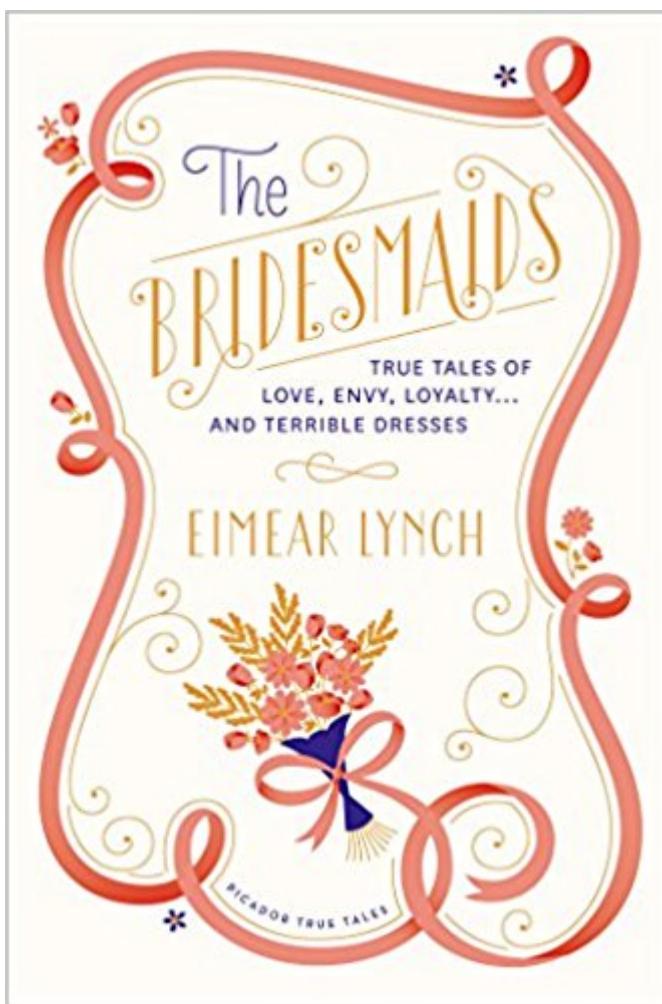


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# The Bridesmaids: True Tales Of Love, Envy, Loyalty . . . And Terrible Dresses (Picador True Tales)



## Synopsis

"An entertaining beach readâ | [and] a nice way to provide your besties with reading material for the bachelorette weekend."â •Lauren ConradWHAT DO A FORMER FASHION MODEL, AN EX-NUN, AND A FRAT BOY HAVE IN COMMON? VIRTUALLY NOTHING, EXCEPT THAT EACH HAS EXPERIENCED A UNIVERSAL RITE OF PASSAGE: BEING A BRIDESMAID. Each year 11 million bridesmaids lead their best friends down the aisle. Most wear matching dresses, and nearly all have a thing or two to say about the bride. In this uproarious oral history, editor and journalist Eimear Lynch offers us an intimate glimpse at the moments the wedding photographer failed to capture. From the accidental bridesmaid who helped sew the bride into her "designer" gown to the tomboy who struggled to carry Princess Diana's twenty-five foot train, The Bridesmaids lifts the veil on the Big Day. Opening with her own experiences as a five-time 'maid, Eimear gives us stories that are by turns heartfelt, funny, scandalous, and sometimes downright strange. An ode to the good, the bad, the strapless chiffon, and the occasional three-piece suitâ •and, above all, to the supporting actresses and actors who wore themâ •The Bridesmaids is a colorful walk down the aisle that you won't want to miss, and the perfect companion for every bridesmaid-to-be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

â œAn entertaining beach readâ | [and] a nice way to provide your besties with reading material for the bachelorette weekend.â •â •Lauren Conradâ œA surprisingly moving oral history of wedding party experiences, ranging from brothers who have served as bridesmen to the 13-year-old

responsible for folding Princess Diana's legendary train at the royal wedding.â • â • The Cutâ œHystericalâ | The Bridesmaids will have you cracking up in your lounge chair.â • â • Cosmopolitan.com, Getaway Must-Havesâ œWhether you're a seasoned pro or a wedding party newbie, you're sure to pick up some tips (and have a few laughs) while reading Lynch's heartwarming ode to being a bridesmaid.â • â • Birchbox Book Clubâ œLynch is something of a modern wedding expertâ | A collection of short, true stories based on her conversations with bridesmaids of all stripes.â • â • The New Republicâ œThis insider's look at the bridesmaid experience compiled by Lynch is fun to read, as well as a cautionary tale for both bridesmaids and bridesâ | A collection of tales both wacky and touching dished out by bridesmaids from all walks of life.â • â • Natalie Papailiou, Shelf Awarenessâ œSome of the stories are absolutely hilarious; some are so touching you need to wipe tears from your eyesâ | If you are a bridesmaid-to-be or planning a wedding yourself, I highly recommend pickup up this book.â • â • The Oklahomanâ œYou can't go wrong with this book.â • â • Library Journalâ œLynch explores the true stories of bridesmaidsâ | including the woman who carried Princess Diana's 25-foot train down the aisle and a woman who walked down the aisle of a prison to support her sister.â • â • Chicago Tribuneâ œAn intimate oral history of the silly, funny, and lovely aspects of being a bridesmaid; readers can decide for themselves what they think about the modern wedding experience.â • â • Kirkus Reviews

Eimear Lynch is a writer and editor who has worked at CondÃ© Nast Traveler, Town & Country, and Bloomberg Businessweek. A five-time bridesmaid, she lives in Brooklyn. Hanya Yanagihara lives in New York City.

I was really disappointed in this book. I've read quite a few books that are collections of essays about one common topic, and most of them are insightful, reflective and thoughtful. "The Bridesmaids" was none of those things. Another reviewer mentions that it seemed as if the editor of the book asked the contributors to write a "what I did on my summer vacation"-style essay, and I couldn't agree more. I honestly don't know where this editor found these people, and whether the extreme lack of quality of the essays as a whole is due to their inability to write or to insufficient editorial guidance. Each writing segment was told in a very "first this happened, then this happened" style, and the essay would usually end either at the end of the wedding or in a very few simple sentences about whether the bride had gotten divorced since or, if not, how long she'd been happily married now, with the bridesmaid telling how they felt about it on a very basic, surface-level summary. No effort seemed put forth to reflect on the experience and its impact on either the

writer's life or how their own story mirrored the wider role of a bridesmaid on a larger, less personal scale. While there were definite moments of humor (my favorite anecdote involving a 35-lb. cat that would NOT stop trying to crash the reception, causing the bridesmaid to eventually give up and start dancing with the cat), overall it was a dull, monotonous read, with many points being repeated over and over. (We get it -- you never wear the dress again, and you should think long and hard before committing to being a bridesmaid.) The only thing that kept me from giving this book 1 star is that the editor obviously made an effort to include a wide variety of bridesmaid experiences, from essays by male bridesmaids, nuns, and (bizarrely enough) a bridesmaid that had had sex with the groom in public at Burning Man the day before the wedding while his future wife looked on approvingly. Still, I felt that this book could have really been amazing with a more seasoned editor and more talented, reflective writers. As of now, all it seems to be is a book where the writers either complain about the Bridezillas they had to deal with or talk about how perfect their friend's wedding was. (And don't forget one last complaint about how unflattering the dress was.)

Maybe it's my age (29!) but I find that every dinner or party conversation with my friends lately revolves around weddings -- the stunning or awful ones we have been to, the embarrassing moments we've witnessed, or the planning we're doing. But bridesmaid stories are always the best tales -- they're that perfect combo of insider knowledge and jaw-on-the-floor behavior. Anyway, this book felt like a "best of" collection from those stories. So relatable yet so unbelievable! Definitely something to read before you do your next tour de force of summer weddings.

I've always been a huge fan of Eimear's writing at Conde Nast Traveler and now she does it again this time focusing on fun, interesting and laugh out loud bridesmaids stories from across the country in her very own first book! Eimear's wit and way of finding her subjects is remarkable and what makes this book full of intriguing stories. My life right now is surrounded with bridesmaids and wedding talk and I can't think of a more perfect gift to give anyone who is also in this stage of their life. I've already bought 5 copies for friends and can't wait to buy more and give them out! You rock Eimear Lynch!

I thought this book would be amusing and an easy read at least. I have been a bridesmaid 10 times so I thought I might be able to empathize with some of the stories- but the stories were just stupid and so poorly written. Can anyone get a book deal these days? Do not buy this. Email me and I can provide you with some bridesmaid stories far better than these.

I bought this book expecting it to be a light and fluffy read, but it had more depth and substance than I thought. There were stories of deep and lasting friendship, standing by someone in good times and bad, and telling the truth even though it hurt. And hideous dresses, but that seems to be a universal. I recommend it.

Fantastic summer read...I loved all of the different personal stories, which reminded me of Stud Terkel's Working. Don't confuse this book with the movie of the same name, these narratives have a strong emotional depth and variety. I imagine this would be a great bridesmaids gift, or perhaps a beachy bachelorette party.

I think it's awesome for people to hear real life stories about all the crazy stuff that can happen when you are asked to be a bridesmaid! I read this book cover to cover in 24 hours and cannot tell you how much fun it was to read. When does part 2 come out Eimear?!

People never cease to amaze me. It was a quick and mostly fun read.

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