

1. The Wedding

Characters: Man and Woman

Outside a church. Woman approaches Man.

Woman What a beautiful day for a wedding.

Man Glorious.

Woman The bride looked absolutely gorgeous, didn't she?

Man Stunning.

Woman Her dress, the bouquet, her veil with the long train.

Man Like Princess Diana.

Woman And the flower girls and little ring-boy were so sweet, weren't they?

Man They did very well.

Woman The perfect ceremony.

A slight pause.

Man The groom did well too, don't you think?

Woman Are you his friend? Or hers?

A slight pause.

Man Wait. Aren't you her old school friend?

Woman Old?

Man Sorry. I mean, didn't you go to the same school?

Woman No.

Man University?

Woman No.

Man I'm sure I've seen you before. You work together, don't you?

Woman Hasn't she a *really* high-powered job?

Man Not anymore.

Woman Is she... pregnant? She didn't look pregnant, did she?

Man No.

Woman If she is, she concealed it well.

A slight pause.

Woman You seem to know a lot about her. Are you her colleague?

Man No.

Woman Former colleague then?

Man I run a business. I'm the sole employee.

Pause. Woman sees the bride in the distance.

Woman You've got to have an amazing body to wear a dress like that, haven't you?

Man Yes.

Woman She's got everything. Athleticism, natural beauty...

Man Were you a teammate of hers?

Woman Teammate?

Man She's an excellent swimmer. In school she represented her county in freestyle, butterfly and medley competitions.

Woman Well, that would explain the physique.

The sound of bells ringing in the distant. Woman notices a crowd exiting the chapel.

Woman Oh look! I love the way the ushers are dressed in matching suits and ties.

Very handsome. You'd have blended in nicely.

Man Thanks. And you'd have measured up well for a bridesmaid. Thankfully, their dresses aren't so hideous. What colour is that? Peach?

Woman Pink champagne.

A slight pause.

Man Are you joining the photograph?

Woman I don't think so.

Man Why not?

Woman It's only for close family. How about you?

Man No, not family, and I was never formally introduced.

A slight pause.

Woman Look at all the children. If I had kids, I would have him wear a mini black tuxedo, and her wear a magical princess dress.

Man Are you planning –

Woman On getting married and having kids?

Man No... on going to the reception.

*Silence. A bouquet flies towards **Woman**.*

Man Look out!

Man *catches bouquet and offers it to **Woman** who politely declines.*

Man I didn't see you in the chapel.

Woman I was standing at the back.

Man So was I.

A slight pause.

Man So, you are not his old – sorry – I mean, his previous... his first, last, past, prior... one-time, sometime... erstwhile –

Woman What's that?

Man Former.

Woman Yes.

Man Ex?

Woman Yes!

Man *You're* his ex-girlfriend?

Woman Yes.

Man Oh.

A slight pause.

Woman Everyone else is going inside.

Man You know, former *friends* don't usually get invitations to these events.

Woman Don't they? It didn't stop you from coming.

Man What do you mean?

Woman I mean... you are her ex-boyfriend.

Man How did you know?

Woman Just a guess.

Man Well... how could I possibly turn down the opportunity to attend a wedding?

Woman On such a beautiful day.

Man *extends arm and **Woman** takes it, and the bouquet, and they both walk towards the reception together.*