

# My Wedding Photographer was a JERK!!!!

Confessions of a bride who didn't hire a professional for her wedding day.

By James Zedd Photography

I've heard a lot of stories before about brides who were really unsatisfied with their wedding photographs, but this one really took the cake! I was in touch with a friend of mine from Ohio not too long ago, and she was kind enough to share her story with me about the nightmare she had with her wedding photographer. Nicole, Bruce, and I met a few years back (they are photographers and run a great business in Ohio), and when I discovered that **they had one of the most terrible experiences anyone could have had with a wedding photographer**, I felt that I should share that with you, so that you're well informed about what can happen if you hire a photographer for the wrong reasons.

Here is how Nicole's story started...

**"...budget was an issue... We tried trimming wherever we could. Bruce's Aunt (by marriage) offered to photograph our wedding - she had told us she was working on doing this as a business and would like to use us as a portfolio wedding. Bruce looked at what she had photographed before and it didn't look that bad - but she hadn't photographed a wedding at that point. We talked about it and decided 'what can it hurt'."**

This is something I hear about a lot... hiring a friend or family member to photograph your wedding who doesn't really have a lot of experience, but is looking to build their portfolio as a wedding photographer. It's getting more common that people are trying to become wedding photographers, and they offer low prices on their services in exchange for a lack of actual experience. The problem is this: **Photography is an investment, not an expense!** Having a friend or relative photograph your wedding may seem cheaper, but consider what you are doing - you are putting a very low amount of money on one of the most important days of your life AND placing a great responsibility and burden on someone who doesn't have experience in what they're doing. Worst of all, think about this: would you like a friendship to be ruined, or to avoid a family member because they didn't photograph your wedding properly? If you don't think that's possible, please keep reading.

Nicole's story continues:

**"Fast forward to the day of the wedding. We were getting married at about 4 in the afternoon. She was scheduled to be at the house around 2 - she was an hour late because she said she couldn't find pantyhose. She was supposed to go to Bruce's first for some pics of him, but that never happened. I went to get ready quickly because I am not the type to be late to things. She pushed her way into my mother's room - even though I had told her those were not images I wanted at all... She then suggested that after I got dressed, I should go and sit on the toilet with my dress on ???? Ummmm, no. It had rained a bit earlier so she decided that she was going to do my pictures inside and proceeded to try and rearrange my mother's living room and dining room. Most of the pictures done inside are blurry, underexposed, have**

**her thumb in them or (were) just weird. The only picture of me alone in my dress is at my mom's picture window - with me facing into the room and she had no additional light to expose correctly. As time was going quickly - we told her that it was time to get going and she looked at us and said "It is okay to be late, you are the Bride". I was mad before - I was seething by then. The church pictures didn't turn out much better - blurry, underexposed, our backs for most of the ceremony..."**

Let's be very clear on something: **Not taking time to plan out wedding photography is an amateur mistake.** A lot of people just assume that as long as there's a general time line to follow (when the ceremony starts, when it ends, when the reception starts, etc.) that they'll just "wing it." Do you want someone "winging it" on your wedding day?

What we will do differently is make definite plans about where events are going to take place, and discuss them in detail, so that we have a full itinerary before the wedding day. This will outline what events will take place (including what time and where), how you would want myself and my second shooter to capture all the moments of your day, and many other details that we'll discuss to make sure that everything you want will be photographed. This ensures that we have a solid game plan going into your wedding day, and nothing is forgotten.

And Nicole's story continues....

**"We go to do our 'formal' pictures in a park. The weather had cleared and we could do them outside. Well, that just became another thrill.... She placed us in front of a flagpole where it looked like it was growing out of our heads. Then for the bridal party picture - she had us sit on a bench and our feet were dangling in what looked like a litter box. Then the camera malfunctioned - and she had no backup... She didn't say a thing that day - just kept on going. So next, the reception- we have maybe a dozen or so pictures and 75% of them are all of Bruce's family... Very few of mine. She was out smoking more than she was in taking pictures, we may have only one of me and my dad dancing, one of Bruce and I dancing and the one of the cake cutting is blurry."**

Just to re-assure you, here's a few things I do to make sure that this situation will NEVER happen to you:

- **All your photographs will be taken in an environment of your choice, with lighting and composition factors taken into consideration**
- **I will "coach" you through your post-ceremony photos, but I find most bridal parties are full of energy, and make a lot of really fun and great memories**
- **I come with professional photography equipment plus back up equipment to make sure that nothing can go wrong technically on your wedding day**
- **All family photographs will be coordinated between the bride, the groom, and myself to make sure that all family members get their photo taken with the bride and groom at a location of your choice**
- **I don't smoke, and never will**

But after all this, here's the real heart breaker of this entire story...

**“We haven't talked to (Bruce's Aunt) other than quickly and politely for 15 years. As a matter of fact, when we go home, if we know she will be coming to Bruce's parents we find reasons to leave as soon as we can. To this day, my kids have only seen one picture of our wedding day; I am embarrassed with the rest. My father died 12 years ago and there are no decent pictures of him on my wedding day...”**

Here's a couple questions to take into serious consideration about your wedding day:

- Do you think that paying less for a photographer will help you get the photos you really want on your wedding day?
- Does the photographer have experience in weddings, and are they willing to work with you to make sure that YOU get the wedding photographs that YOU want?
- **Do you want to RISK having to tell a story like Nicole's in 10-15 years time** about the tragedy of her wedding day that led to her not speaking to a family member, and not having the photos she should have gotten?

As this article comes to an end, I'd like to remind you of a few guarantees I have that make my weddings different from others:

1 - **Your pictures will not be boring, predictable and stale.** The samples I show you is the style you can expect from your wedding day photography when you invite me to capture this important day.

2 - **You will have fun.** Taking pictures will not be torture or the equivalent of sitting through a two-hour root canal.

3 - **You will receive a mix of traditional, modern, and “edgy” photographs.** My unique approach to wedding photography will give you a variety of memories.

4 - **You will get my 100% attention to detail.** I go the extra mile. Your wedding is important to me, and I will give you my greatest commitment to excellence.

5 - **I will be friendly, courteous, well-dressed, and on time.** I will also wear a hat.

6 - **Your wedding day is unique. I will endeavor all my skills and creativity to capture the “essence” of your day.**

All in all, I wish you the best of everything on your wedding day. I know that I can help you get what you want for your wedding photographs, so if you're still on the fence about this, send me an e-mail and I'll be happy to show you exactly what I offer for your wedding date. Thank you for reading this article, and all the best to you for a great wedding and a happy life!

## **James Zedd**

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P.S. Please hurry! I get new wedding inquiries every week, and I can only do so many in a year. Contact me today to check for my availability. [E-mail me here.](#)