



# Looking good

## Latest in attendant and guest fashion trends

"Dear Abby: I am furious with my daughter. She is planning her wedding and just called to instruct me that I'm

### Credits

**T**HIS special bridal section appearing today in all editions of the Observer & Eccentric was coordinated by Marie McGee, special sections editor.

Advertising coordinators were Yvette Beausoleil and Rhonda Rosser.

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Special writers include Cathie Breidenbach and Cathleen Collins Lee. Photographer was John Discher.

Questions concerning the section should be directed to McGee at 591-2300, Ext. 313.

**At a formal wedding, women wear street-length dresses or suits in the daytime, long, ballerina or tea-length dresses in the evening. Attire for men is coordinated to their escorts, unless otherwise stated on the invitation.**

supposed to buy a mauve dress so I won't clash with the bridesmaids or the mother of the groom (whom she is telling to wear gray).

I want a dress that makes me look wonderful, not like part of the window treatment. For heaven's sake, I'm only 43 years old!

Please tell me the best way to handle this. I'm not going in mauve anything.

— Too Young to Be a Dowdy Dowager"

**P**ITY THE poor bride. Not only does she have to look stunning on her wedding day, she has to attend to a myriad of details — not the least of which is advising the bridal party what to wear (think of the pictures!).

But in her book, "Dear Abby on Planning Your Wedding," (Andrews and McMeel), Abigail Van Buren tells prospective brides: "Mothers have changed — they work, they work out,

they have full lives, today they look younger at 45 than 45 looked in the '60s."

So what's a daughter to do?

Abby continues, "First, the only style you should set is that of your wedding party — meaning the bridesmaids and groomsmen. The day of telling mothers what to wear is past. You should, instead, encourage them to select whatever they feel good in. Unlike wedding gowns, they will want dresses they can wear again and again."

With more mature brides making the decisions, common sense reigns in today's weddings. Mads aren't stuck wearing a mountain of peach satin that is unfattering, expensive and screams, "Bridesmaid!"

Just as styles for bridal party mothers have gone from dowdy to elegant (beaded, rhinestone-studded or tapestry jackets worn with chiffon skirts; pastel satin fitted suits), bridesmaid styles have moved toward sophistication.

You'll see lush velvets with alluring lines, floral and metallic brocades, taffeta with water-color prints, and plenty of black (yes, black) — combined with white.

In fact, colors in general have changed, advises Los Angeles bridal consultant Lynn Jeter.

"It used to be soft pastels — pinks, lavender and light greens," she says. "There are no color boundaries any more. We're seeing everything, including luchsia and red — the latter is popular in December and February (for Christmas and Valentine's Day weddings).

"Colors are more vibrant. I did a wedding in which the bride combined electric blue with ivory for the maid's dresses and the table coverings. It was absolutely beautiful."

Bridesmaids certainly don't have to wear blue, but here's another letter from Abby's book that is bound to make any bride pause:

Dear Abby: After seeing all the letters in your column from people who complain about the high cost of being a bride or bridesmaid — I want to report a beautiful scene I just witnessed.

"The July wedding was formal — at least the bride and groom were formally attired. But the bridesmaids' dresses were outstanding in their design. They were street-length navy blue linen chemises with high V-necklines and a pleated lounce at the hem. The chemise line was elegant on the slender bridesmaids and flattering to the heavier



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