

REBOUND
On Sex With Crazy Women

Cat Marnell:
Office Bitch



Do This Don't:
Hairy Pits



Win Free Nail Polish
All Our Favorite Colors

DO YOU DARE
ME? WELCOME HOME!
Apr 13, 2012 at 4:50pm

A Mash Note To Nina Totenberg,
My Favorite NPR Crush

Fun

I'm That Weirdo Who Walks Her
Cat On A Leash

I'M GETTING MARRIED ... TO MYSELF!

Consider this your official invitation.



Sara Benincasa

Apr 12, 2012 at 11:00am | 74 Comments

Tweet 18 | | Share | Like 148



I will be wearing this outfit at my nuptials.

OMG I AM GETTING MARRIED THIS WEEKEND AND YOU ARE INVITED! There's gonna be a ceremony, champagne, rings and everything.

I'm not kidding about this. Consider this post your official invitation. Please bring your photo-recording devices, because I can't afford to pay a photographer and I could really use your help.

I will warn you upfront, however, that this wedding is going to be a little unusual.

It's not the location or the nonreligious nature of the ceremony that's so odd. Plenty of people have weddings in nontraditional spaces like art galleries, and many folks these days employ the services of

May We Suggest

Fun

I Got Married to Myself! 29

Fun

Party With Planned Parenthood in NYC! 12

Issues

5 Awesome TIME 100 Gals You've Never Heard Of 11

Fun

What's Your Best Getting-Fired Story? 76

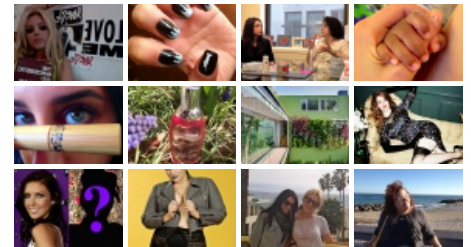
Fun

Jimbo, Rufus, Miles and Balloon: How Did Your Pet Get Its Name? 251

Fun

Glowsticks & Plastic Bracelets: I'm Reviving My Raver Past 22

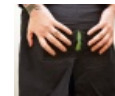
Shoppables



Most Talked About Now



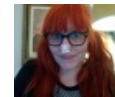
It Happened to Me: I Was Rejected From Food Stamps *Caroline S* | 674 Comments



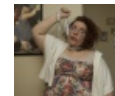
OK, Fine, I'm Going Back on Weight Watchers *Emily* | 336 Comments



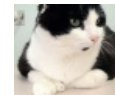
Rebound: I Slept With a Crazy Woman *Anonymous* | 321 Comments



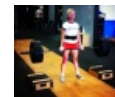
Your Help Needed: How Do I Make Friends and Learn to Be a Good Friend as an Adult? *Rachel* | 317 Comments



The Body Mass Index is Pointless *Lesley* | 285 Comments



Jimbo, Rufus, Miles and Balloon: How Did Your Pet Get Its Name? *Lesley* | 251 Comments



Competitive PowerLifter Secrets: What The Diet Industry Doesn't Want You To Know About Weights *Dana McMahan* | 217 Comments

nondenominational officiants like Ms. Penabaz the Encouraging Priestess. None of that is particularly off the wall.

No, what's different about this particular wedding, aside from the group invite (bring your friends!) is that it's a bride-only event. Not *brides*-only; this ain't no lesbian matrimonial fiesta, although lesbians are welcomed and encouraged to attend en masse. No, this is a very special kind of marriage: a self-marriage.

I'm getting married to myself.

For real.

Here's how it came about.

I was searching for something to write about, and I started thinking about how weird it is that people I knew as single girls are now married ladies who own things like homes and cars. Like, one of my best friends is a housewife and mother of two out in the Midwest. Another one of my best friends is married with a gorgeous house *and a pool house* (can you imagine?).

I just went to a bridal shower the other week for a gal I grew up with, and she's four years my junior (I'm 31). It trips me out because, well, weren't we just playing with American Girl dolls the other day? When did this whole growing-up thing happen? And it makes me feel a little sad and left behind, in a very *Bridesmaids* kind of way, that I haven't found that kind of commitment-inducing love yet. I certainly want it. What am I doing wrong?

I mentioned it to my dad recently when I was home in the Dirty Jerz for the rising of Jesus the Bunny King.

"Dad," I said, "Sometimes I look around at all these people I know who are married and own stuff and have been in the same career already for like nine years, and I feel kind of inadequate. Like, where did I go wrong? Shouldn't I have those things by now?"

"Sara," he said, "that's not the path you chose. If you'd stuck to teaching high school back when you got your master's degree, you'd have those things, too. But you chose entertainment and writing. And that's what you are meant to be doing." (He's kind of wise, my dad.)

I said something similar to my mom and she said, "You have plenty of time to get married. Right now is your time to focus on your career. Go for the brass ring! Dream big!" (She's kind of cool, my mom.)

But the thing is, there are plenty of folks who are still pursuing their big dreams and have also taken the time to get married. It's not like the two are mutually exclusive -- I could have a husband and be a writer/comedian/whatever else I am.

And Lord knows I've dated tons of dudes. It isn't as if I've been waiting on the sidelines for love to find me. I've chased it down, time after time after time, barely taking a breath between one relationship and another, avoiding singledom as if it were an abhorrent plague. In fact, multiple persons with inside knowledge of the situation have suggested that the best thing I could possibly do for myself would be to take some time to consciously choose singlehood.

Fun
Notes From the Assistant: Attack of the Gynecologist! 30

Fun
Compelling Reader Comments Of The Week: Jane's Name Drops 112

Fun
DRINKING AT THE OFFICE: Pharrell Williams Edition! 55

Fun

I'm That Weirdo Who Walks Her Cat On A Leash 57

Issues
Why Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker Sucks 18

Clothes
OK, Fine, I'm Going Back on Weight Watchers 336

Beauty

On Learning To "Live With" My Face 35

Jane's Phone

What Does It Mean When Your Palms Itch Again? 11

Family Drama
I Have Horrible Guilt & Discomfort About Not Being Able to Keep My Own House

Still noodling on what to write about for this site, I recalled being intrigued by the self-marriage ceremony of the funky, wild, color-happy author and artist [SARK](#). She wrote about it in one of her books and advocated it for others as a sort of spiritual celebration of individuality.

When I was younger, it seemed silly to me. But as I've gotten older, I've come around to SARK's way of thinking -- that such a ritual might be profoundly meaningful as well as profoundly silly (and what's so bad about silly, anyway?) Maybe, I thought, I could write a post about the idea of self-marriage and ask you ladies what you thought of it.

I pitched Lesley on the idea, and she dug it. I started Googling "marry yourself" and the very first result that popped up was [EncouragingPriestess.com](#). Turns out artist Gabrielle Penabaz has already established a fine practice of marrying people to themselves in [New York City](#), [New Orleans](#) and [London](#). And serendipitously, her next round of self-marriage ceremonies was planned for...[this very weekend](#), right here in NYC! And it's free! Anyone can do it! In fact, I can do it. And I'm going to do it. On Sunday, at 1 p.m., at a funky art space in Manhattan.

Gabrielle told me, "I read about Rob Brezsny marrying a crowd of people to themselves at Burning Man, many years ago. I liked the idea of marrying yourself, but as a performance piece, I liked the idea of ushering someone into the experience, so they would be inspired to go further with the concept of commitment."

I told her a little bit more about my manic avoidance of genuine singlehood and asked her if that rendered me more or less fit for self-marriage. She said, "Everyone is a good candidate for self-marriage. In your case, you might savor it more than someone else because you might be pausing to focus on what you really want."

I asked Gabrielle if she ever married herself, and she said, "Oh yes. I split up occasionally and argue a lot, but so far so good."

I can't say exactly why I'm going to do it. Maybe it's a stunt for the site. Maybe it's just for a laugh. Or maybe it's something deeper, a kind of affirmation that I'm okay on my own, even lovable, and certainly worthy of a celebration involving plastic rings and funny outfits. Maybe it's a celebration of the fact that for once in my freaking life I do not have a boyfriend and am not robotically and frenetically going through the motions of obtaining one in order to block out and ignore the scary stuff I don't like about myself.

Maybe I just want to have a fucking party.

Anyway, my friend Tony has agreed to be my witness. I've decided to give myself away to myself, and then marry myself. I'd really love it if you NYC xo-Janers came by and joined the party. You'll have the chance to sign up with Gabrielle to get married to yourself, if you desire. If nothing else, you'll see a real live weirdo doing a real live weird thing, and you'll see it for free, which is the best part of living in New York: all this insanity,

[MENT](#) [ISSUES](#) [JANE'S STUFF](#) [MORE](#)

And BTW -- [I'm registered at Anthropologie](#). Think I'm kidding? Oh fuck no, I ain't kidding. Go ahead and buy my ass a [\\$6800 chair](#). After all, marriage is sacred.

What: Sara's Wedding

Why: Love, self-actualization, narcissism

Date: Sunday, April 15th, 2012

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: [Chashama](#) Art Space, 266 West 37th St., ground floor

Officiated by: Multidisciplinary artist [Gabrielle Penabaz](#) of the House of St. Eve, a.k.a. [The Encouraging Priestess](#)

Tweet 18
StumbleUpon
Share
Like 148

Posted in [Fun](#), [engagement](#), [marriage equality](#), [sara benincasa](#), [wedding industrial complex](#)

Related Articles

Fun

Issues

Fun

Sara Benincasa / [I Got Married to Myself!](#)

Sara Benincasa / [5 Awesome TIME 100 Gals You've Never Heard Of](#)

Brittany / [What's Your Best Getting-Fired Story?](#)

Like  and 5 others liked this.

Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Showing 40 of 74 comments

Sort by oldest first



Stephie71

Sue Sylvester it up, girl! Also, I'm going to have to RSVP a no. Please post photos!

6 days ago 4 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



thirties girl Tell me about it, honey.

That was one of the best Sue moments on Glee.

4 days ago in reply to Stephanie71 1 Like

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Nancy Marion Photo editor, gourmand, travel freak, shoe junkie.

Love this idea! I also love Rob Breszny , and if I didn't have massive hang-ups about being in the middle of nowhere for a week with a bunch of other unshowered people in costumes and on fun drugs, I would definitely have a self-wedding at Burning Man.

6 days ago 2 Likes Like Reply



divinepeach

Congratulations! Here's to many years of happiness :)

6 days ago 3 Likes Like Reply



Traci Jane's Name Drops

dammit i wish i could be there!!!

6 days ago 1 Like Like Reply



Mere Darling Jane's Name Drops

Who gets married on tax day :p

6 days ago Like Reply



PennyAwesome

But it's a Sunday this year, so it's NOT tax day!

ETA: Also, your anniversary is easy to remember?

6 days ago in reply to Mere Darling 2 Likes Like Reply



elizeh

My parents did. On purpose, so my dad wouldn't forget their anniversary.

They are now divorced, fwiw.

6 days ago in reply to Mere Darling 1 Like Like Reply



lauren.laren.looren

i always threaten to marry myself...who knew i actually could! i don't really care about self-realization, i just want people to buy me stuff.

oh you're a professional couple with two incomes and a condo and are getting married...here's thousands of dollars worth of home goods.

oh you're a single creative small business owner with a garden apartment and no health insurance with no designs on ever getting married? suck it.

6 days ago 13 Likes Like Reply

Brooklynbee Jane's Name Drops



A lot of people who get married & have a wedding/honeymoon pay for it themselves (fully or partially), and the cost of having a wedding can be equal to, if not greater than, the value of the gifts they receive. This is certainly not the case for everyone, especially for those with parents footing the bill, but just something to think about. Everyone is really just buying themselves stuff in the end, in a sense, whether married or single - unless they have very generous friends or relatives, in which case, you know, carry on and have fun. :)

6 days ago in reply to lauren.laren.looren Like Reply



lauren.laren.looren

i'm know. i'm totally kidding.
i'm just jealous and want a kitchenaid mixer.

6 days ago in reply to Brooklynbee Like Reply
11 Likes



Brooklynbee Jane's Name Drops

I got married and I didn't get one of those!
But I finally got one just a few weeks ago
from a friend who sold me hers for \$40!!!!

6 days ago Like Reply
in reply to lauren.laren.looren
1 Like



Stephe71

That was the one thing on my registry that I REALLY wanted...no dice.

6 days ago Like
in reply to Brooklynbee



LindseyKeefner

This is awesome. I think everyone should have to marry themselves before they marry anyone else! You have to know and be true to yourself, and practice that shit for awhile before you can be trusted to hold onto yourself in a committed relationship.

I totally want that Giraffe bust and hanging chair.

6 days ago 4 Likes Like Reply



Princess Faker A renewable source of schadenfreude.

But then would you divorce yourself, or become a bigamist?

6 days ago in reply to LindseyKeefner 1 Like Like Reply



LindseyKeefner

Ha yeah it's probably most like polyamory (or polygamy)? You don't stop your commitment to yourself, but you extend it to someone else as well.

6 days ago in reply to Princess Faker Like Reply
1 Like



Princess Faker A renewable source of sc...

Ooh, I can get behind that. Like Big Love, only with less ladies.

6 days ago Like Reply
in reply to LindseyKeefner



LindseyKeefner

Except since I'm gay it would be only ladies haha.

6 days ago Like
in reply to Princess Faker
3 Likes



Princess Faker A renewable sou...

Ha ha, even better then!

6 days ago Like
in reply to LindseyKeefner



sydneyb79

I will be having a drunken brunch with some friends in the city on Sunday, which you're more than welcome to make your wedding reception if you so desire.

6 days ago 2 Likes Like Reply



Sara Benincasa

OMG! I would probably come! Maybe, if I can convince my witnesses to come with me. But thank you!

6 days ago in reply to sydneyb79 1 Like Like Reply



sydneyb79

haha, I'll tweet you the locale on Sunday should you all suddenly get hungry and feel the need to be less sober.

6 days ago in reply to Sara Benincasa Like Reply



nobody girl Makeup counter stalker, music lover, Tito's vodka en...

I'd marry myself too for that chair....

6 days ago

Like Reply



edotwoods Jane's Name Drops I really spend too much time in Dall...

My daughter and I got married when she was three. We hopped down the aisle and her dad did a reading from The Stinky Cheese man. Now our anniversary is an excuse to eat cake, and remind each other how much we love each other.

I guess that means I can't marry myself though, then.

6 days ago 11 Likes

Like Reply



yrouttasight

That is way too adorable to comprehend.

6 days ago in reply to edotwoods 1 Like

Like Reply



Jennvincible Bazillion sex, all the time.

That's so damn cute

6 days ago in reply to edotwoods 1 Like

Like Reply



Sara Benincasa

I just judged a contest called Literary Death Match with the author of the Stinky Cheese Man!

6 days ago in reply to edotwoods 4 Likes

Like Reply



edotwoods Jane's Name Drops I really spend too m...

SO COOL.

6 days ago in reply to Sara Benincasa 1 Like

1 Like



btlav329

Right on!

6 days ago

Like Reply



Sammi M

1. "Jesus the Bunny King". I literally LOL'd, and I'm totally stealing that from now on.

2. Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials! I'm sure it'll be lovely, and I love your wedding dress. There better be a follow-up post with pictures from the event!

6 days ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Meghan O'Keefe

If only I didn't have a UCB class during your wedding...

6 days ago

Like Reply



JaneJaneJane

Fully support you but this does not call for phrases like "I'm not kidding" and "For real." We believe you because it's been done before. A bunch o' times. I'm surprised you didn't come across this in your Googling.

6 days ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



icillionaire

Congratulations!! This is such a bitchin' idea. The only thing that I'm ever jealous of when my friends marry is the registering for fine china and bedding. I love expensive home goods.

6 days ago

Like Reply



ummyeahno

Ok, what? This was on sex and the city. Lame.

6 days ago 8 Likes

Like Reply



Sara Benincasa

Haha. You watch "Sex and the City." And get mad about it.

6 days ago in reply to ummyeahno 6 Likes Like Reply



ummyeahno

hasn't pretty much everyone watched that show? I'm not mad, you just ripped off something that was already far from witty or cute. So basically you are even less creative than Bradshaw. Congrats.

6 days ago in reply to Sara Benincasa 5 Likes Like Reply



Erin Lee Jane's Name Drops

I never watched it. Or Desperate Housewives, either, as long as we're at it.

6 days ago in reply to ummyeahno Like Reply



thirties girl Tell me about it, honey.

Wow. Way to rain on someone's parade.
Good for you.

4 days ago Like Reply
in reply to ummyeahno



lisapizza1

grumpy pants.

3 days ago Like Reply
in reply to ummyeahno



Jillian Hastings

It was totally different, she just "registered" so she could have her shoes replaced. You're the lame one!

6 days ago in reply to ummyeahno 3 Likes Like Reply

[Subscribe by email](#) [RSS](#)

[Load more comments](#)

xoJane.com

xoJane.com is where women go when they are being selfish, and where their selfishness is applauded.
[About](#) | [Advertise](#)

Sections

[Fashion](#)
[Beauty](#)
[Sex/Love](#)
[Tech](#)

Big Now

[tv](#)
[sara benincasa](#)
[girls](#)
[books](#)

Get More Jane

[On Twitter](#)
[On Facebook](#)
[Jane Radio on Sirius](#)
[Jane's YouTube Channel](#)