

# Fake trend watch: Bridesmaid pre-nuptial agreements

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20091202-01](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20091202-01)

December 2, 2009



Raymond Chen

My wanderings through the online world of bridesmaid craziness began with the article *Brides taking their bridesmaids for Botox treatments or maybe a boob job*. I blame the wedding-industrial complex, which constantly pushes weddings as the bride's "perfect day", "the best day of your life", a "fairy tale come true" where you can be "a princess for a day." (Folk tales which end in big lavish weddings are told from the female point of view; there aren't many folk tales about the young boy who grows up to marry a beautiful princess.)

And I love Elizabeth A.'s comment called out in the sidebar to the *New York Times* article.

Back to that article: Is the Botox girl's night out a real trend or a fake trend? In *Pre-nups for bridesmaids. Gain weight and you're out*, the author claims that "one in five women actually ask their bridesmaids to sign a pre-nup." On that, I call fake trend.

First of all, I could find only one actual documented case of a bride who made her bridesmaids sign contracts agreeing not to gain weight before the wedding. And it was a prank.

Okay, so if it happened only once, where did this "one in five" come from? I followed the citation to the source article in *The Daily Mail*, which merely says that one in five *would* ask their bridesmaids to sign such an agreement, not that one in five *actually did it*.

But wait, there's more. I followed the citation from that *Daily Mail* article to the the original survey from *You & Your Wedding* magazine, and found that it was even weaker than *The Daily Mail* described it: The actual result was that one in five *would consider a bridesmaid contract in general*. So we're double-counterfactual now. And the survey was not scientific; it was just an online survey.

Okay, so let's tally up the numbers. The claim that one in five brides ask their bridesmaids to sign a pre-nuptial agreement which includes a clause regarding weight would be true if...

- The online survey results were representative of brides as a whole (and the people who answered the survey were answering seriously), and

- Everyone who *would* consider having a bridesmaid pre-nup actually *did* consider it, and
- Everyone who considered it followed through and did it, and
- Every one of those pre-nups contained a clause regarding weight.

I call fake trend.

**Bonus link:** [Extreme wedding planning](#). Warning: Contains bad dancing.

[Raymond Chen](#)

**Follow**

