



## The Life of an Irish Bride

Being the bride is always something to celebrate. You celebrate finding your soulmate and \_\_\_\_\_ your own house. How you celebrate depends solely on your cultural and religious backgrounds. The same goes \_\_\_\_\_ Irish brides. They have a lot of unique customs that the Irish wedding traditions imposed \_\_\_\_\_ them. Conversely, some of them are quite fun and \_\_\_\_\_ are pretty strange. So, let us take a look at the life of an Irish bride.

### *Break the Cake*

Here is one of the first Irish wedding traditions, breaking the cake. It sounds weird and it may as well be the weirdest \_\_\_\_\_ all the other customs. When the bride enters her new home, her mother-in-law shall break a cake over her head. Yes, they actually do this or maybe they \_\_\_\_\_ to do it but stopped. This strange practice was, in fact, a demonstration that the bride is the woman to \_\_\_\_\_ over the house. She is the new mistress. Maybe, the practice stopped; however, it was there anywhere.

### *When the Sun Shines*

Irish people used to have some strange notions. One of them was about the sun and bringing luck. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was a notion that involved that, if the sun \_\_\_\_\_ on the bride, it was a sign of good luck to the couple. Once the ceremony was over, it was preferable that a man was the first to wish the bride joy. \_\_\_\_\_ a woman was the one to wish first, then bad luck would be around.

### *Wedding Veil or Headwear*

Irish brides have the same choices to other European countries when it \_\_\_\_\_ to bridal headwear. She chooses either a veil or \_\_\_\_\_ other couture headwear. Besides, a garland of wildflowers is usually the favourite choice of an Irish bride. Most importantly, it

does not \_\_\_\_\_ what she chooses. All the choices are quite good; however, she shall not put on the headwear herself. Donning the headwear \_\_\_\_\_ herself was a sign of bad luck.

### ***Keep the Man Around***

The Irish wedding traditions involve some simple steps to help the woman keep her man. Women always wanted to ensure the fidelity of her husband-to-be. In \_\_\_\_\_ to do that, a woman would give her husband a drink in secret. While he drinks, she shall utter the following words:

"This is the charm I set for love,

A woman's charm of love and desire:

You for me and I for thee and for none else;

Your face to mine and your hand turned away from all others".

### ***Paying a Coibche***

Coibche is an \_\_\_\_\_ of money that the prospective husband has to pay. When a man proposes to a woman, he has to pay money to the bride's father. As \_\_\_\_\_ as the father receives the money, he divides it with the head of their tribe. On the second year of marriage, the wife has the right to receive a portion of the amount. Over the years, the amount would increase. Aside from the Coibche, there is also a Tionnscar. That is a payment that the husband shall make to the father if they \_\_\_\_\_ from different kingdoms. The payment was usually silver, brass, gold, or copper. However, that was among the ancient Irish wedding traditions.

### ***A Marriage Contract***

During the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Normans \_\_\_\_\_ in Ireland. At that time, marriage was a casual affair in Ireland. Couples were allowed to marry for one year and after that, \_\_\_\_\_ party could withdraw. Later, marriage contracts became a thing. It became more complicated then; it was a social connection for the purposes of procreation. Those purposes meant that infertile and poor men should not make a contract. If one of them happened to marry, the woman had the right to break the contract for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons. Weird enough, Irish society thought that fat men were unable to \_\_\_\_\_ their duties.

### ***Age Does Matter***

This custom was popular in a lot of cultures. The eldest girl in the family should be the first to marry. Then, her younger sisters would marry in order, \_\_\_\_\_ to their age. If a younger girl happened to marry first, people would observe the eldest one as a flawed one.

### ***The Perfect Woman for Marriage***



Ancient Irish wedding traditions included choosing the perfect woman. Women who were about to marry had to fit the criteria of the ideal woman. Those traits were a sweet singing voice, good sewing skills, cleverness, and a pleasant speaking voice. But then again, those measures were only important during the ancient times. Nowadays, people barely \_\_\_\_\_ attention to any of those things. However, some of those customs \_\_\_\_\_ exist in the rural areas of Ireland.

### ***The Lace of the Irish Bride***

Again, the couture of brides in Ireland is quite similar \_\_\_\_\_ that of the Western world. On the other \_\_\_\_\_, there are things that distinguish the Irish culture and that include the Irish lace. The latter is a unique Irish touch of the bride's attire. Lace is actually a unique fabric in the Irish wedding traditions. Women in Ireland add this nice fabric to their veil or headwear and it looks magnificent. Moreover, some people consider it too expensive or too extra, thus they carry a lace handkerchief. Some brides \_\_\_\_\_ handing those lace bags as gifts to the attendants. More reasonably, they would receive them as precious gifts too.

### ***Wedding Gifts for the Bride***

Usually, laces are special gifts that Irish brides receive. It is one of the important Irish wedding traditions; \_\_\_\_\_, there are lots of other items. Irish linen is equally important to laces; they both represent commitment. Surprisingly, brides do not start their new life \_\_\_\_\_ owning collectable Belleek Pottery or stunning Waterford Crystal. This may sound very strange to other cultures, but it is part of the Irish wedding traditions; an important one. Other gifts that the Irish brides usually receive are shakers of pepper and salt. Yes, they do receive such gifts and they are significant according to the Irish wedding traditions. Tall toasting glasses are also lucky gifts \_\_\_\_\_ porcelain bells, which work as reminders \_\_\_\_\_ first days of marriage.