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Girl Talk: Being A Bridesmaid Drained My Bank Account

Posted by: [Tamara Lynch](#) Filed In: [Relationships](#)  
1:30PM, Tuesday July 20th 2010

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girltalk

Megin and I first met as mid-level slaves to the fashion industry eight years ago. I recognized a kindred spirit the minute I caught her screaming harsh obscenities at her computer. We've been through boyfriend breakups, apartment break-ins, and career changes. So when she asked me to be a bridesmaid, I jumped at the chance to stand by her side and watch her start a new life with the man she loved. Of course I wanted to support her in any way possible on her big day; I just didn't realize how much it would cost me!

The bachelorette party was my first indication of the financial obligation I agreed to. My plane ticket from New York to Miami: \$400. Hotel on South Beach: \$300. Dinner and drag show: \$150. Drinks at the bar: \$200. Bachelorette party in Miami: unfortunately, NOT priceless.

In addition to the bachelorette party, I spent a total of \$1,500 on a dress I will never wear again, a gift for the bridal shower her future mother-in-law hosted, a gift and food for the naughty-themed bridal shower we, the bridesmaids, hosted (the maid of honor's idea), my plane ticket to Tampa for the wedding, and my hotel room stay.

As the numbers continued to add up, and my credit card statements kept increasing, I tried to keep it together, but all I could feel was resentment. She never acknowledged the cost, just smiled and expected me to participate. To tackle my mounting debt, I cut back on dinners out and replaced them with Ramen noodles.

I had tried to get out of the bridal party spa treatments she booked, but the pregnant pause and the chilly "umm ... okay," she gave me over the phone made me feel like a bad friend. I gave in, of course, which not only made me mad at her, but mad at myself!

I did my best to stay supportive, but as my animosity rose, I saw the sweet, small town girl from Podunk, Florida as a flaming bridezilla. Every time she mentioned the wedding, I cringed. I began to avoid her phone calls and disregard her emails. I contemplated having a heart-to-heart with her, but I just didn't see it going well.

The day before the wedding, Bridezilla treated the bridesmaids to manicures and pedicures, and as her colors were black and white, she "encouraged" all of us to choose red for our nails. After she inspected my "Leave It to Diva"-colored toes, I mentioned I was thinking of doing a nude color on my hands. Everything turned to slow motion as her breath caught, her eyes widened, and her mouth squared to protest. Before she could say anything, I grabbed the red polish and thrust it at the manicurist. Her open mouth spread into a smile ... and she hugged me.

In that moment I realized this was her Holy Grail, and I didn't want to ruin our friendship over money and nail polish. She asked me to share in her wedding; it was an ode to how important I am to her.

I sucked it up and saw everything from another point of view.

I got to party in Miami, chill by the pool in Tampa, and be V.I.P. at all the wedding events. I had to admit it was fun. I put on my new attitude the next day. The wedding was beautiful and I made sure to look stunning in my \$300 dress with the stiff, lampshade-like flair at the bottom that I will never wear again. I also made sure to drink \$1,000 worth of champagne.

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And in the end I didn't mind cutting back and plunking down a few more bucks a month on my credit card, because I got to hold on to my friend.

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#### BeckiLG

Score: 5

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:40 PM

How bout some bachelorette party money-saving ideas from the Frisky? I know I could use 'em, even if my friend means everything to me!



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[1 reply](#)



#### JennK.

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 4:27 PM

I think they just posted some a couple days ago! ...and this: <http://www.thefrisky.com/post/246-10-tips-for-throwing-the-best-bachelorette-beach-party-ever/>



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#### lilbit

Score: 11

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:41 PM

I'm glad it all worked out, but if I am good enough friends with someone that she asked me to be her bridesmaid, I would certainly have spoken up and been honest with her about the money. I turn down friends for different outings if I'm broke, and unfortunately, a wedding that cost me thousands of dollars would



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have been more than enough for me to just say, "hey, I gotta miss this little trip to the spa" or whatever. I would hope she'd understand.



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1 reply



**christinalouise**

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:50 PM

I was going to say the same thing!



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**roxyA**

Score: 22

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:42 PM

I'm not sure she sounds like a friend I would want to hold on to...



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1 reply



**JennaSide**

Score: 1

wrote on July 21, 2010 @ 12:47 AM

I agree!



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**chelles\_bells**

Score: 10

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:42 PM

I have a friend who expects me to attend her bachelorette party in vegas. I am refusing because I hate Vegas and I cant spend that money. She planned this party without consulting with anyone in her circle of friends (no bridesmaids)... it was just like an email appeared and the pressure was on.

At other similar party situations, I felt like I was forced to compete with the other girls there. I had to get an up-do from this salon because Bridesmaid B was doing it. I have to get a professional manicure even though I'm wearing gloves because Bridesmaid C is doing it. I have to drink as much as the other girls in order to seem like I am having a good time at this cheesy party.

And if you think about protesting about the dress price, style, color, etc.. you are deemed the uncooperative one. I HATE IT



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**Jessalyn**

Score: 10

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:51 PM

I'm glad you were able to get to a place that let you enjoy the wedding and stress out a little less, but I have to agree with some of the other commenters that the bride doesn't sound like the best of friends. Being in a bridal party is expensive, but this one sounds completely, unnecessarily over-the-top. For a bride to expect everyone to shell out what sounds like several thousand dollars without even acknowledging the financial burden is just ridiculous.



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**abmz72**

Score: 8

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:56 PM

Was the dress \$1500 or \$300?

This is all too much. Weddings have become shows. If I get married I will ask my parents to pay for the bridesmaids dresses or if I have a bachelorette party in a fun location, I will pay for the hotel rooms. If my parents or I cannot afford these things then I will not have them.



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4 replies



**Burrito Lady**

Score: 1



wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:59 PM

I had the same question but I think it was \$300, the \$1500 total was a result of the gifts she purchased for the various celebrations.



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**abmz72**

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:05 PM

Ok thanks. I was thinking I know alterations, shoes, and jewelry are expensive, but you got ripped off.



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**katiedo**

Score: 5

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:57 PM

I agree with your last paragraph, pretty much. While I feel that some people can totally afford nice weddings and don't intend to be "showy", I think if I'm affording a lavish ceremony and want things a certain way, I can afford to throw in a couple of bills to my bridal party.



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**AnitaBath**

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:55 PM

It's the tradition for bridesmaids to pay for their own dresses, but if the bride insists on them wearing such an expensive dress, she should probably fork over AT LEAST half of the cost.



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**TriDeltaDarling**

Score: 6

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:58 PM

So far, my bridesmaid experiences have all been similar to this.

What bothers me even more than the money is watching an otherwise rational friend become completely unhinged over something little, like nail polish. I have seen so many of my friends morph into petty, uptight people I hardly recognize while they are planning their weddings. Fortunately, they have all returned to normal once the shindig is over, but it can seriously be a strain on the friendship.



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**Burrito Lady**

Score: 9

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 1:58 PM

sounds like your friend was definitely inconsiderate of the people involved but at the same time, the writer seems to want to keep up with appearances. You chose to go along and rather than forgo a group activity you ate ramen in the privacy of your home so as not to appear poor? I think you could have spoken up to the fact that though it is a privilege to be part of her wedding party, but all the additional events are affecting the bank account significantly. Seems like you might have splurged a bit on gifts and you could have definitely communicated your inability to go not due to not wanting to but it not being financially feasible but instead you chose not to say a thing. A good friend would understand such a situation and if they don't, they're not that great to begin with IMO.



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**TheFriskyPixie**

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:00 PM

Agreed, sounds like the bride is inconsiderate, spoiled, self-centered...

Question for you Tanya. You mentioned that you spent \$1500 on a dress you'd never wear again, which I assumed was the bridesmaid dress. But later you write that you spent \$300 on the bridesmaid dress: was the first \$1500 dress for the bachelorette party? If yes, you can't really blame bridezilla for that huge pricetag. If not, sorry for reading that wrong.



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TriDeltaDarling

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:03 PM

She said she spent \$1,500 on a bridesmaid dress, various gifts, and travel to Tampa, not just a dress.



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TheFriskyPixie

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:19 PM

Ah, got it. I see other folks were confused too.



Report Abuse



TriDeltaDarling

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:24 PM

Yeah I had to read it a couple of times because at first I read \$1500 for a dress and couldn't believe it. It probably should have been worded a little differently



Report Abuse



LO18

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 10:28 PM

@TriDelt, she said "in attion to the bachelorette party" she spent 1500 dollars. As in, after spending 1050 dollars on the bachelorette party, she had to spend another 1500. As in, over \$2500 on a wedding that isnt even her own.

\*Shaking my head\*

I hope Megin is a superb friend, because that is a whole lot of money, and seems like quite a few years of "a few extra bucks" and ramen meals to pay for her bridezilla moment.



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LO18

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 10:29 PM

addition\*



Report Abuse



maynard

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:05 PM

My fiance was a best man over the weekend and even that was expensive. Starting with the bachelor/bachelorette party a few weeks ago we had to buy 2 concert tickets, he had to take 2 unpaid days off of work, and we had to pay for drinks all night. Luckily the hotel for that was mostly on points.

Over the weekend for the wedding it wasn't anything like described here, but we had a pricey hotel for 2 nights and his tux was \$150 for a RENTAL. pfft. And there was the gift. Also I paid for all these things because we're having some financial trouble. So. I'm bitter.

But yeah, basically being a bridesmaid is like getting a bill in the mail and I'll definitely be keeping this in mind once my wedding rolls around.



Report Abuse



The Rockstar

Score: 25

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:08 PM

"And in the end I didn't mind cutting back and plunking down a few more bucks a month on my credit card, because I got to hold on to my friend."

It shouldn't take thousands of dollars just to hold onto a friend.



Report Abuse

Goldfinch86

Score: 5

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:24 PM

My exact thoughts. If she was a true friend she could have been talked down or compromised with over these expenses. I would have told her f-off after in the nail parlor, it may be her wedding but bullying people and acting like they are your slaves is not friendly behavior.



Report Abuse

---

**silvii**

Score: 3

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 5:20 PM

The bride - her friend is not the one who will have to deal with her debt. I expected some compassion from the bride who should know that not everyone will be able to afford everything



Report Abuse

---

**Vivster**

Score: 4

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 8:34 PM

Well, the bride paid for the manicure, I guess she gets to dictate the color there...

The writer also points out that instead of saying anything, she chose to suffer in silence. For all we know, bringing up the price tag at some point (maybe before the bachelorette party and stuff) might have made the bride reconsider some of the expenses...



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**BlueVibe**

Score: 0

wrote on July 26, 2010 @ 10:29 AM

A-freakin'-men.

I would be MORTIFIED if I found out I was causing my friends financial harm because of a wedding. (Of course, I wouldn't be insisting on blow-out showers and bachelorette parties, either.) And I would totally not be offended if they declined out of concerns about the cost (money, time, etc.). I'd be a lot more worried if they didn't think they could tell me and tried to suck it up.



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**tabby**

Score: 1

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:09 PM

And this is exactly why I don't want to ask any of my friends to be bridesmaids, much to Everyone's dismay. I have been one five times, and will be one again next summer and it is a lot of work and a lot of money. Why do I want to do that to the people that I love? (Unfortunately, my to-be husband already asked people to be his groomsmen so I guess I am stuck.)



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**abmz72**

Score: 6

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:10 PM

Also, I think it's completely appropriate when asked to be a bridesmaid to ask how much she thinks everything will cost. Or you can say I can't spend more than \$150 on a dress so if it's going to be \$300, you can cover the difference or I'm out. Or say no because you don't think you can afford to do all the extras. Tell your friend ahead of time.



Report Abuse



**whatev**

Score: 3

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:14 PM

Yep! This is precisely why I vowed never, ever to be a bridesmaid again. I swear this woman read my mind. I'm glad someone finally said something. What people don't get is that its their wedding. Not ours. Things just don't hold the same appeal to us as it does to them, not to mention its not as important. My friends were never "Bridezilla" types but like someone said "being a bridesmaid absolutely is like getting a bill in the mail". Its a matter of choice though. Who is more important?? You or them? You might ruin a friendship but then again I think a true friend understands if you decline. A true friend will talk about it

with you. At least that is what my experiences taught me. Thank goodness most of my freinds are married now. When its my turn, I'll lovingly elope. ;)



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Ariandre

Score: 3

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:18 PM

Reading this makes me so glad I had such an unconventional wedding. I told my bridesmaids to just wear what was comfortable and looked nice on them but floor length since my dress was floor length. My friends did my make up and my hair and helped me get dressed- no professional spa treatments needed for any of us.

One of my bridesmaids even ended up wearing her combat boots under her dress (her high heels broke and she didn't have another pair, :) ) which actually came in quite handy as it started snowing as soon as we were ready to leave for the venue and she was the only one who could help me across the parking lot without falling.

I think my wedding was the best I've ever personally attended because no one was stressed, not me and not my bridesmaids. (well, except for the snow part and trying to get a ride to the venue for the ceremony, hehe)

For my bachelorette (sp?) we went to a dance club that I really enjoyed and the party guests got together and bought me my drinks while I danced. No other entertainment or costs were involved and yet I enjoyed every minute of it because I was with my friends.

I get a little perplexed at the cost of weddings sometimes, it seems so much stress in involved in the cost of things that people aren't going to have much fun doing anyway because they are so stressed about the cost of doing them.



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2 replies



livin\*sunlife

Score: 4

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:23 PM

sounds like a great wedding, bachelorette party -- i like to hear the simple, easy, unconventional (wish it would become conventional) weddings.



Report Abuse



esmee

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:08 PM

My sister had a similar, rational wedding. I wish I had been more help in retrospect but I had no idea I was obligated to do anything.

I was the maid of honor but live 1000 miles away from her so the other bridesmaid threw her a shower.

Honestly I was like there's no way I'm paying for a brunch for basically her husband's entire family plus a plane ticket up there for the shower, a plane ticket later in the fall for the wedding and a dress. So I skipped the shower and her wonderful sister in law took care of it.

If anybody cared, they didn't mention it to me. You can't get blood from a turnip though, or more credit when you're totally broke so what can you do?



Report Abuse



livin\*sunlife

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:19 PM

this makes me so happy that i've never been in a position to be a bridesmaid (moved away from hometown, far far away), was going to be 9 months pregnant when another friend got married. Others had small, family only weddings. I wouldn't have the money to do this. And there's no way I would dump it all on a credit card and still be paying that off months after the wedding.



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ErikaWells

Score: 11

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:27 PM

I think this post was supposed to be heartwarming, but all I can think of is that the author gave so much to the bride, who gave nothing back in return (oh, except her "friendship" which hinged on the color of nailpolish).

This is so unhealthy!



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hlnbabe

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:29 PM

I was in my first wedding last summer and the bride was a serious gem. All of us bridesmaids were young, so our dresses were like \$100, we just had to wear silver shoes and our hair up, we threw her bridal shower at the clubhouse, she wanted a simple bachelorette... her parents paid for this uber expensive wedding and funnily enough, I think she'd have preferred a small group of immediate family in a white linen dress on a beach somewhere. Anyways, I lucked out, but I know in the future I'm going to have to be particular about any I participate in, between the gifts, clothes, and parties, I don't want to go broke.



Report Abuse



callmehobo

Score: 4

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:34 PM

And that is why I'm eloping....



Report Abuse



I Go To 11

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:49 PM

Why are people insisting on some crazy event for a bachelor/ette party these days? When I got married last year, my bachelorette party consisted of a small group of friends going to dinner and doing karaoke at a bar. My husband's bachelor party was playing mini-golf (they were going to go to a driving range, but it was raining...so indoor mini-golf it was) with his best man and 2 groomsmen. We didn't want to do anything expensive, since all of our wedding party were traveling long distances to attend the wedding. I also tried to be as considerate as possible for my bridesmaids and tried keeping costs for them to a minimum.

In a few weeks, my husband's best man (and best friend since childhood) will be getting married several hundred miles from where we live (they're both originally from central NY state.) The bachelor party is taking place this weekend...in Montreal (which is a pretty long distance from central NY, anyway). My husband wanted to go, but I had to put the kibosh on that, since with his work schedule--and the fact that we're already driving to NY for the wedding 2 weeks later, so keeping finances in check is a big deal--it was damn near impossible for him to attend anyway. He was a little sad that I told him no, since it \*is his best friend, but then he agreed that it wasn't really feasible and told his friend he couldn't make it.



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spacedream

Score: 0

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:55 PM

i'm glad my friends dont have such expensive tastes. ive been in a few weddings recently and never had to go through anything like this. if it had, i guarantee at least one of us would have said "I so wish I could be there, but I just cant afford all of it." then again, we're in our mid-twenties so its kind of understood...I wonder how old the person was who wrote this? but no matter what age, it sounds like all of this was way over the top.



Report Abuse

2 replies



esmee

Score: 2

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:18 PM

you'd really hope most reasonable people would say, wow sounds fun but you are smoking crack if you think i'm paying for that...or what you said.



Report Abuse





**spacedream**

Score: 0

wrote on July 21, 2010 @ 12:09 PM  
lol. no, probably what you said...



Report Abuse



**MrsMartino**

Score: 1

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 2:58 PM

I had my bachelorette party at my favorite local bar with a few girlfriends. Since they knew me, I got tons of free drinks. I was completely s\*\*t-faced and partied like I was in Vegas or Ibiza. It was a most awesome last hurrah.

I don't understand these big to-do destination bachelorette parties. I know someone who is considering having her bachelorette party in Cabo San Lucas. She lives in West Virginia.



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1 reply

**Vivster**

Score: 1

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 8:38 PM

I think people are looking for an excuse for a fancy, expensive vacation and a reason to drag a bunch of friends along...

I don't know, simply saying "Let's go to Cabo for \_\_\_\_\_ weekend" seems like just as good a plan...



Report Abuse



**esmee**

Score: 10

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:13 PM

I love reading bridal party horror stories.

Asking bridesmaids to wear red nail polish is fine I think.

Demanding that they drop THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS for your party, totally not OK.



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**K.Söze**

Score: 3

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:25 PM

That story made me sick to my stomach. This qualifies as a rant, not a "talk"

Question: WHY do y'all torture yourselves so damn much?!



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**Ratcher**

Score: 1

wrote on July 20, 2010 @ 3:27 PM

I just wrote up a whole list of tips on how a bride can spare her friends some major financial woes, but then I realized that did nothing to help those people who are stuck with some demanding brides.

All I have to say is talk to the bride. She's your friend and she should be respectful. Often, the bride is being manipulated by so many friends and family, she's just going along with other people's choice of bachelorette party, multiple showers, etc.

I feel like with so much wedding stuff, we all spend so much time and energy doing what we think everyone else wants and so few people actually think or ask what people really want.

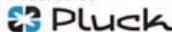


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