

trends

WHEN GOOD GROOMS GO BAD

Wedding planners describe good grooms gone mad.

“They rode down the aisle on this white horse. During the ceremony the couple was lassoed together until they said their I dos and then were unwound. The bride didn’t know anything about it in advance.”

—Danna Sorenson, owner of *One Moment in Time* in Elko, Minn.

“He wanted the Washington State University mascot—a man in a Cougar costume—to march down the aisle.”

—Kelley Moore, *Red-Letter Day*, Seattle

“He insisted on an Austin Powers impersonator deejay.”

—Laura Hayes, *Camelot Weddings*, Austin, Texas

“He yelled at his bride, he yelled at his mother-in-law, he yelled at the florist, he yelled at me. I told him, ‘Do you really want to start out your life this way?’”

—Cynthia Ziegelman, *All About Parties*, Farmington Hills, Mich.



“I say, ‘Whatever, Gilberto. Do what you want,’” says Blanco (with Garcia-Tunon).

A Macho Miami Groom Discovers His Inner Martha Stewart

Ever since Gilberto Garcia-Tunon proposed to Vivianne Blanco, his bride-to-be has been stressed out by wedding planning—not that she has much to do with it. Every detail of the couple’s October nuptials is under the firm control of her fiancé, the front-of-house manager at Miami’s Mandarin Oriental Hotel. “I keep telling Gilberto I don’t want a reception, I don’t want music, I don’t want fancy food,” says Blanco, 23, the hotel’s assistant spa director. “I would rather elope!” Too bad. Garcia-Tunon, 26, has concocted a \$30,000 affair for 100 at historic St. Patrick’s Church and the Palms Hotel in Miami Beach, right down to the green neon invitations. “I want it to be an event everyone will remember: the magnifi-

cent wedding of Vivianne and Gilberto!” says Garcia-Tunon, who hired a Cuban cigar roller for the reception against the wishes of his nonsmoking bride.

Friends and family say the groom, who regularly works with caterers and florists at the hotel and uses *Martha Stewart Weddings* as a planning guide, was born to the job. “Gilberto is incredibly social,” says his brother Manny, 31. “He’ll make everything perfect.” For the shy Blanco, perfect would be a trip to a justice of the peace, but she’s reluctantly accepted her fiancé’s dictates, right down to the traditional long white veil she never dreamed she’d wear. “I’m wearing it for him,” says Blanco. “I would rather have peace than always do things my way.”

RAP SHEET

- Ordered meat for the reception; bride is a vegetarian
- Demanded bride wear hair down, the way he likes, not up, as she prefers
- Ordered chocolate cake instead of traditional white cake she wanted
- Commandeered the gift registry

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