

CLAUSE FOR CONCERN

You thought the hardest part was finding the perfect vendor, right? But now you're discovering there might be a bit more to it than just picking the florist with the prettiest blooms. Here's the *Confetti* low-down on getting to grips with vendor contracts

READ THE BORING BITS

We know you're probably bursting with the excitement of finding your perfect photographer/florist/band, but seriously, you need to read the contract...IN FULL. That means no skimming over the boring parts or dismissing issues you think are 'unlikely' to come up. A contract is essential for both parties, as it outlines exactly what will happen on the day and thereafter. It's a good idea to take the contract home to review, so you're not whizzing through it, signing it under any kind of time pressure or worse, signing it without understanding it.

KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

Without being a demanding nightmare, remember that your contract can be negotiated. So prior to meeting your vendor, make a list of anything that's really important for you to have included. Don't be afraid to ask questions or for special arrangements to be made. Most vendors are pretty flexible and happy to oblige, where possible/reasonable.



TICK TOCK!

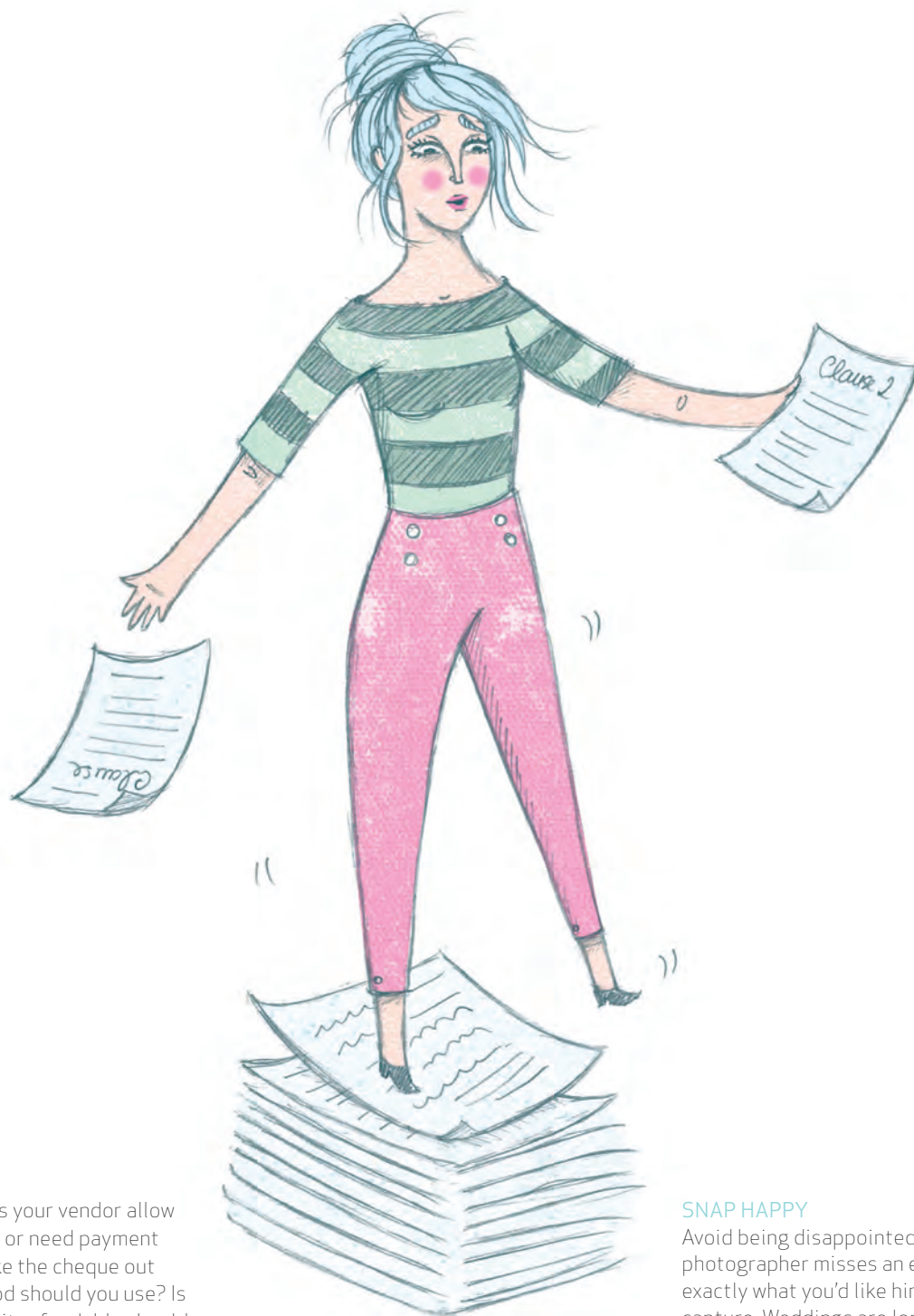
Time is money, my friends. Make sure you nail down exactly how many hours your vendors will be working, and therefore how many hours they will be paid for. For example, hiring a makeup artist to be on stand-by for the whole morning means you've to pay them for the whole morning - even if that reapplication of lippie before the ceremony only took a minute.

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

When it comes to your photographer and videographer, you should be given an estimated time to expect your finished album or DVD to arrive. And what about the possibility of being sent a few images as your sneak peak a few days after the wedding? Find out what's possible so you're not disappointed.

TALKIN' ABOUT MONEY, MONEY

Ask your vendor about their payment policies and decipher which one suits you



and your fiancé best. Does your vendor allow you to pay in instalments, or need payment up front? Who do you make the cheque out to? Which payment method should you use? Is any portion of your deposit refundable should you decide to terminate the contract for any reason?

EXTRA BODIES

Another thing to consider is the staff each vendor requires, if any. They should be included in the overall price, but make sure you have that in writing.

MORE MORE MORE...

Don't presume that vendors will supply add-ons for no extra cost. For example, your band should be paid more for the extra half hour you demand at midnight - as should your photographer for providing that additional album for your folks.

TO DO LIST:

Read the fineprint

Have reasonable expectations

Voice any concerns early on

Trust that they know what they're doing

SNAP HAPPY

Avoid being disappointed if your photographer misses an event, by outlining exactly what you'd like him or her to capture. Weddings are long days and most photographers will stay until you cut the cake. If you want them to stay and capture some of the evening madness, you will probably have to pay them more. But maybe you don't fancy them snapping you first thing in the morning with your rollers in? In that case, ask them to arrive/leave slightly later instead. If you can't afford to hire them for the full day, decide which part of the day is most important for you to have captured.

Most vendors are truly passionate about their work, and take a lot of pride in it. The most important thing is to relax, trust them to do what they do best and above all, get it all in writing so you're both on the same page. ♥