Planning + Imagination = Shower Success

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Here's what a former bride has to say about showers:

Planning + Imagination = Shower Success

by Mary Jacobs Jensen

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TO LET YOU know a shower's planned for a lovely bride. Come! It will be grand!

You are the hostess of a shower for a happy girl—the bride. To make your party a success involves good planning and a bit of imagination. So sit down with pad and pen and Think!

First decide what type of shower to give. Consult the bride; what she wants and needs determines your choice. But then let your imagination take over. A kitchen shower can be "Pantry"; linen is "Closet"; trousseau is "Honeymoon"; miscellaneous is "This and That"; a coed group can be "His and Hers." Once the decision is made, the planning begins.

If you are artistic and have lots of time, make the invitations yourself. If not, it's best to purchase them, otherwise you will burden yourself with work and worry. To buy invitations, the major part of the refreshments, and a book of game ideas is economical in the long run as your own do-it-yourself attempts.

Now you are ready to make a guest list. Again, consult the bride. She might want school friends (and their mothers), her close relatives, neighbor ladies, or a group of girl friends and their dates (male and female members of the wedding party, perhaps). Always include the bride's and groom's mother. A variety of guests is always good; then the same girls are not always obligated.

Carry through on your table decorations. Make several small umbrellas of different colors and include them in a good flower arrangement. Then cover an umbrella with white tissue paper and ribbons and place it on the table for gifts, for example.

Refreshments are often determined by the weather. Coffee or tea is a standard party drink, but for a warm day have an easy punch mixture ready. Small iced cakes or a refrigerator pie are favorites. Again if you are talented in the kitchen, to prepare the dessert is a wonderful idea. If not, do purchase what you want. Luncheon parties are fun and guests become acquainted more easily at the table. For a mixed group a buffet dinner or barbecue is easy and fun with everyone helping.

When the guests have arrived it is time for some entertainment. Most stationery stores have books of shower games with all the materials needed enclosed. A good game which is new consists of ten paper dolls per guest with ten pieces of cloth, each symbolizing a profession of the groom: net for fisherman, checks for a banker, stripes for a prisoner, crepe for an undertaker...take it from there. Or invent a telegram sent from the bride and groom on their honeymoon with important words omitted which each guest can fill in with her own choice.

Gifts are often a problem for some guests, so have a list of items the bride would prefer and others which are new and different. You may get a call for ideas. A fancy or elaborate gift is not necessary; look around your own home for ideas. Dish towels are wonderful gifts, especially if a guest has hemmed and embroidered them herself. A pillow is a fun gift and quite mysterious when wrapped. Don't disdain a dish drainer, a broom or mop, or a wooden spoon. A useful gift is a welcome one.

Play with the idea of a surprise shower. A planned party is certain to have the important people present and properly attired, but surprises are fun. A pantry shower is a huge success for it stocks the kitchen for a long time. Each gift is an inexpensive item for the guest, and what fun looking at the array of goods for the lucky bride-to-be.

If you are a member of the wedding party, a good friend, a relative, or a neighbor, it would be nice to have a shower for the bride. And if you do, you know that planning will always produce a successful party.