

CHAPTER 1: DRESS FITTINGS AND SEATING CHARTS

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 9:15 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Dress fitting

On one hand, planning this wedding is going to be the death of me. What made me think I could hold down a full time job and plan this wedding?!? But, on the other hand, I'm SO excited. I was born for this. Really! I was. Don't forget – your final dress fitting is tomorrow at noon. I have mine at 11:30, so I'll see you there.

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 9:16 AM
To: Ashley Price
Subject: Your dress fitting

Your final dress fitting is tomorrow at 11:00. SO EXCITING! I will meet you there and Shelley will be by at noon for hers, if you want to stick around. Talk soon!

From: Ashley Price – May 17, 2012 – 10:32 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Your dress fitting

I don't know how you are able to keep all of this straight. You are truly a wonder woman. Looking forward to tomorrow. BTW, are you wearing your hair up or down? I think it would look better up, but of course you can wear it any way you want.

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 10:33 AM
To: Ashley Price
Subject: Re: Your dress fitting

Up it is! See you soon.

From: Shelley Manning – May 17, 2012 – 11:02 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

My flight from Seattle gets in at 10:30, so noon should be fine. And, nothing like getting knocked up to bring on the wedding bells, huh?

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 11:08 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

I hope work won't be taking you to Seattle *again* before the wedding. I need you in town! And *please* don't use that expression. I've told you a gazillion times that I don't like it.

From: Shelley Manning – May 17, 2012 – 11:27 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

I know I've been in Seattle a lot lately. Seems that when the economy plunged, so did a lot of financial/tech jobs. We're interviewing/recruiting some senior talent to move south and it's taking some time. But I will be in town until the wedding is over.

Regarding the expression "knocked up," HA! I know, you can't stand it. Your good-girl sensibilities get in the way. But really, a shotgun wedding? How could I not savor the comments? This is juicy fun.

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 11:35 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

It's only a super-tiny, five-month baby bump and I doubt most people will even notice.

From: Shelley Manning – May 17, 2012 – 11:40 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

Yeah, well come 12 years from now, that kid's gonna notice that mommy and daddy were married only 4 months before his or her birthday. HA-LARIOUS! I get the giggles every time I think about it.

From: Renee Greene – May 17, 2012 – 11:42 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

PLEASE STOP! I will see you tomorrow at noon. Safe travels.

From: Shelley Manning – May 17, 2012 – 11:43 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Dress fitting

See you then. Mwah! Mwah!

From: Renee Greene – May 18, 2012 – 2:35 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Gorgeous!

You looked SO beautiful in your dress. I can't believe the wedding is only one and a half weeks away. Who knew it could be put together in three and a half short months – but look like it's taken a year to plan. Gotta give myself a pat on the back.

From: Shelley Manning – May 18, 2012 – 2:45 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Gorgeous!

I'll give you a pat, too. You've done an awesome job pulling it all together. I'm sure it will go off without a hitch. You are the queen of organization.

From: Renee Greene – May 18, 2012 – 2:50 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Gorgeous!

I'd say <blush> but I'm going to take the compliment. I know. Don't fall over in complete shock.

From: Shelley Manning – May 18, 2012 – 2:56 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Gorgeous!

I can't believe it. Renee Michele Greene taking a compliment without being compelled, goaded, guilted or shamed into it? Has the world turned on its side? Has hell frozen over?

From: Renee Greene – May 18, 2012 – 2:58 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Gorgeous!

Ha! Ha! Ha! Enough. I've got work to do.

From: Shelley Manning – May 18, 2012 – 2:59 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Gorgeous!

Mwah! Mwah!

From: Mark Finlay – May 18, 2012 – 5:25 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Plus one?!?

Let me preface this with “please don't be angry!” I know it's about a week until the wedding, but I've decided to come with a date. Does that totally mess up the seating charts?

From: Renee Greene – May 18, 2012 – 6:32 PM
To: Mark Finlay
Subject: Re: Plus one?!?

A date? Well, well, well. You've been holding out on me. Being in the wedding party, you have the distinct pleasure of sitting at the bride and groom's table, so it's no problem to squeeze in an extra seat. Details, please.

From: Mark Finlay – May 18, 2012 – 7:00 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Plus one???

Her name is Cassidy and she's...well...wonderful. After spending \$500 on online dating sites, \$1,250 on the "It's a Dinner Party" service and \$650 on the "Lunch Dates for Busy Professionals" service, can you believe I met Cass while walking Finneaus in Runyon Canyon? We met on the hiking trail when Finneaus literally sniffed her out. I fell hard for her amazingly charming Southern accent and we've been together ever since. Ironically, she's been on my online dating service for a year and I never knew. Crazy! I pasted part of her profile here below.

i'm cassidy. i am an outgoing and friendly southern gal that has moved to california to work in the entertainment industry. i want to direct movies someday, but right now i'm a personal trainer to the stars. there's nothing i love more than reese witherspoon movies, lemon bars, running and cats – accept for calicos. for some reason, i can't stand those.

i always tell people i have a really small sweet tooth, but it's all the way in the back. it just takes a while to reach it.

i'm looking for a smart, successful and energetic man to spend time with. but, my job can be very demanding, so patients and understanding go a long way. if you think your the right guy for me, i would love to hear from you.

Isn't she adorable!? And the thing about the sweet tooth totally reminded me of you. I didn't say anything until now because I wanted to see how things were going. Plus, I knew you were in wedding planning hell. But I really see something special between me and this girl and would like for her to be at the wedding of one of my closest friends, so years from now we can all reminisce about what an amazing day it was. I'm so glad that's okay. Please say hi to Ethan for me and we'll talk later.

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 8:35 AM
To: Mark Finlay
Subject: Re: Plus one???

Yes, she sounds darling. And that sweet tooth thing is a good line. I'm only sorry she came up with it first. ;) I totally look forward to meeting her. Plus one it is! Gotta run. Lots of details to confirm, plus I have a few client calls to return. I still have my day job, you know. ;) Talk soon.

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 8:52 AM
To: PBCupLover
Subject: Fwd: Plus one???

Mark is bringing a date to the wedding. See below. Aside from the horrendous grammatical errors, she sounds sweet. And I love that line about the sweet tooth. Only sorry she beat me to it. ;)

Hope you are having a good morning. I know you've been pretty busy with the new job and just wanted you to know how proud I am of you, Mr. CFO!!! You're amazing!

XOXO, Me

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 8:54 AM
To: Shelley Manning, Ashley Price
Subject: Fwd: Plus one???

Looks like Mark is bringing a date to the wedding. Her name is Cassidy and he's quite smitten. Check out his email below. Should be fun.

From: Shelley Manning – May 19, 2012 – 10:02 AM
To: Renee Greene
Cc: Ashley Price
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one?!?

BARF! Cats, Reese Witherspoon rom coms and lemon bars?
She sounds dreadful. Can't wait to mock her incessantly.
Onward!

From: PBCupLover – May 19, 2012 – 1:15 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one?!?

Thanks, Babe. I really appreciate how supportive you've been. But seriously, it's not that big of a deal. It's just a small tech company. It really amazes me how brilliant these guys are, but how young they are, too. Thankfully, they wanted a CFO who knows how to play foosball and, luckily, I spent hours upon hours doing so at the fraternity house. Once the IPO goes through, I hopefully won't get sacked for someone with more experience. But if things go as planned, in a few years, the stock options should be worth a ton. Then I can quit and retire to a quiet island getaway with my favorite girl.

As far as Mark and a date, that's awesome. I'm glad he's found someone. While I love your little group of girlfriends, they can be a bit quick to judge. I just hope they give her a chance, for Mark's sake.

Now that he's got a girl, maybe you could make some plans for us to take them to dinner as a way to thank him for recommending me for the job?

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 1:30 PM
To: PBCupLover
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one???

Great idea about Mark. As soon as the wedding is over, I'll get on that. And that favorite girl better be me!

From: PBCupLover – May 19, 2012 – 1:31 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one???

It is, my love. It is.

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 1:31 PM
To: PBCupLover
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one???



From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 1:45 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one???

Are you sure you don't want to bring a date to the wedding? There is plenty of room at the table for us to pull up another chair.

From: Shelley Manning – May 19, 2012 – 1:48 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one???

No. Going stag is fine with me.

From: Renee Greene – May 19, 2012 – 2:07 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one!?!?

Come to think of it, they say weddings are a great place for men to score with women, right? According to the movies, men seem to think that all of the single ladies at the wedding are depressed and secretly wishing that *they* were the ones getting married. Little do they know, you are wholly unapologetic for your single status. I'm sure a hook-up with some man who will be henceforth known as something ranging from "mildly amusing" to "pee-in-your-pants funny" is just around the corner.

From: Shelley Manning – May 19, 2012 – 2:10 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one!?!?

Looks like you've got it all figured out, Sweetie.

From: Ashley Price – May 19, 2012 – 3:30 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Cc: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Plus one!?!?

Barf, indeed! (But come to think of it, I *do* like lemon bars and Reese Witherspoon for that matter.) But back to Mark's news. Is that totally going to change the seating arrangements? Knowing you, you've already got it figured out. Actually, I can't wait to meet her. She sounds kind of cute and I'm just glad that Mark has *finally* found someone. Great fun hanging with you at the dress fittings yesterday.
