

Marriage: 'Tis the Season

Stress-free event?: Books give tips, tell stories of weddings

By the Numbers

There are varying statistics on popular wedding months, but author Rachel Eddey of "Running of the Bride" says she uses this generally accepted breakdown (in percentages):

January 4.7	April 7.4	July 9.7	October 9.4
February 7.0	May 9.8	August 10.2	November 7.4
March 6.1	June 10.8	September 9.6	December 7.8

Note: According to theweddingreport.com, there were 2.1 million weddings in the U.S. in 2010. This means more than a half million weddings take place during the winter.

Planner is a keepsake

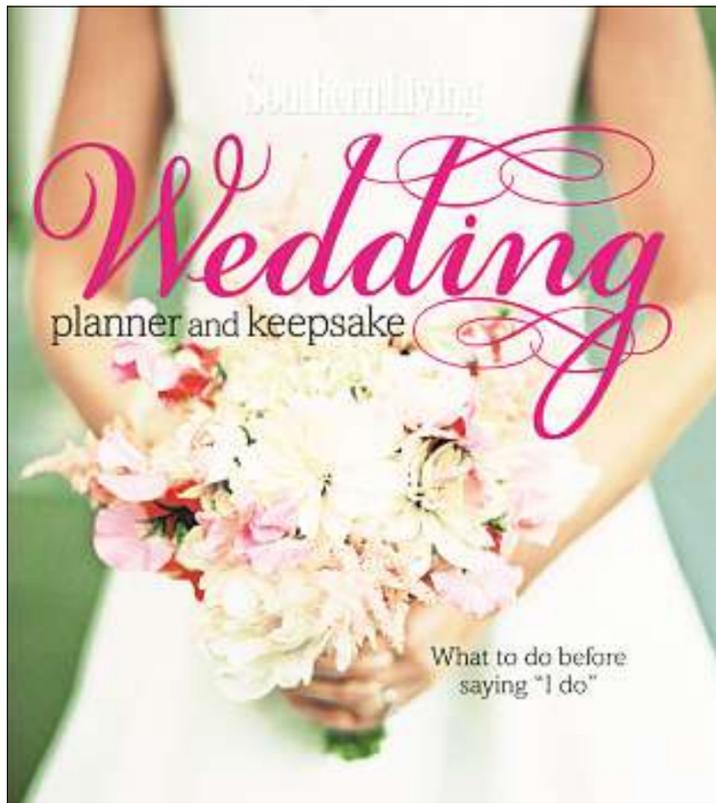
It's a first — the first wedding book from Southern Living magazine: "Southern Living Wedding Planner and Keepsake." This book covers everything from tying in signature details like monograms or grandma's heirloom wedding lace to finding that perfect Southern honeymoon spot. Whether planning a laid-back, Lowcountry affair or a soiree at a Louisiana estate, splurging or working within a tight budget, Southern Living offers expert advice so that brides-to-be can relax and savor each moment. Here are highlights:

- Stay organized and create a keepsake: The lay-flat, concealed wire binder has plenty of pockets to save and organize business cards, dress swatches, receipts and other essentials to help blushing brides preserve

their memories.

- Step-by-step guide: Keep track of every detail with plans, checklists, and worksheets.
- Tips to make it a piece of cake: Old reliable tricks, new helpful tips and advice borrowed from Southern Living's wedding experts help tie everything together with ease.
- Inspirational photography: More than 175 images, including 100 full-color shots from real, dream weddings across the South are meant to inspire, inform.

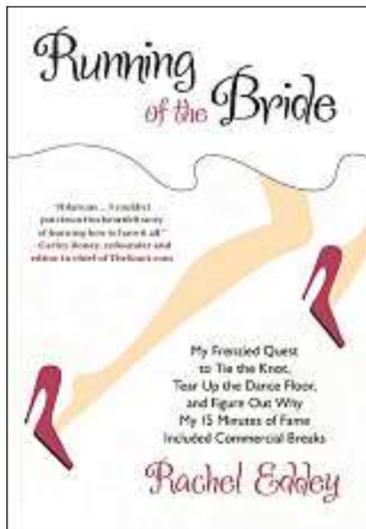
"Southern Living Wedding Planner and Keepsake," by Southern Living Magazine, Oxmoor House, 288 pages, \$29.95, spiral bound



What to do before saying "I do"

Tie the knot in a flurry of nervous energy

When Rachel Eddey's handsome studio-exec boyfriend proposes on the "Sex and the City" movie set, she can't fathom the dizzying adventure ahead. Accepting a once-in-a-lifetime venue deal helps their budget but puts them on a crash course to get married in just four months — and time isn't their only challenge. They battle a wacky host of vendors while testing their love amid tastings and tulle. Using her nervous energy productively, Rachel enters every contest she can find, winning diamond earrings, a honeymoon, a photographer and two wedding gowns. Her pop culture obsession also lands the wedding party on two hit reality TV shows.



There's just one problem as the clock ticks down: Her staunch perfectionism and fear

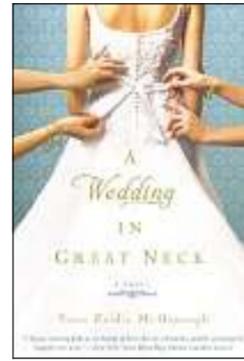
of dancing threaten to derail everything. She has to redefine perfect and embrace the mistakes — or risk losing it all. The book, a true story, is a fun beach read, even (or especially) in the winter. Rachel Eddey is a 30-year-old native New Yorker and an associate director of writing and research at Columbia University. She said in a recent email: "Though many people have published books, I guarantee no one has taken the path I have to publication. Mine is a story of real blood, real sweat and real tears, with a take-away message of hope and perseverance."

"Running of the Bride," by Rachel Eddey, Globe Pequot Press, 256 pages, \$16.95 paperback, \$9.85 e-book

■ Publishers' Reviews ■

Special day changes lives

The Silverstein family is coming together in Great Neck, Long Island, for the nuptials of the youngest daughter, Angelica. Always considered the favorite — and the object of much envy and resentment — Angelica has planned a fairy-tale wedding to her fiancé, a former fighter pilot. But there are storm clouds on the horizon. Gretchen, Angelica's sister, is dealing with a failed marriage and her moody teenage daughter Justine. One brother is a callous businessman, while the other is struggling with his search for love and a career. Her mother is in a battle of wills with the wedding planner; while her father, a recovering alcoholic, struggles to confront his ex-wife's lavish new life in the Long Island manor of her dreams. Her grandmother Lenore has decided it's high time to take charge and set her grandchildren on their proper paths.



Justine puts the entire wedding at risk and brings the simmering family tensions to the boiling point. And before vows are exchanged, this day will change more than one life forever.

"A Wedding in Great Neck," by Yona Zeldis McDonough, New American Library, 336 pages, \$15, paperback