

These Magic Moments

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Of all the feedback that couples share on their wedding day, there's one observation that we see time and time again: *Our wedding just flew by so fast – the entire day happened in the blink of an eye!* It's no mystery as to why your wedding day happens in a flash. Between the excitement, the nerves, and the sheer joy of what you're celebrating, it makes sense that the happiest day of your life would be one that feels like it's happening in fast-forward. The hurried nature of your wedding is

bittersweet, and many couples express that if they could get a wedding day do-over, they would try to slow things down and be more present in the moment. While your photographer and videographer will no doubt do an amazing job capturing your celebration, it's just as important for you to pause every so often to take mental snapshots of your wedding day. You don't need to memorize every single detail of the excitement around you, but taking a moment to stop and check in with yourself will not only help you to

better remember your wedding day, but will also ease your nerves and keep you grounded and centered amidst all the happy chaos.

When you decide to stop and take those pictures is entirely up to you, but there are a few moments that we feel definitely deserve a spot in your mental scrapbook.

WHEN YOU FINISH GETTING READY.

For most brides, getting your hair and makeup professionally done is something

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that happens once in a blue moon. Receiving the beauty star-treatment on your wedding day means that you will be looking your absolute best, and while a wedding is certainly meant to be about the love you have for your fiancé, we highly recommend taking a timeout after your glam squad leaves to appreciate yourself. Once you're all dolled up and

put on your dress, stop and take a good look in the mirror. If admiring yourself is a no-brainer, more power to you! If it's not something you do very often, it might feel a little funny. Be your own best friend and appreciate how beautiful you look in your gown and veil because if things go according to plan, this is the one and only time you'll ever be a bride,

and that's a beautiful thing. After you have finished checking yourself out, smile and breathe deeply. Focusing on one single, slow breath will help settle your pre-wedding jitters.

WHEN YOUR PARENTS SEE YOU IN YOUR GOWN.

They've spent their entire lives raising you to be an amazing woman, and seeing the product of all their hard work standing in front of them in a wedding dress is bound to be an emotional moment. Brides doing a first look with their fathers is a trend that we have been seeing more and more of lately, and it's one that we absolutely love. If your mom has spent the morning getting ready alongside you, consider pulling her off to a corner or a separate room and spend a moment just basking in the excitement of what's about to happen. Weddings aren't just a public declaration of love between you and your partner. They're an opportunity to thank all the special people who have helped you get to where you are today, and your parents are among the most important of the bunch.

WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR FIRST LOOK.

Whether it happens as you're coming down the aisle or in a private moment before the ceremony, your first look is one of the most meaningful moments of your entire wedding day. There's a 99.9% chance that your partner will never have seen you looking so amazing before, and the expression of shock and awe on their face is something you will want to remember forever. Focus on how you feel just before you tap them on the shoulder, or right when you lock eyes with them standing at the altar. The explosion of butterflies in your stomach, the nervous goosebumps on your arms, the uncontrollable



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certainly makes this moment worthy of a mental snapshot.

WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO KISS.

"You may now kiss the bride" is arguably the pinnacle of the entire wedding day, and the big kiss is a moment we recommend slowing down for. If you can't contain yourselves and end up leaping at each other in all of the excitement, then so be it! If you're able to remember though, take a good look at your partner

before you lean in. Savoring the last few seconds of your engagement before you officially blossom into the next phase of your lives is sure to be something you remember for the rest of your lives.

WHEN YOU'RE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED.

For many couples, waltzing into your reception and being announced for the very first time as the new couple is when it finally sinks in that you have tied the knot. The enthusiastic applause from

your guests and the perfectly decorated reception space will have nothing on the giddy smiles you and your new partner will be wearing. This "oh-my-godness-we-did-it!" moment might just be our favorite of the bunch. You've taken a huge step together and we suggest basking in that initial glow for as long as possible.

WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR FIRST DANCE.

It should feel like you are in your own

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little world. Everything else will fade away. Even all of your guests somehow just disappear for the duration of the song. Despite the crowd, there's no denying that your first dance is one of the most intimate parts of your wedding day. As you sway together in the center of the room, allow yourself to get completely lost in the moment. What does it feel like to have his arms around you while everyone looks on? What does his cologne smell like? What memory does the song bring you back to? In the end, there's a good chance that your first dance will end up being more of a mental video than a mental picture. But before we stray too far into the intricacies of imaginary photography and videography, we will wrap this detail up with a friendly reminder that it is perfectly okay to be a little selfish and pick an long song for your first dance.

WHEN YOU'RE DANCING WITH YOUR GUESTS.

Once the drinks have been flowing and your DJ or band has hit their stride, the dance floor will transform into a giant sea of friends and family having the time of their lives. In between getting your groove on and bopping around from one guest to the next, consider stepping out of the crowd and soaking it all in. The sight of all your loved ones in the same place at the same time is one of the most impactful visuals you could ask for, and your wedding day is one of the only times that you'll have everybody together.

WHEN YOU SAY FAREWELL.

Your wedding day is one that you will never want to end but unfortunately, like all good things, it eventually must come to a close. Some couples stay at their reception until they're the last two people in the room while others depart early in a theatrical exit (horse and carriage, vintage hot rod, sparklers, whatever floats your boat). But no matter when you leave your wedding, those final minutes in the spotlight are some of the most rewarding. The sheer length and hustle of your wedding day will no doubt have caught up with you by this time, so unless you are Wonder Woman, you'll be fatigued beyond belief. Regardless, do your best to take one final snapshot as you head off into your "Happily Ever After". Saying goodbye to your wedding day is undeniably bittersweet and we don't blame you for being sad that it's all over in under 24 hours but trust us on this: the happiness you feel on your wedding day is just the tip of the iceberg. After your celebration is when your adventure together truly begins. 📷



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