

The Wedding Chronicles

June 2009 Edition

MY ASSIGNMENT TO BE A PROPER BRIDE

Sometimes, Chris just says something and it is perfectly timed and just sticks in your mind. For example, we were at Disney on Ice, and they were performing a segment on Mulan. They were telling how she was training to be a "proper bride" and how she was failing miserably. Christopher, with an angelic expression on his face, turns to me and asks "When does YOUR training start?" Apparently he expects ME to be a "proper bride". As delusional as that may sound, (heh, me a proper bride, hahaha) it was hilarious.

I've decided that two can play that game. So, I want him to develop the training program for me. What (in his opinion) makes a proper bride? What skills do I need to have and what tasks do I need to master. I can cook, so that one's not a problem. I'm pretty handy with the washer, dryer and dishwasher. I was in the military, so I can fold reasonably well (just not sheets, I HATE folding sheets). I'm excellent at grocery shopping and making sure the house is well supplied (even though Quentin would disagree). I make his lunch each day (and put silly lil notes in it) and have dinner on the table when he gets home. So, what else must a "proper bride" know?

I can't wait to see what his training program includes. And it better not include some of his duties. Like taking out the trash, or being tech support for all the crap on the computer that I break. If any of you have any G rated suggestions to be a proper bride, feel free to send them along. =) The whole concept of me as a proper bride still cracks me up. The poor boy isn't getting a proper bride at all. He's getting me, for all my faults and flaws, but I love him, and hopefully that will be enough to overlook them. =)

BABY SITTING DELUXE- CAMP CARNIVAL

Calling all parents! And children too!! You're going to LOVE Camp Carnival. Quentin & Alaina did when we cruise on the Victory. They spent more time with all the other kids there than they did with me!! Camp Carnival is a program that is designed for the children on the cruise. They have different age groups, ranging from 2-17. Each group has their own special activities planned and has their own group of counselors that monitor the children. They get to play games and go on scavenger hunts. Camp Carnival even feed the kids dinner on most nights. They get to see the big headliner shows too. They have special seats reserved just for them! On the Carnival Caper, it will tell you when Camp opens, and what time you can drop the kids off. If it's a port day, they can stay all day!! If it's a day at sea, the parents get to spend lunch with the kids. We usually went swimming during lunch and grabbed a quick bite to eat. Depending on the age level, Camp won't take the kids swimming because of the liability. It's up to you as a family to decide how often to use the Camp's services. They are open until 10pm free of charge. After that there is a nominal charge for continued babysitting until 3am. I think it was \$6 an



Here's a picture of the kids on the Carnival Valor in November of 2007. They had such a great time at Camp Carnival. Most of the time, it was a fight to get them to have dinner with me, let alone come on back to the cabin for bedtime! They were constantly entertained and supervised at all time. They got to play all day, have great meals with their friends, and even see the big revue style shows at night in their own special viewing area! They can't wait to go again, just for Camp Carnival!

hour. On the night before the last night, they have a slumber party with DJ. We let the kids stay late that night, and they had a blast. If you're looking for more info, please visit http://www.carnival.com/CMS/Onboard_Activities/Generic-Camp_Carnival.aspx. I also have some sheets from our last cruise that we will put on the website so you can get an idea of the activities for the kids. It's a great (free) program to let the kids have a blast and give the parents some fun time too! Did I mention that Camp Carnival is free of charge! =)

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THE GUESTS'S AREA

This month we're going to focus on the Nieces of the Groom, **Emma, Meghan & Isabella Abbruzzetti**.

The way that Chris' eyes light up when he mentions the girls brings me such warm fuzzies. And when he has the chance to spend time with them, he enjoys them so much.

Emma is five years old, and as the oldest, gets to be the Big sister to both Meghan and Isabella. Meghan is 2 and still gets to be the the Big Sister, but also gets to be the little sister too! And Isabella, she gets to be the baby. They're each so unique and so adorable! They're all so photogenic and take some of the cutest pictures!

When we were out in San Diego with them this April, it was amazing to see how much they had grown just from October! I'm so glad that they're part of our family. Their parents are blessed to have three gorgeous, smart and wonderful young ladies to call their own!

THE WAITING

"Don't wait for the one you can live with, wait for the one you can't live without."

I saw this quote while searching the internet for cute stuff to put in these Chronicles. I thought it was perfect. I can't tell you how many times people have made comments like "I can't believe Chris is getting married", or "We never thought he would have a family", etc, etc. Each time I hear them, I'm shocked. I just can't picture him any other way than with us. He's so wonderful with the kids, and doesn't do half badly by me either.

I just find it so odd that he wasn't ready to settle down before. I don't see that side of him. From the moment he met the kids, it was pretty clear that he was made to be in their lives. He jumped right in and has been a great role model, (we won't mention all the stunts that he pulled as a kid right now).

So it really is true, he was waiting for the right one and settled for me. =) I'm just thankful that he did wait. I can't remember a time where he wasn't there and I really don't think I care to. We know each other so well, and not just our strengths either. He knows that I hate to clean, and I know that when that he's in front of the computer, the world stops turning. But we can accept these things and understand each other. I think that's going to be the key to making our relationship a happy and successful one. I don't have to like everything about him, he doesn't need to like everything about me, (but he BETTER!). But we both have to understand each other and accept each others limitations and have realistic expectations. If the first 8 months of living together are any indication, we're going to have a wonderful life together.

The song "Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts comes to mind. Maybe the direct route doesn't prepare you for true happiness. Maybe you need to have other experiences to be able to appreciate what you really need. I'm glad that my Chris was a late bloomer! =)

Emma, Meghan & Isabella Abbruzzetti - Chris' Nieces- My camera just does NOT do them justice!



HOW TO SAVE MONEY THIS CRUISE!

Cruising can be a very expensive pastime. You can also make it more value conscious. Me, I'm going the value route this cruise. For example, we'll be purchasing fountain fun cards which will get you free soda at the bars. We'll also not be stopping by the gourmet coffee shop or the gelato bar. Keeping me away from the photo shop will be tough, but those things really add up. And the shops! Oh my, all the sparkly baubles!! I love jewelry, and it's all so pretty. It's very difficult for me to behave in there.

The captain' cocktail party, aka, Free Drinks! Stop on by and meet the staff and have a few. This can save on your bar tab. Past guests also have a special reception too, so here's another place to get your drink on, without pulling your Sail & Sign out.

The key to remember is everything except tip is already included. You don't have to spend anything more, but I wouldn't recommend being a total tightwad either. There's a balance between what adds to the experience and what is just gluttony. Use your best judgment and stay within your own personal budget. If you decide to browse while at the shops on the ship, or most definitely in port, NEGOTIATE! Remember that there are probably 5 more vendors down the street with the same item. Don't settle for a price that you're not happy with. Take part in one of the shopping talks. The rep will tell you where to get the best deals, and where to stay clear of.

Cruising doesn't have to break the bank. The night before you leave, you don't have to open your folio and cringe. Don't be a "bigtime spender with that plastic money." If you are aware that each time you whip out that card, that you really do have to pay for it later, you'll have no surprises when you get your final bill. =)

THE COMPUTER HUSBAND PROGRAM

Dear Tech Support

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0. What I have noticed is a slow down in the performance of the flower and jewelry applications, which had operated flawlessly under the Boyfriend 5.0 system. In addition, Husband 1.0 un-installed many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.9, but installed undesirable programs such as Sport 7.3, NFL 3.2 and Tennis 4.1. Conversation 8.0 also no longer runs and Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Yours faithfully Desperate Susan

Dear Desperate Susan,

First, keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 was an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try to enter the command C:/I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME and install Tears 6.2. Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications: Guilt 3.3 and Flowers 7.5. But remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to such background applications as Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please remember that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will create Snoring Loudly.WAV files.

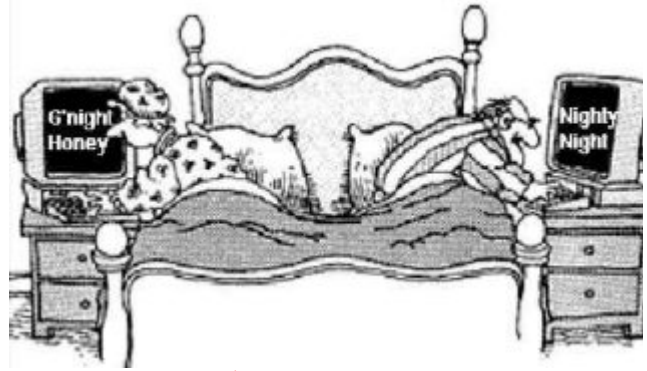
DO NOT install Mother-In-Law 1.0 or reinstall another Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. It could also potentially cause Husband 1.0 to default to the program: Girlfriend 9.2, which runs in the background and has been known to introduce viruses into the Operating System.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have a limited memory and can't learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to enhance his system performance. I personally recommend Home Cooking 3.0 and Single Malt Scotch 4.5. Finally consider applications such as Lingerie 6.9 (which has been credited with improved performance of his hardware).

Good Luck, Tech Support

Tech Support

Hehe!! I found that article and so thought of Chris. Not that he's going to regress or anything, but just the language reminded me so much of him!! I hope that you smiled when you read that story. =) I know I was amused.



This could be us!!! =) Only difference is we are on the wrong side of the bed! And we'd use laptops!



January 22, 2010 - Friday - Arrive in Miami, FL - Hotel and transportation arrangements to be confirmed

January 23, 2010 - Saturday - Board the Carnival Liberty - Wedding Ceremony to immediately follow

January 24, 2010 - Sunday - Fun Day at Sea

January 25, 2010 - Monday - San Juan, P R

January 26, 2010 - Tuesday - St. Thomas, USVI

January 27, 2010 - Wednesday - St. Maarten, NA

January 28, 2010 - Thursday - Fun Day at Sea

January 29, 2010 - Friday - Fun Day at Sea

January 30, 2010 - Saturday - The Liberty returns to Miami - Debarkation Day - Travel home day

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