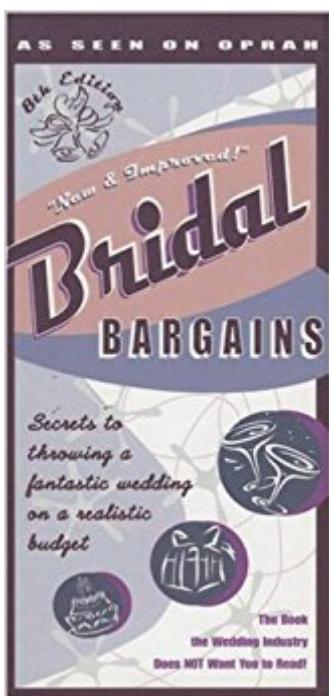


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# Bridal Bargains, 8th Edition: Secrets To Throwing A Fantastic Wedding On A Realistic Budget (Bridal Bargains: Secrets To Throwing A Fantastic Wedding On A Realistic Budget)



## **Synopsis**

The national best-seller the wedding industry does NOT want you to read! Bridal Bargains teaches couples all the tricks to saving money on a wedding--and how to avoid pitfalls and scams. With the average wedding costing \$20,000, Bridal Bargains is the solution to tying the knot without breaking the bank.

## **Book Information**

Series: Bridal Bargains: Secrets to Throwing a Fantastic Wedding on a Realistic Budget

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## **Customer Reviews**

Denise Fields and Alan Fields write a monthly column for Baby Talk magazine. They have written several best-selling books, including Baby Bargains and Bridal Bargains. They live in Boulder, CO.

I enjoyed reading this book while we were planning our wedding, but ultimately, we really didn't end up using many tips from it. This book has some great information, without a doubt. It is divided into sections based on area of the budget (gowns, flowers, food, officiants, etc). In each section, there is some good background information that may be helpful to keep in mind when planning your budget and negotiating contracts. I'm sure many people have saved money on their weddings by using this book, but while we found a lot of interesting and useful background information in the book, there weren't many specific tips that we actually used. It's great to know ways that you can save some cash on your wedding, but being an average couple, we went into our wedding expecting to spend some serious cash on it. (Nothing too crazy, but we weren't catering it ourselves, buying used wedding gowns, or any of the more extreme tips in the book.) The best tip to keep in mind when

planning your wedding is common sense: Just remember that your wedding is ultimately just one day. It will be a great day regardless of how much you spend or save on it, so make your priorities, stick with them, and have the best wedding you can afford on a reasonable budget. Also remember that none of the details will matter as much to you a year or more after the fact than they do while you're engaged, so CHILL! :) Really, this book has some good information in it and I intend to buy their baby book when we eventually have children, but I recognize it for what it is: good information that I may or may not use. It's nice to know your options in order to make an informed decision, but I ultimately didn't use many (or any at all, I really can't remember) of the tips in this book. Nice to be informed, but not all that useful in normal practice.

A friend recommended this book to me right after I got engaged. I found it to be helpful in certain areas, but there are also a lot of annoying things about this book. First, the negatives: 1) I found the authors' tone throughout the book to be extremely irritating and depressing. It's clear that they have a vendetta against the entire wedding industry. Yes, I get it, wedding-related services are appallingly overpriced. But these authors take the doom-and-gloom, everyone-is-out-to-get-you thing way too far. It makes you want to jump off a cliff, not jump into wedding planning. Also, they take issue with bridal magazines being vehicles for advertisements, but then they repeatedly advertise their own other books and their website throughout this book. Hypocritical, much? 2) TYPOS. I have literally never read any publication with this many typos before. It seemed like practically every page had a major error on it. Clearly these authors need to get a better editor. 3) I found it frustrating that many of the average prices they quote are inaccurate depending on where you live. I live in the NY area, and while the authors do acknowledge that major metro areas will usually have higher prices, I wish they would have done a little more research into exactly how much higher. Often they quote the "high end" for a vendor as being a certain price, when in NY really it might be hundreds of dollars more. Now, for the good stuff: if you can get past the angry tone and all the typos, the book actually does have some good advice on planning in general and on saving money. What I found most helpful were the lists of websites, online discount sources, and stores in various cities. If you're newly engaged, there's a lot of information that will help you figure out where to start with planning and which sources will best fit your budget. Also, the authors do offer a money-back guarantee on the book, so if you hate it you don't really have anything to lose!

I am so thankful I ordered this book. It is already full of posty notes and hi-lited areas by me!! It not only is full of fantastic ideas on budgeting, but also each chapter has 'questions to ask the vendors',

'pitfalls to avoid' and the "lingo" that is used by the vendors at each step all of which is just plain helpful. While the book is not meant to be a "planner" - it still gets part of that objective across in the way they lay it all out for you. For brides on budgets or those planning smaller ceremonies and receptions without the big bang on the pocketbook, this book is a must have!

My daughter is planning a wedding and bought this book. She liked it so much she asked me to get one as well. I can see why she liked it - I have not finished reading it but so far the hints and tips in it are first rate. They have one section on what to ask people at a venue you are considering for a reception. That has already proved helpful when we visited a few places. There is a section on bridal gowns that is quite useful. My daughter now has an idea of how she can get the gown she wants at about half-price. It seems as if the book can really be useful for people on all sorts of budgets, including people who expect to spend the average cost of a larger wedding - which is about \$21-25,000. The tips about the open bar versus pay by the drink, and alternatives to such beverage services is extremely helpful. All in all , this is a very useful book that I highly recommend - and I haven't even read all of it yet.

This is the book I was waiting for. I was given a few other budget wedding books (such as "1001 Ways to Save Money and Still Have a Dazzling Wedding")and they were horrific. Some writers don't know the difference between "budget" and "tacky", but Denise and Alan Fields do. This book is PACKED with realistic money-saving tips and tricks, and the behind-the-scenes looks at the wedding-gown and invitation industries is worth the price of the book.I got ideas for things I never would've thought about on my own, such as ordering Crane invitations from other stationers for 40% off of retail, or even buying bridal gowns direct from China (where do you think those expensive dresses hanging in the stores came from anyways?)Between "Bridal Bargains" and "Wedding Planning for Dummies", I finally feel like I have a handle on my wedding planning.

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