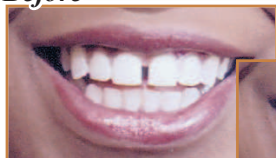


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CONNIE REYES
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Put a ring on it, then steer clear

Watching WE's "Bridezillas," I can't help but think to myself, "What bridezillas? These ladies are behaving perfectly rationally."

Perhaps that's because I just had a meltdown at David's Bridal when I discovered it didn't have the fake pearl shoe clips I wanted.

Allow me to explain. I'm engaged. Thank you, thank you. Yes, I'm super excited. But I quickly realized the wedding wasn't going to plan itself—much to my dismay.

Now here we are, two months to the big day, and I have gone from a blushing bride to an enraged torpedo of crazy, spinning around in a whirlwind of tulle and seating charts.

Looking for solace, I checked out the latest celebs planning to get hitched who might share in my misery. However, according to a recent interview, Kim Kardashian doesn't feel the same way. Instead, E! Online reports that her "freak-out moments happened at the beginning" and she is now calm—even with her nuptials only two days away.

That's a butt-load of bull if I've ever heard it.

No matter what, every bride will and should freak out. It's her right. The decisions made during the engagement period are overwhelming and probably outnumber the decisions President Obama will have to make by the end of his first term in office. Just to get dressed, I have to make eight crucial choices. EIGHT!

Where is my future husband in all of this? After he picked out a *white* vest at Men's Wearhouse when I clearly explained that my dress is *ivory*, I locked him in a closet with the wedding favors and told him he can't come out until the rehearsal. Hoping the closet was sound-proof, he happily complied.

Some might think I'm overreacting, but I can justify my behavior with simple math. Imagine you're hosting a dinner party for five people. To plan a great evening of food, drinks and entertainment, you probably reach about a 4 out of 10 on the anxiety scale. Now multiply that by the number of people on the wedding guest list and what do you get? Anxiety attacks at the florist and a twitchy eye.

Everyone warned me this would happen, but I refused to listen. My famous last line was, "The banquet hall has food and booze. What more do people want?" Then somewhere between picking the dress and selecting a videographer, I morphed into a color theme-obsessed creature who's incapable of completing a sentence without the word "wedding."

The truth is the whole thing *is* a big deal. And yes, perhaps all the guests won't gush over how I got the place cards to match the bridesmaids' shoes, but if this is going to be the start of our married life together, I'd like it to start off right.

So the next time your sister/friend/attacker is screaming profanities about her wedding plans, just stand back and let her freak out. It is the greatest gift you can possibly give. That, or something off the registry. **CONNIE REYES IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

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