

A matron must know all corners, says Cecilia Ogwal



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Choosing a maid or matron of honour is no simple task. Different women use different criteria to pick the woman who will stand by them at the altar as they make those vows - the one who will hold their hand through the challenging journey of marriage.

There are no hard and fast rules to ensure that the person you pick does not ruin your day either intentionally or unknowingly. However, a look at what a woman who has greatly influenced the tide of women emancipation and drawn unalloyed admiration from many, considered when picking this special woman, may serve as a invaluable guide.

Dokolo Woman MP, Cecilia Ogwal said, "I do not remember everything that happened but I remember I chose my best friend Pamela Kola."

Studying at a time when the course she coveted (Bachelor of Commerce) was not being offered at Makerere University, she was forced to opt for the University of Nairobi. There she met Pamela who would later play a very central role in her life.

"You see when picking a maid of honour you must choose someone who is accessible to every corner of your life. Pamela was this person." Cecilia reveals that she let her maid of honour take care of every aspect of her wedding day, right down to choosing the stockings that were then in vogue.

To Cecilia a maid of honour is the kind of person with whom you can freely discuss your underwear. She could even advise you to discard some particularly unappealing pieces.

She must not only bother about what you look like physically, but also what goes into your stomach. Cecilia's matron helped make sure she consumed things that did not make her go to the bathroom frequently, considering how inconvenient the Cinderella gowns can get. It is important for a bride to surrender it all to the matron.

"The matron dictates and you must be responsive." The matronly duty does not just end there. Along the roller coaster ride that is marriage, there may be some unpleasant bumps. Power sometimes goes off and the fun roller coaster ride could grind to a halt.

In times like this, there is only one natural choice (like that condom advert goes), your matron. That is why many people including MP Cecilia Ogwal insist that it should be a matron of honour and not a maid of honour.

This is because these matronly duties go way past the ceremony. A person, who has experienced the institution of marriage, it is believed, will be in better position to advise the couple when conflicts arise.

You heard it ladies. Even the good book says you start from doing the little things right before you get the bigger ones correct.

No bride wants people to remember her wedding and what immediately comes to mind is an ill matching maid of honour, or to be in a marriage with no one to share with stories of the good times and the bad. Who you choose for your matron reflects a lot on your real life choices.

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