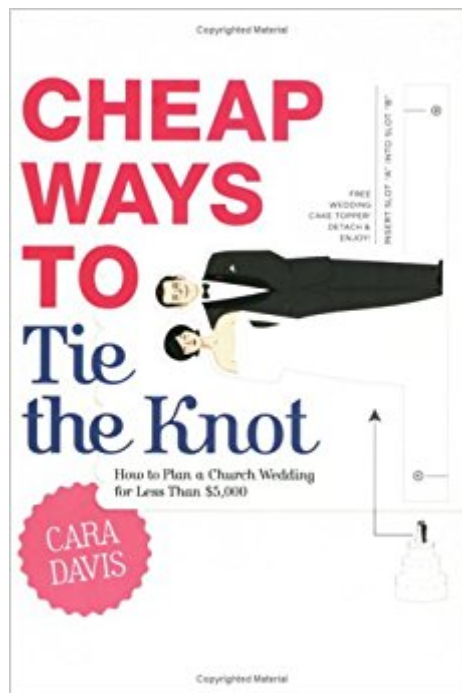




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# Cheap Ways To Tie The Knot: How To Plan A Church Wedding For Less Than \$5,000



## Synopsis

Saving money as you plan the most important day of your life isn't about cutting corners; it's about avoiding being taken advantage of. While the nationwide average for planning a wedding takes 11 months and nearly \$30,000, *Cheap Ways to Tie the Knot* shows how you can plan a beautiful church wedding in less than six months for no more than \$5,000. This ultimate guide for the engaged busts myths, shares negotiating tactics and points out easy, no-effort ways to save on invitations, flowers, pictures and entertainment without sacrificing quality. Most importantly, it deals with the underlying issue of good stewardship that young couples can develop at the outset and continue throughout their marriage. Each area of wedding planning (dress, invitations, decoration, ceremony, reception and photography) is broken into three different scenarios (bargain=\$, budget=\$\$, bling=\$\$\$). Depending on their budget, the reader can follow one track, or mix and match to splurge in areas they feel more strongly about (like pictures vs. food).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cara Davis, 27, is the editorial director of Relevant Media Group, and the editor of *Radiant*, a magazine for women in their 20s launching in the spring of 2006. She planned her dream wedding in seven months for less than \$5,000 in 2003.

This is a great book. I have purchased it for several friends who are getting married. I received it on time with no problems.

This book has more of a chapter style, so it was a nice first read when starting my wedding planning. It's not all inclusive, but I still really liked it.

I wish I had owned a copy of this book when I married a few years ago. *Cheap Ways to Tie The Knot* is a FAR better overall planner than *Bridal Bargains* and more up-to-date (stylewise) than *How To Have A Big Wedding On A Small Budget* (although I'd still recommend reading Diane Warner's classic, too). *Cheap Ways* addresses some recent trends in weddings, including how to decorate the modern mega-church (a unique and expensive problem for many brides!). Davis presents common-sense and creative solutions to budget obstacles, including taking advantage of those helpful church women and even asking art students to design cost-effective decorations. Her chapter on wedding clothing includes buying gowns on Ebay, using fabric store coupons to cut the cost of handmade dresses, and choosing dark suits as a logical option for the groom and his party. You'll never see this advice in a traditional bridal magazine! I think any bride who is searching for a meaningful and beautiful church wedding will find a kindred spirit in Cara Davis. This is one of the only books I've ever seen which addresses financial planning for the marriage, not just the wedding.

I really wish I had had this book when I was getting married. I had a frugal wedding myself, but I'm sure I could have done much more with Davis's ideas included. My favorite feature of this book is that she does not simply say "Have a cake and punch reception and borrow a dress." She goes much further, and gives many different options. She goes from the very frugal to the most expensive options, and discusses the pros and cons of each. Handy checklists are included in the book. There are many very creative ideas throughout on how to get more bang for your buck. This is the best bridal bargain book I have read- it goes so much more in depth than most books, and gives options for people who don't have tons of talented cake baking picture taking friends. She even includes a chapter on how to be frugal after the wedding! What a great way to start your marriage.

My husband and I got married last year and our wedding cost under \$4000. I thought we were an oddity until I read this book. I believe the most important idea in this book is that big, expensive weddings are a fairly modern invention and are not necessary to have a meaningful wedding. Cara Davis presents three different "levels" of wedding planning, in both cost and logistics: bargain, budget, and bling. She encourages brides-to-be to choose carefully the wedding elements most important to them and their grooms and offers suggestions and tips for how to plan for each element according to their level of importance. I believe this book will be most useful to brides who are feeling

the pressure from mainstream wedding periodicals full of advertisements for the biggest and most expensive everything. "Cheap Ways to Tie the Knot" offers refreshing alternatives, and even peace, for wedding planning.

I saw an ad for this book in Relevant magazine, and since I've bought bridal magazines (that show expensive ways to tie the knot) I thought I'd try an inexpensive (and Christian) option. Mrs. Davis offers a plethora of creative ideas (and actually jump started my imagination) from "budget" to "bling," but there is more than wedding info. She also gives tips on how to live economically and intelligently in other areas of your life. This book is definitely an investment for me since I'm perpetually a bridesmaid and can offer Cara's book as advice my engaged friends (I'm not personally engaged yet, but soon). I plan on giving it as an engagement present to everyone. Thanks for a cheap (and creative) alternative.

I'm really glad this book exists -- it does have some smart suggestions for how to avoid the vortex of spending encountered any time one comes remotely near the wedding industry. Davis does a good job cutting through some of the haze that bridal magazines create around what you "have to do" to have a happy wedding day. That said, pay attention to the subtitle: a church wedding. The author's game plan is all centered around having your wedding at a church, using the church's fellowship hall for your reception, and enlisting the assistance of fellow parishoners to pull the event off. If you're a less traditional couple, trying to plan a wedding outside a church, and don't belong to some kind of club with comparable facilities, there are no other suggestions for alternative venues. If you're looking for some planning tools, there is stuff included here, but most it is pretty common sense.

This has been a great tool throughout my engagement for planning my wedding! I plan to pass it along to another engaged friend. For girls (and guys!) looking to plan a wedding that is more meaningful than elaborate, this is your book. I'm a fan of anything that helps me organize, and this book's checklists and budget sheets were extremely useful. The other books (and magazines) I'd considered were more about including every possible tradition and fad into my wedding, whereas this one helped me take a look at what would mean something to my now-spouse and myself.

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Cheap Ways to Tie the Knot: How to Plan a Church Wedding for Less Than \$5,000 Make Your Wedding Budget Go Further: Learn Wedding Planner Secrets To High Quality, Cheap Weddings

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