

## Confessions of a Terrible Bridesmaid

I was a terrible bridesmaid. I know it's hard to believe, since I know so much about weddings and etiquette now. At 22 then, however, I knew very little and had no idea what I was supposed to do. I thought it meant I wore a pretty dress and walked down the aisle, and little else. In my defense, there was no one who told me what I should be doing either. I am truly apologetic to those friends whom I “short-changed”.

### What is a bridesmaid?

#### Being a great attendant

In Singapore, attendants are largely known as “Sisters” and many do not adopt Western formality by calling them Bridesmaids, A Maid of Honor or Matron of Honor.

A bridesmaid is first and foremost someone whom the bride wants to be a part of her wedding. Perhaps she is a sister, or a very close friend whose friendship and support of the marriage is meaningful.

Although I am very much a traditionalist, I defied convention and invited my best male friend to be part of my bridal entourage.

So – you could say he was my “Brides Butler”?



Picture of My Bridal Entourage

More than that, a bridesmaid and/or maid-of-honor serves a practical purpose. During the hectic time of planning a wedding, she is a confidante, advice giver, do-er of menial tasks, errand runner and more. A bride should have at least one bridesmaid who is reliable, cheerfully helpful, organized, and resourceful.

#### A bridesmaid's duties might include:

- Helping the bride shop for her dress and bridesmaids' dresses
- **When asked**, giving advice on decorations, favors, music, and more
- Helping to plan a bridal shower or bachelorette party (optional)
- Helping the bride dress (and stay calm) before the ceremony
- Prim and prime the bride (gown, posture, angle, makeup, teeth etc.) to look good for the photograph at all times.
- Being useful at the wedding reception

*The couple may ask you to help direct guests to the guestbook, assist with a special moment, and ensure vendors have arrived, or do crisis management. You might also want to stick around after the reception to make sure things are cleaned up, wedding presents and ang-pows secured.*

- Being social. Be sure to talk to as many guests as you can, making them feel warmly welcomed.

*Bring new and old friends of the couple together.*

*If there's a dance floor, help get the party going!*

*If there are overseas guests, ask the couple if they need help in hosting them.*

Whatever scale the wedding, I believe the preparation leading to the event should serve as an opportunity for meaningful bonding time. **LAUGH and MAKE MERRY!**