



ARE GUEST- BOOKS DATED?

By Down the Aisle NYC
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Your mom is going to hate us for this, your grandma even more, but we always try to give it to you straight. So here we go.

It really depends on who you ask. In our humble opinion, we would say yes. Absolutely, without a doubt, yes we think guestbooks are dated.

The modern day wedding already comes with a pretty steep price tag and the guestbook can be one extra cost eating at your budget that doesn't really add a lot of value to your wedding day. And let's be honest, your guests don't love it either - feels like the price of admission to get into the reception.

But it is tradition. And we want to remember who was at our wedding when we are 80.

Agreed. The guestbook has its role as a timestamp to capture those special people who celebrated your nuptials with you - but let's get creative with this, and explore a few ways to modernize this tradition.

IN OUR HUMBLE OPINION...

ADVICE TREE

TWIST ON A CLASSIC

Easy to put together, fun for guests and aesthetically, it can look really beautiful. I am biased as we did this at our wedding and still have it in our house today. We put out a handful of 'leaves' (aka brown card stock tags from Michael's) and a few prompts on our guests' tables asking for their best advice on:

- Date Nights to keep our marriage fun
- Gifts ideas for the important anniversaries
- Words of Wisdom for a long and healthy life together
- Anything + Everything in between

It worked out great. Having the tags on the tables created a bit of an ice breaker for our guests and gave them something to do while they waited for our Grand Entrance, plus nearly everyone wrote down a piece of advice that was unique and well thought out ... not the redundant 'congratulations' statement that is repeated over and over and over again ... like what you see in an office retirement card.

We have ours in a glass vase like a flower arrangement and still read them years later. The sweet ones give us the warm and fuzzies while the more racier ones ... clearly written after our guests found the bar... are absolutely hilarious.

STRIKE A POSE

A PICTURE SAYS A 1000 WORDS

Except when you accost your guests at the door. Again this feels a bit awkward and makes for a traffic jam at the front when what we really want is to seat our guests efficiently so dinner can start on time (A Types can I get a hell ya).

Better yet. Set up a photobooth. You can have props or maybe just a beautiful backdrop with your names and the wedding date.





Guaranteed your guests will check this out when they are good and ready to have their picture taken and then it is one for them and one for you.

If you do not want to invest in a physical booth you can always download one of the many free apps out there and have a sign nearby with your unique wedding hashtag. Et Voila! No scrap-booking, no Polaroid costs and a digital guestbook for you to reference for years to come.

DIY photobooths are awesome and can be on theme with your wedding. This is also a specialty of ours and for more info please check out our [Services Portfolio](#).

A BREAK BOX

FOR THAT FIRST REAL FIGHT

A wedding is a happy occasion. This we know. And the focus on that day is to celebrate all the love and excitement that lays ahead for the happy couple. But the truth is, a wedding is a symbol of commitment. A marriage will have its ups and downs and it is on the down days that we need our loved ones most.

So a Break Box. Exactly as it sounds. Instead of well wishes and ideas for great Date Nights, it is advice to offer the newly weds for when they have that first big fight. Some couples even include a bottle of wine from their wedding day or one of their favors as a way to 'take them back'. And then we nail it shut for them to 'break in case of emergency'.

And what is inside? How about ways to say "I'm Sorry", or advice on how to compromise. Lessons in Love. Beautiful Quotes. That kind of thing. My husband and I were at a wedding with a Break Box and we couldn't think of anything profound to say so instead we borrowed the Polaroid camera from the photobooth and took a candid shot of the happy couple. We dropped it into the box with the simple caption 'always fight for this happiness'.

A signature is great, a happy wish even better but having your friends 'there' when you need them is truly meaningful.