

# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

# Happily Ever After

*Your wedding planning begins here!*

*"Then Almitra spoke again and said, And what of Marriage, master? And he answered saying: You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore. You shall be together when the whitewings of death scatter your days"*

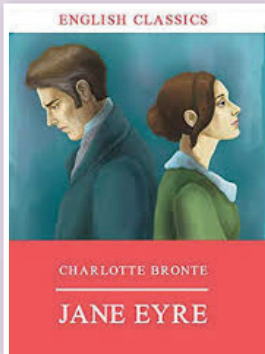
**On Marriage**  
by Kahill Gibran



## Great Expectations

**- Charles Dickens**

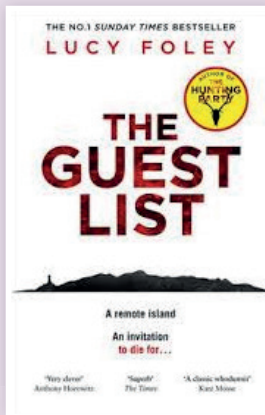
Being jilted at the last minute doesn't just happen in soap land! Who can not feel for Miss Havisham trailing around in her yellowing wedding dress long after her unsuccessful wedding day? Dickens is a master at describing the aftermath including the rotting wedding banquet. Miss Havisham is surely the most memorable "bride to be" in literature.



## Jane Eyre

**- Charlotte Bronte**

Not one but two weddings for Jane and Mr. Rochester. The first is certainly the more memorable. The word "objection" as the vicar is about to marry them, is a classic scene. In contrast the second wedding proceeds without fuss as the author tells us "Reader, I married him"

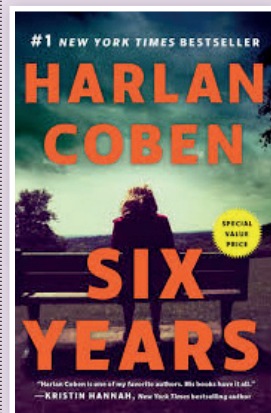


## The Guest List

**- Lucy Foley**

Some weddings are memorable for all the wrong reasons. One of the best-selling crime novels of 2020, this is set on an island off the coast of Ireland. Guests are gathered to celebrate the union

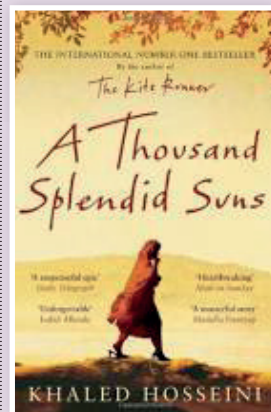
of the handsome charming groom and the clever ambitious bride. And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?



## Six Years

**- Harlan Coben**

This is not the one for you if you yearn for some romantic escapism. This thriller explores the dangers of obsession after Jake Fisher watches the love of his life marry another man. Six years of keeping his promise to leave Natalie alone, and six years of tortured dreams of her life with her new husband, Todd. Lots of secrets are revealed in this thrilling read.



## A Thousand Splendid Suns

**- Khaled Hosseini**

Marriage, rather than weddings, is the central theme in this wonderful novel set in Afghanistan. Polygamy is common place as are arranged marriages. Girls are married off to older men in exchange for money. Illegitimate children bring great shame, whereas the bearing of large number of children

within marriage is highly desirable. This sweeping tale, beginning in the 1960s is sure to enthrall.



## Anne's House of Dreams

**- L.M. Montgomery**

Many of us grew up with Anne of Green Gables. Perhaps our first introduction to romance in literature was in this fifth book of the series where Anne Shirley is about to marry her childhood friend Gilbert Blythe and set up home with him in her 'house of dreams' on the shores of Four Winds Harbour. But then tragedy strikes and there's huge heartache for the young couple which takes all of their courage and love to overcome.

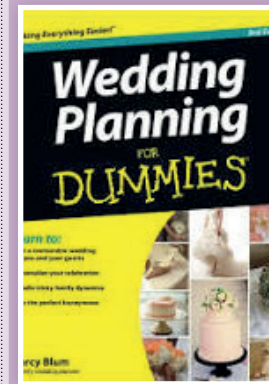


## The Bride Test

**- Helen Hoang**

And finally, something contemporary. This is a love story across two cultures. American born Khai is autistic, and believes himself to be incapable of deep emotions. Like grief. Or love. His overbearing but well-meaning mother sets out to find him a bride in Vietnam. Enter Esme who agrees to seduce Khai, as payback for a trip to California.

# Planning a Wedding



Are you planning your wedding with your very own prince charming or beautiful princess? Now that you know how weddings are done in literature, it's time for the real thing. You might be surprised to learn how much your local library can help you plan your big day. You will find lots of ideas for the dress, the cake, the music, the much-dreaded speeches and other wedding day essentials.



**The dress:** Before you embark on the wedding boutique trail, have a peek at Hello magazine to see how the celebs celebrate in style. But if you're looking for something more down to earth, check out the bridal mags on RB Digital through our library website. Don't waste a fortune on the paper version. You'll probably only flick through them, pick one or two ideas and then they'll be tossed aside to gather dust.

**The flowers:** Weddings might be pared back affairs for the foreseeable future. Or perhaps your taste is more for the natural homespun look and you're just trying to keep it local and sustainable. Remember the library stocks lots of books on flower arranging. All you need now

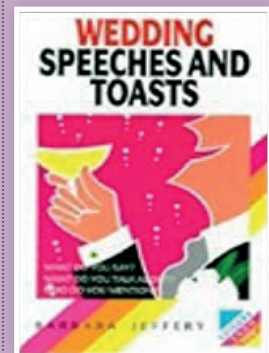


is a green-fingered friend to delegate to!

**The music:** What songs are going to be part of your special day? If you're looking for inspiration for music for the ceremony or for that all important first dance, check out our online music resource called Freegal. You can prepare your own romantic playlist to help you choose.



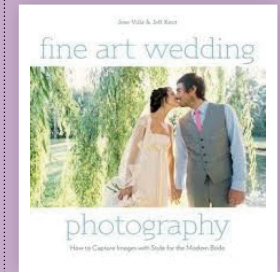
**The speeches:** The wedding speeches are a nerve-wracking part of the day for most at the top table. If you want your speech to be memorable for the right reasons "The Complete Wedding Speech Guide" is one of several titles which will help you on your way.



**The cake:** If there is anyone in the family circle who fancies themselves as

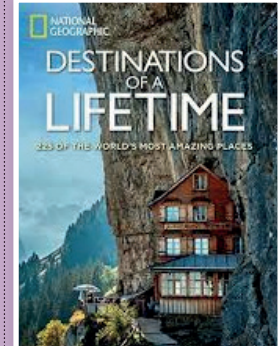


the next "The Great British Bake off" champion, maybe now is the time to call in a favour. Not an undertaking for the faint-hearted but if you're confident they're up to the job you'll need some design ideas and a plan of action. "New Wedding Cake Designs" by Linda Powsey should definitely inspire your baker.



**The photos & video:** Most people opt for the professionals for the wedding album. However, there is no harm in doing some research-a friend with a good camcorder might be up to the task of the wedding video.

**The honeymoon:** Whether your ideal honeymoon would be trekking up Macacu Pichu or lying on a beach in the Caribbean, our travel section has lots of ideas to whet the appetite.



**But if it all becomes too much there's always the option of Gretna Green!**

*"So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.*

*They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;*

From "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" by Edward Lear, first published in 1871

I loved her against reason  
against promise  
against peace  
against hope  
against happiness  
against all  
discouragement  
that could be.

**- Charles Dickens**  
Great Expectations