrible" bridesmaid stories that reads like a super long post from a site like Bustle.

I'd rather read a post from Bustle.

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## **Kim says**

I've been a bridesmaid 4 or 5 times now, and attended numerous other weddings (including my own). I've seen some bad wedding behavior, especially from brides. So I got a few chuckles from this "view from the trenches" collection - it's mostly about bridesmaids reaching the end of their patience with ridiculous requirements, not about willfully bad behavior. If you're someone who nodded knowingly through the movie "27 Dresses", pick this book up to read at the beach or on a plane.

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## **Jeannie says**

I found this book hilarious and the author to be so likeable.

At the age of 54 I have yet to be a bridesmaid and after reading this book, I now know that I never want to be one. The "Bridezillas" in this book horrified me, I truly felt a kinship with the bridesmaids and never would have taken even a tiny bit of the huge crap they put up with. She sprinkled her own tale of being a "bad bridesmaid" throughout the book which I found endearing since the bride that threw her out of the wedding was so horrible and yet Siri didn't rant and rage about this woman, I felt her hurt more than anything.

The end was great, she told of finally being a "good bridesmaid" to a bride who was an angel and a few other womens stories of their good experiences SO I guess it's isn't all bad. A light and fun read and one I really enjoyed!

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## **Sarah J. Belcher says**

I suffer from a chronic condition that prevents me from being able to leave a library without checking out a book. Beyond that, I can't really pinpoint what exactly prompted me to bring this book home. My tenure as a bridesmaid was not a particularly painful one, although I don't exactly look forward to doing it again. I now see that my experience could have been much worse and I'm thankful to still be friends with the bride. I think I was lucky that I had been friends with the bride since junior high -- she had had plenty of time to get to know my quirks and my tendency to rebel, and yet she still wanted me to stand up for her on her special day. I was a Bad Bridesmaid without really even realizing it. Having never participated in a wedding before, I didn't know what was expected of me, and unfortunately I had no one to lead me in the ways of being a Good Bridesmaid. I skipped the bridal shower. I opted to spend the night before the wedding at the hotel with my boyfriend instead of with the bride and the other bridesmaids (whom I didn't know). I didn't cover my (very visible) tattoo for the wedding. B-A-D. And yet she never said a word.

Basically, this book prepared me for "next time," if I'm so afflicted. Even more though, I think it made me think more about how I want my own wedding to come together (if, when) and whether I really want to put my friends through such an ordeal. I like to think that I won't be that bride, but I'm pretty sure that some conflicts are just inevitable.

Overall, I enjoyed the hilarious tales of bridal party disasters -- especially about the bridesmaid who popped out of her dress during the wedding ceremony ("Luckily the bridesmaid was wearing a strapless bra and had a very large bouquet of flowers that she immediately lifted in front of her chest. She stood there, half naked, as the couple continued their vows unaware that they were no longer the most interesting pair at the altar.") Sometimes it just takes a little humour (and proof that, hey, that wasn't so bad after all!) to put things in perspective.

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### **Kristin says**

I found this gem for 29 cents at the Philly AIDS Thrift Store. The book was hilarious and I finished it on 4 short flights to/from Tennessee. I loved the different bridesmaid stories and how they were separated into different chapters. Reading the bridal blunders made me shake my head and laugh out loud on the plane :) So many bridesmaids are under-appreciated on the Big Day, and brides can be INSANE!!! I know that I want my bridal party to have just as much fun as I'm having <3

I bookmarked a few pages with quotes that were so true to me:

"I see now that asking the groom about the ring carat size is tacky, while asking a friend to gift wrap a G-string and present it in front of the groom's mother is normal and civilized behavior." - Love the sarcasm..hahha seriously, ugh. Some of the traditions are so weird and just don't make sense...

"We have to get back to the basic perception of the wedding as a family and friend affair, where the bride and groom take their guests into consideration before they take themselves into consideration. If you do that, people will walk out saying, 'Wow, what a wonderful party.'"

- YES. I've thought about this a lot and really want everyone to have a great time.

I plan on passing this book to another soon to be bride!!

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### **Liz says**

"More than a wearable wedding accessory, the bridesmaid dress has developed into a modern tool of female ritual humiliation. One suspects that there is a global conspiracy afoot to persuade woman to dress up like idiots and bound down an aisle - a way to turn us against each other so we can never unite toward the goal of total world domination." - page 57

People get married every day (in theory) and half of those people, the bride half, have bridesmaids. Originally they were there to confuse evil spirits out to get the bride. Now, if this book is to be believed, they're virtual slaves of crazy brides.

This book is funny and borders on unbelievable, unfortunately many of the stories are probably true; women agree to stand up with a bride not realizing it will put them thousands of dollars in the hole and may end a friendship.

This book should be viewed as a cautionary tale.

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### **jennifer says**

It looked like a funny, light read, and it is, but there's a little meat to this too. Agrell is a columnist for the Canadian National Post, and in the midst of a year long bridesmaid commitment to her friends' engagement, which including hosting/attending numerous bridal showers, fittings, shopping trips, etc., Agrell began to lose her patience. Being a journalist for a national paper gave her the opportunity to vent in an article about the pains of being a bridesmaid. The bride read the article and Agrell was fired from the wedding and the friendship.

The book has bridesmaids recounting the many ways accepting the position made life difficult-from being chewed-out in public by the bride over their make-up to being stuck with restaurant tabs for parties they didn't host.

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