

When The Wedding Night Won't Go Right!

The blissful newlyweds are magically whisked off to the bridal suite. Champagne is chilling in an ice-filled bucket. Fresh flowers adorn the room, and classical music is softly playing. She coyly excuses herself to slip into a peignoir, while he dims the lights.

Stop right there! The ideal wedding night—the ultimate romantic fantasy—rarely lives up to its billing, according to a past article in *Bride's & Your New Home*. In fact, many newlyweds find the experience a letdown, some a true adventure. Consider the first-night fates of these couples:

•Annette and Gordon left the altar in style, sailing off in a hot-air balloon only to crash-land in a cow pasture 15 minutes later. They got a ride to a country inn for the night and went to sleep. At 6 a.m., the heating system

blew; 20 minutes later, a construction crew began hammering next door.

•Following the reception, Robin and Dimitri drove to an inn, only to realize they'd left Robin's overnight bag (including her slinky negligee and birth control) behind. Romance had no chance anyway, as Dimitri, a casualty of a bachelor party the previous night, fell instantly asleep.

•Vicki and Matt made the mistake of inviting friends—many staying at the same hotel—back to the bridal suite for a nightcap. To the newlyweds' dismay, the "nightcap" stretched until 3 a.m., when they were faced with piles of empty bottles, dirty ashtrays and curdling dip.

What's a couple to do when their premiere evening as husband and wife turns out to be anything but passionate? Sex therapist Dr. Ruth

Westheimer offers readers this list of helpful "don'ts":

•Don't be caught up in the wedding-night hype. Most newlyweds are just plain pooped after all the festivities. It's not necessary to work to create the perfect romantic evening. Wait a few hours—passion will come naturally.

•Don't think you made the mistake of a lifetime. You're exhausted, edgy . . . it's been a long day. Don't blame each other or turn the scene into a big tragedy. Try to maintain perspective—this is, after all, the person you adore.

•Don't make love—just hug and kiss. Recognize you've both been under a lot of pressure after the physical and emotional whirlwind of wedding planning. Talk. Laugh. Go to sleep. Everything will look much better in the morning.

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*Submitted by Jessie & Nicky
From Bell'occhio*

Get The Most From Your Travel Agent...

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What will the locals expect in tips?

What should we pack? Check with your travel agent about average temperatures, climate and customs regarding dress. In some countries, for example, attitudes about proper dress are quite conservative. Try to travel as lightly as possible. You should be able to get away with

packing a medium-sized suitcase each for a trip of one to two weeks in length.

Can we safely consume the local food and drink, or should we be cautious? (If we must be cautious, what do you recommend we avoid?)

What are we allowed to bring back home?

What charges will apply if we have to cancel our travel plans?

Using these tips, some careful planning and a little bit of compromise will help to make your first trip as a married couple one you'll fondly remember for the rest of your lives.

Information courtesy of Weddingbells. For more wedding and honeymoon information, connect to their Web site at www.weddingbells.com.

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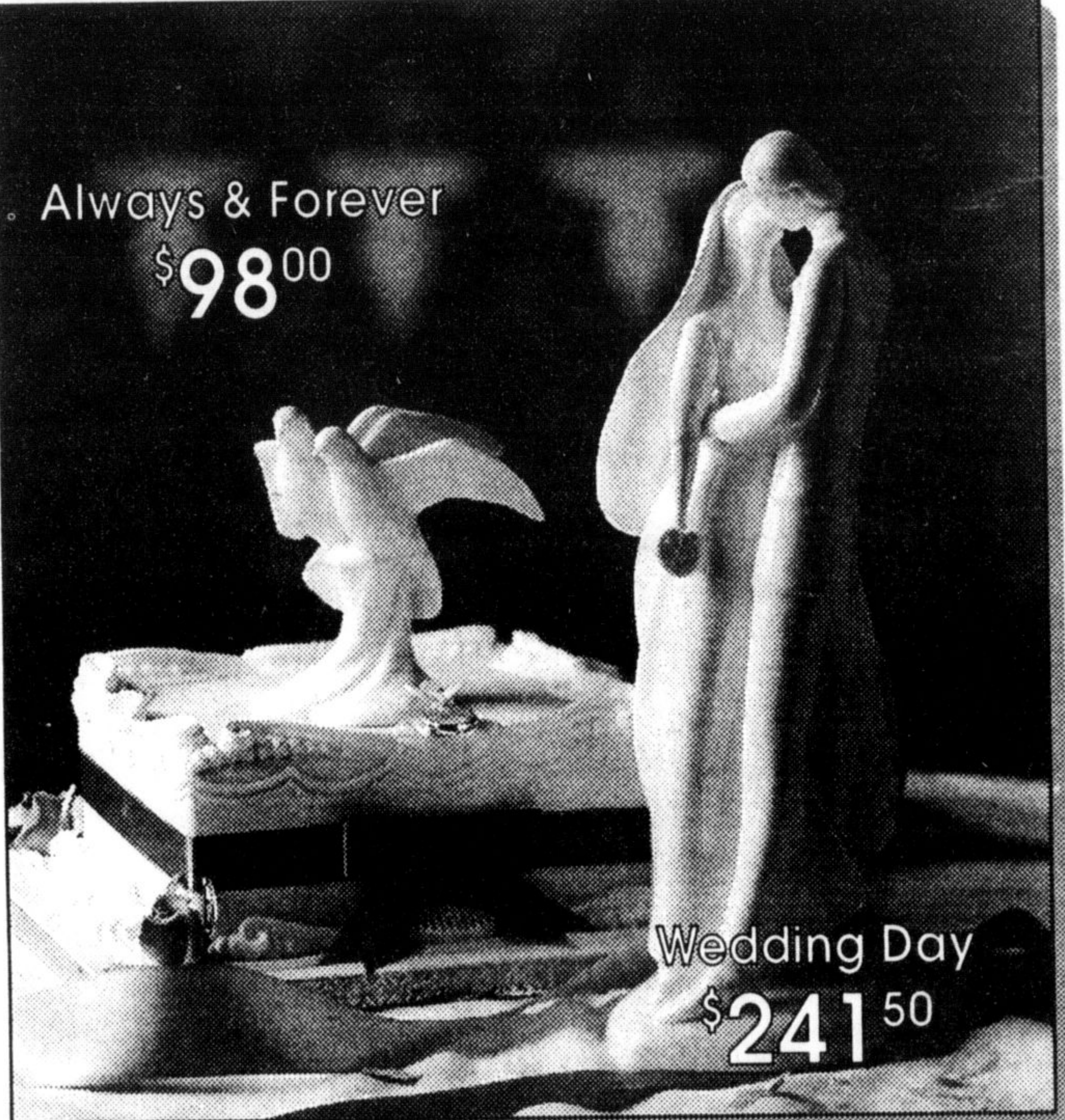
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