

On being a farm wife

-And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

June. Beautiful June.

Month of roses. Graduations. Strawberries. School vacations, swimming pool openings, new kittens coming out of hiding to

Month of brides. Lovely brides, radiant in flowing white tulle, lace, net, silk. Cascades of daisies and baby's breath. Mother's tears. Towering cakes of picture perfection, with garlands of sugarsweet floral art and iced scallops. Tossed bouquets and blushing grooms. Flustered fathers.

Never again will I sit through such weddings without fond remembrances of that one ceremony in particular.

Candles glistened in the early evening darkness of the little church, where the service was moving smoothly to its climax.

Vows had been exchanged, and now the minister asked the couple

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to kneel for the blessing. Yards of snowy white train rustled as the bride gracefully knelt and the handsome bridegroom took his place beside her.

Usually we arrive at weddings at the last moment and take seats back in the rows of the far end of the church. This night, though, we'd arrived uncommonly early and had been ushered to prime seats on the second pew.

And thus it was that we had box seats to see the surprise wedding message.

As the groom dropped to his knees for the blessing, the soles of his black shoes turned upward toward the congregation.

Taped to the bottom of the

groom's footwear, visible to the first few rows of the seated congregation, was this silent, but hilarious, plea: HELP ME.

Our young farmer friend had

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fallen victim to a practial joke from his wedding support crew. and the front section of the guests nearly fell victim to mass uncontrollable giggles.

"I expect to read about this in your column, "teased the groom as

we later greeted the couple in the receiving line."

You got it. Mike and Linda, this one's for

All our best wishes go out to this year's June wedding couples.

But please, just before you head out to walk up that aisle, bear this favorite dairy farm phrase in your

Check your shoes.



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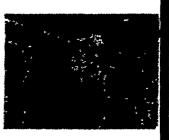
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