



Of all the wedding traditions, there is none which receives more attention, anticipation and superstition than a Bride and Groom avoiding any sight of each other on their wedding day before nuptials begin.

Despite the attention it receives, the tradition of the Groom not seeing his Bride before the walk down the aisle has no true known origin, and it can only be speculated at how this custom began, or why. Some guess that perhaps the tradition was created to build up so much anticipation at seeing his beauty in white that the Groom would be less likely to run away! Most speculate that it boils down to a simple case of warding off bad luck, and thus the Bride and Groom part ways before midnight the night before their wedding, and are not to lay eyes on each other until they see each other on that ceremony aisle.

This tradition is singularly responsible for escalating the near panic state of many a Bride, and heralds an artful dance of avoidance as the wedding party helps usher the Bride and Groom through the necessary preparations while gingerly dodging one another as the wedding ceremony draws near. The tradition has also seeped into that of the sacredness of the wedding dress itself, and this most hallowed object is kept under lock and key lest the Groom take a peek!

Despite the sacred time-honored tradition, some couples are changing the rules... just a bit.

The evolution of the "first glimpse" is one that I personally have witnessed and escorted couples through, as this ultramodern twist lends itself to a surprisingly romantic crowd. You see, in all of the buildup over this one wedding day moment, what some couples don't take into account is that at the end of that short walk down the aisle, after all that anticipation, the moment is quickly swept up in a need to proceed through the wedding ceremony with the proper decorum. And so a hand hold, a nod, a wink and quick swallowing of tears, the moment is over and they go on to proceed through their ceremony.

The new first glimpse revolves around the same old superstition, while fanning the flame of romance and the ability to relish in the moment that has been so highly anticipated. Typically couples who plan a first glimpse, do so within an hour or two prior to the ceremony. This can take place either in the ceremony spot or another special secluded location. Most couples choose to keep this reunion private, a chance to finally abandon the stress of the preparations and focus on what this day is all about: each other. Others choose to arrange for a handful of family and closest friends to share in the moment with them.

The Groom waits in the special place, back turned or even blindfolded. The Bride enters and walks toward him. Just as she is within arm's reach she speaks his name. He turns, and what

and quality of images you receive. Aside from the array of romantic images from the actual first look, some couples take this opportunity to use the next free hour or more to enjoy creative portrait opportunities alone or with the wedding party; while some have enjoyed just spending the rest of the time in quiet prayer together as they await their ceremony. For couples

Love at First Sight

by Kateri Reyes

happens next is left to the emotions that take over! Many a Groom sweeps his Bride off her feet in a joyful embrace then sets her back to spin her around again, soaking up her radiant beauty and takes her in as she shows off her dress. They kiss, whisper, embrace again and kiss again. Touching, holding, speaking, and just being. This moment sweetens the day that has so far been a hectic blur of to-do's.

From a photography standpoint, adding this moment to your day can greatly increase the quantity

with an evening wedding, especially in the months after daylight savings begins (fall/winter), the first glimpse is ideal, especially to allow for any creative portrait time in natural light or an outdoor setting that would otherwise be dark post-ceremony.

No matter what, where or how it takes place, setting aside a first glimpse gives the Bride and Groom a chance to truly bask in the romance of the moment and create memories together that will continue live on for a lifetime in their heart, memories and photographs!

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