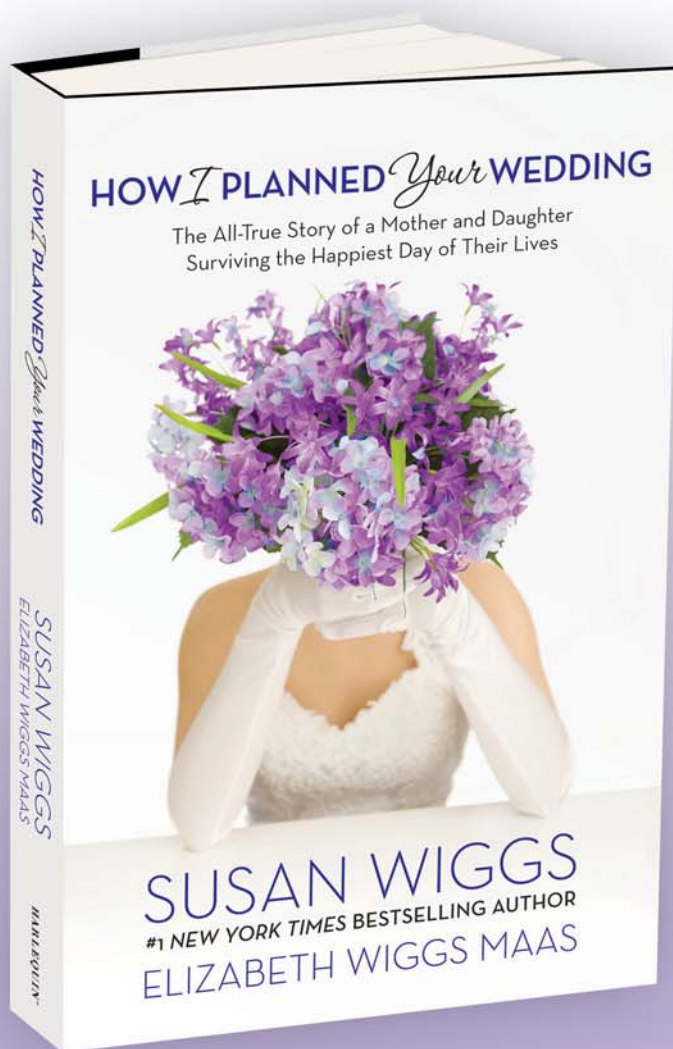




# SUSAN WIGGS

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

## ELIZABETH WIGGS MAAS



## HOW I PLANNED *Your* WEDDING

\$21.95 • January 25, 2011

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# How I Planned Your Wedding

The All-True Story of a Mother and Daughter  
Surviving the Happiest Day of Their Lives

**SUSAN WIGGS**  
**ELIZABETH WIGGS MAAS**

Whether it is the year's biggest blowout or a small catered affair, the wedding day is the most important, happiest—and perhaps the most stressful—day in any bride's life. An almost equal partner in her joy—and anxiety—is the one other person on earth who understands the importance of making the wedding perfect. No, not the groom. And not the maid of honor, either. The mother of the bride.

For *#1 New York Times* bestselling author Susan Wiggs—who literally wrote the book on romance—the announcement of her only daughter, Elizabeth's, impending marriage was music from the spheres. Then the real “fun” began: helping Elizabeth plan and pull off the big day. In *HOW I PLANNED YOUR WEDDING: The All-True Story of a Mother and Daughter Surviving the Happiest Day of Their Lives* (Harlequin; February 2011; \$21.95), Susan Wiggs and Elizabeth Wiggs Maas tell their intertwined tales from the bridal trenches, sharing lessons learned during the sometimes contentious, yet more often magical journey of orchestrating life's ultimate celebration. With candor, practicality and a large measure of good humor, this close-knit mother-and-daughter team provide hard-earned wisdom any bride-to-be—and her mother—will appreciate.

When Elizabeth and her dream man, Dave, got engaged, she envisioned a lavish, once-in-a-lifetime wedding, the kind of ultraromantic affair her mother might create in the final pages of one of her bestselling novels. Then Susan curbed the fantasy with a dose of reality: budget. As Susan advises with maternal insight, “Stay in touch with your Common Sense Fairy.... Ultimately the goal is to celebrate this incredibly happy couple and to launch them into a beautiful new life. Trust me: you're not doing them any favors by simply agreeing to their every whim.” With the monetary details in place—okay, there wouldn't be lobster at the reception, or enough flowers to carpet a small island nation—Elizabeth and Dave set to the task of having the wedding of their dreams within the scope of reason. They soon learned that there are an ocean of details involved in planning a wedding, and that you will never please everyone with any decision you make.



As readers accompany Elizabeth through the process of planning her big day, Elizabeth never shies from the truth or soft-pedals her own recurring angst or the mistakes she made along the way. Whether standing firm when Susan wants to hold the wedding at home (daughter asks, do you want Porta Potties for 200 guests in your backyard?) or accepting Mom's sage advice to not buy a \$12,000 dress, Elizabeth imparts invaluable guidance on:

- How to choose and dress your attendants (and how to avoid Elizabeth's own inelegant methods of inviting her friends to be part of her big day).
- Choosing and working with a wedding planner (it will save you money—honest!).
- Deciding on the right approach for you when it comes to invitations, flowers, photographers, videographers and other wedding vendors (no, Mom, we can't just use Evites!).
- Gift registries and the importance of sending prompt, heartfelt thank-you notes (especially to your mother's friends).
- Why Mom says there must be cake (you want to sample how many cupcakes?).
- Surviving the big day (and rolling with the inevitable punches).

Susan shares her own perspective with other mothers of the bride, suggesting they try to provide a sea of calm and maintain the voice of reason—even as they waffle between abject delight at their daughter's happiness and firm denial that they can't be old enough to be the mother of a bride. Things will go wrong—the secret is adopting a combination of grace and humor. “Don't look back at the gaffes and regret a single moment,” she writes. “Take joy in the triumph of what you've done. You've borne witness to one of life's greatest miracles—the start of a magnificent new love.... Bad moments make good stories. And a good story, like a good marriage, lasts forever.”

At turns poignant and hilarious, *How I Planned Your Wedding* offers a fresh—and wholly pragmatic—take on an age-old tradition.



## About the Authors



Photo Credit: Crystal Satko-Moore

**SUSAN WIGGS** is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of women's fiction, including the popular *Lakeshore Chronicles* series. She raised her daughter to be an independent, good-hearted woman...and a spectacular bride who believes in the magic of happily-ever-after. Visit her website at [www.SusanWiggs.com](http://www.SusanWiggs.com).

**ELIZABETH WIGGS** Maas is a graduate of Pomona College and an MBA candidate at the University of Chicago. Her blog, [www.IAmTheBeholder.com](http://www.IAmTheBeholder.com), a compendium of food, fitness and fabulosity, has garnered thousands of readers eager to follow her hilarious misadventures on the way to the altar.



## **Q&A with Susan Wiggs and Elizabeth Wiggs Maas**

**Elizabeth, what is the single best piece of advice you can give a prospective bride?**

DON'T FREAK OUT. No matter what happens, or how much you want to stab your mother, your wedding will be the happiest day of your life. Just keep your eye on the prize. And the prize is not the \$15,000 Oscar de la Renta gown; it's the man with tears in his eyes watching you walk down the aisle to become his wife.

**Susan, could you also share a single best piece of advice—for the mother of the bride?**

Don't ever lose sight of the ultimate goal of this whole process—the launching of a magnificent new love. If you're doing something that doesn't nudge you toward that goal, like shrieking over the cost of vegan cupcakes, stop and take a breath.

And above all, leave the Spanx at home. Nobody will think less of you if you forget to put on your Spanx.

**Despite having a very firm vision of the big day, you decided to use a wedding planner. Why?**

Elizabeth: I was planning the wedding while living in Chicago, and I needed people on the ground in Seattle. A good wedding planner pays for herself many times over, and that was definitely my experience with my team. In the end, they managed to negotiate some amazing deals for us that saved thousands of dollars—way more than they cost. Also, they kept me from going all Exorcist on my mom when we were disagreeing with one another.

**Susan, do you think you made any mistakes advising Elizabeth on her wedding?**

None that I would admit to in writing. No wait, they're in the book. I would say probably my main character flaw is that I have a hard time separating fantasy from reality. Like saying we should serve live wild-caught Maine lobster for dinner when I really meant scrambled eggs.

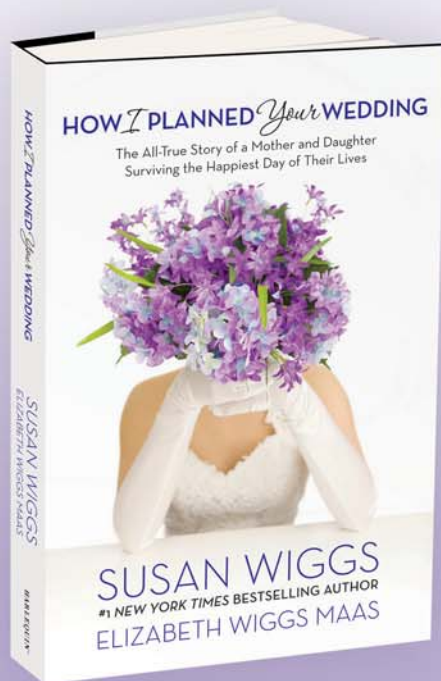




## Praise for Susan Wiggs

“Susan Wiggs paints the details of human relationships with the finesse of a master.”—Jodi Picoult

“Susan Wiggs writes with bright assurance, humor and compassion about sisters, children and the sweet and heartbreaking trials of life—about how much better it is to go through them together.”—Luanne Rice



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