

Fort Wayne News Sentinel

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**Have a dream wedding without nightmare costs
A Fort Wayne couple did it - and they're sharing their secrets in an online book so
others can do it, too.**

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Article Text:

Call Tim Spooner cheap - he doesn't mind. He says he and his wife, Lisa, saved more than \$20,000 on their 2003 wedding.

Now the Fort Wayne couple wants to help others do the same thing, releasing a 66-page "e-book" on how lovers can keep the elegance and cut the costs. The Spooners' wedding, including Lisa's dress, cost less than \$2,000.

"One thing I would advise any couple to do, is try not to go for the perfect wedding," said Spooner, a 27-year-old sales manager by day. "Everything is poured into that one day, including a ton of money. And then they wake up the next day during the honeymoon and realize, 'We are in deep debt and are about to start our lives together.' "

The Spooners' book, "Wedding Planning on a Budget: Plan the wedding of your dreams ... without breaking the bank!" is available to download for \$12.95 at www.weddingplanningonabudget.com. No special software is required.

Spooner, a 2003 graduate of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne with a degree in sociology, met 23-year-old Lisa during a class. "Before you knew it, we were very much in love with each other," he said.

But Spooner had little money and his wife, a Churubusco native, was taking on college loans. The two came from middle-class families where money was tight. Rather than get a job, she decided it would be more profitable spending time finding ways to save on the wedding.

Still their big day, only five months after he proposed and less than a year after meeting, was complete with a caviar and shrimp dinner for guests.

Spooner said his great-aunt called it "the most beautiful wedding she had ever been to."

How could it not be? The newlyweds sang a duet at the reception. They also had friends and family pitch in for such things as flowers.

Various surveys indicate the average wedding in America costs between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The average Fort Wayne wedding cashes in at \$24,190, according to www.costofwedding.com.

But it doesn't have to, at least if you listen to Spooner.

He said he first identified the things he and his wife wanted to do, but often the traditional way didn't fit the budget.

"So we had to do a different way," he said. "A lot of it came down to creativity."

`I do' want a cheap wedding

What: "Wedding Planning on a Budget: Plan the wedding of your dreams ... without breaking the bank!"

Cost: \$12.95

Authors: Tim and Lisa Spooner of Fort Wayne

Available online at: www.weddingplanningonabudget.com

Caption:

Tim and Lisa Spooner spent only \$2,000 on their 2003 wedding, including the shrimp and caviar dinner. Now they have published an electronic book to share their wedding-planning wisdom. Courtesy photoPHOTO

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