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**Title: How to survive the bachelor party**

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One Chicago bachelor will lose his street cred in fewer than 24 hours. He's getting married.

For a guy whose biggest commitment has been staying at a job long enough to get an inscribed pen, this is crazy huge. He knows that even though today he's whole, tomorrow he'll have a better half. That recliner he's sitting on today will be sitting on eBay tomorrow. So before ripping up the dance floor at his reception tomorrow, he wants to rip up his bad-ass bachelor party today.

How far should that party go?

Bachelor No. 1, don't ask your friends. For many men, a bachelor party is merely a credible excuse to hire the "lollipop twins" or any other "entertainment" found scribbled on bathroom stalls. In reality, these parties are as much about making the group's twisted fantasies come true as they are about celebrating the groom.

Before diving into this sea of debauchery, clear it with your fiance. This isn't about permission, it's about respect. Get her opinion--it's the only one that counts. Then the two of you can make your own rules. If she's into it, no worries. As a matter of fact, many women claim they don't mind the stripper scene. They just feel better when the strippers save the pole dancing for the stage. It's all about compromise.

Now, if the bachelor party turns into a major brawl between you and your honey, consider the reasons. The time before getting hitched is crazy. Emotions run wild, and the weak-hearted are often looking for an out. Don't fall for it. All you're talking about is one night. Don't make it more complicated than it is. You're not solving world hunger, you're just getting papa fed. The parameters of satisfying your appetite shouldn't be a surprise. Most likely you've covered it before.

The real trouble hits when party night is seen as the last day of freedom. It's not. You're getting married, not dying. But don't tell that to one self-admitted cheater, who says he's scared to death of his "sentence"--as he so romantically called it. He feels if he's going "to make the jump," he should be rewarded first.

That's right, he plans to celebrate his "courageous" decision to marry one woman by partying with another. What a thoughtful, thoughtful man. The kicker? His fiance claims to be fine with it. Why, you ask? "It was the deal I made with him in order to get engaged," she says.

That is one spanking-raw deal. Yes, to each his own, but this is simply inviting past destructive behavior into the relationship. And that sucks. But she made that bed.

The bachelor party, like the marriage itself, can be whatever the couple believes is good for them. Just consider the further you stray, the more you should focus on home. And make it mutual. Call your honey during the party and tell her what's going on. Maybe she'll be into it. Maybe the bachelor party will be a dress rehearsal for a crazy, cool evening with your new wife. Or maybe the call will simply let your lady know that she's always on your mind.

So bring on the bachelor party and enjoy the night. Just remember to buckle up and protect the family jewel--I'm talking about your new wife, silly.

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