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**(no subject)****Christine McGown** <christine.mcgown@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 7, 2009 at 7:51 PM

To: Ali Zardiackas &lt;ali.zardiackas@gmail.com&gt;

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I feel as though the air needs to be cleared otherwise I am afraid the next year could be much more difficult than it should be. I am Cc ing everyone this email as well because I feel it should be shared and I really don't want anything to be misinterpreted.

I chose who I chose to be bridesmaids because they are all people who truly know me, who I can trust and can count on to be supportive through such a major time of my life. They are my family. Shamefully I need to admit that I cannot say that that is why you are bridesmaid Ali. Everyone reading this email knows you and I don't have a good History. Although we have both been making efforts to be civil. It hasn't been easy for either of us. So I was a bit shocked when I heard you were expecting to be asked to be a bridesmaid. I know you are really excited about the wedding. But I worry you aren't sincerely happy for Sean and I. I know there was a while where you hoped Sean and I would never marry. I feel we have never really resolved from those times and although a long time has past since then. I don't really feel like we have much of a connection and that we have only been playing nice not really meaning or caring to be. I wish it weren't this way and I hope that it will change. I would of liked to of been able to say that I chose you as a bridesmaid for the reasons I stated above. Although I never really got the opportunity to think of it on my own. Before I even got engaged I was informed that you would be expecting it. I don't want tension around the wedding and I knew you would be hurt If I did not ask although I felt it would not be fair without asking Kristen as well because you are both Sean's sisters. I have no qualms with Kristen at all I think she is very sweet I just don't really know her but I don't feel I really know you either as we don't talk outside of family events up until recently about the wedding. I want you both to be in the wedding because I know how special it is for you all. Although the wedding is also very special to me as well and a major turning point in our lives. It is usually every girls dream and it certainly is my dream come true! So I want the day to go smoothly and to be happy for everyone except I worry that it won't be if we continue to interact with each other the way we have been. I am already considered family to everyone and getting married is just making that fact more official. I don't want there to be complaining or snide comments made to other people. It makes things unnecessarily awkward for everyone. And to really lay everything out on the table I am writing rather than talking to you straight forward because I am afraid you will be angry with me again and that is not my intentions. I don't want any more dramatics and I really can't handle much more disagreements especially around what is suppose to be such a wonderful thing and a once in a lifetime event.

I am not sure if you have noticed that during each holiday I am with your family and I never leave or am not there to be with mine. Sadly I am estranged from my family. The situation that brought it about was unforgivable and its too uncomfortable to speak more of. I am better off now without them and it is because of Sean that I was strong enough to get out of a terrible situation. I called him and he came and he took care of me and hasn't stopped since. I told him its kind of like a very modern and a bit more twisted version of a fairy tale where the prince saves the princess that is calling out to be rescued. He is my entire world for all that he has stood by for. There is no one else who could be as strong as he has been for me through all my healing. I bring all this up because despite knowing I am better off without the people from my past it still burns to know that there will be no representation of where I came from at my very own wedding. Although where I came from isn't the most proud of stories it still is part of what made me who I am and what led me to Sean. Lately I have been having a very difficult time dealing with these thoughts. I think I am finding myself to be having such a difficulty because it is an extremely emotional time as I mentioned earlier my dream come true. Also I quit smoking and I have been on wellbutrin for it for the past three weeks now so they are probably kicking in.

So the purpose of this letter is to let you know more about me (the woman who is marrying your brother). Its to express my desire to be able to speak to each other without argument or hurtful words being said to each other or about each other to others. I want to enjoy this time and you should too. I hope it can be done without just pretending. Most of all I hope I am wrong about the way I fear you may think of me and that we can grow to respect one another and I really truly hope you are happy I am marrying Sean. Please understand I don't mean to hurt you or offend you. I am merely just sharing my worries with you because I know there once was a time not long ago that you probably couldn't care less about me and I the same for you . Since you are my bridesmaid I think we should be honest with one another and really make and effort to move past things. There are going to be a lot of responsibilities coming up in the next year for me as a bride and you as a bridesmaid. It can be overwhelming and stressful enough without the tension between us. You should be able to confront me with any concern you may run into along the way and I hope that you will whether it be about

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timing of events, dresses, money etc. I would much rather have an honest opinion from you than for anyone to feel burdened.

Sorry this is so long. I wanted to be respectful by being honest with you. I hope to avoid what occurred two summers ago. It took me two hours to finish and I think its worth the time and effort to help resolve our difference and enjoy such an exciting time.

Love,

Christine