

THE WEDDING SPEECH

By Bette Elly Klinitz

EXT. GARDEN WEDDING. LATE AFTERNOON. JUNE 2015.

It is a sunny day. The sky is blue. The birds are chirping.

Music is being played by a three piece band in the side of the garden. There are beautiful flower arrangements everywhere. There is a gazebo decorated with green ivy in the right corner of the garden.

We can see a cluster of wedding guests standing, sitting, talking on the grass and patio. The bride, CATHY, (22 years old), and groom, TYLER, (24 years old), are busy having pictures taken in the left corner of the garden. Waitresses are serving finger foods to their guests.

FRED VILADIS, (52 years old), dressed in a black tuxedo shakes guests hands and hugs others. JULIA VILADIS, (51 years old), attired in a beautiful powder blue gown looks gorgeous. She also greets her guests with hugs and kisses.

There is a long white table on an elevated platform on the grass. The table is decorated with a flowing white chiffon table cloth with five white slip covered chairs behind the table. There is a microphone placed on the right side of the table. GEORGE SMITH, (43 years old), the guitar player picks up another microphone next to the speaker. He stands up and speaks into the microphone.

GEORGE SMITH

Ladies and gentleman, please have a seat. Fred don't sit down. Come up and say a few words. Let us hear a round of applause for the father of the bride, Fred.

We hear a round of applause and cheers. Fred takes a gulp of water from a glass he holds and moves over on the elevated platform to the microphone. He stands there for a few seconds looking for VERONICA MERRICK, (52 years old). Veronica stands in the back corner of the garden. He focuses on Veronica.

Fred takes another gulp of water. He steps backwards and falls off the platform into a bush. The audience gasps. He regains his composure as BYRON THOMPSON, (52 years old), the father of the groom and Tyler quickly straighten him out in front of the microphone. He takes out a piece of paper from his pocket and drops it on the floor. He puts his hands open, palms out to the audience. He smiles as he looks from left to right and back to centre. He focuses on Veronica who is standing feet firmly planted shoulder width apart.

Many audience members turn around to see who Fred appears to focus on. They then look back to Fred.

Fred begins to cough as he opens his mouth to speak.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOMEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM. AFTERNOON. 1975.

There is a large sign, scotch taped to the chalk board that says, "Grade Seven Public Speaking Presentations, 1975."

Young Fred sits nervously in his seat at his desk.

Young Veronica Challis, (12 years old), is pretty with blonde hair. She stands in front of the Grade 7 class, confidently, as she delivers her presentation on public speaking.

YOUNG VERONICA

In conclusion, a speaker's presentation is their performance. It requires a fine tuned vocal instrument, physically fit diaphragm and lungs all working together in unison every second of your presentation.....

Fred twitches and whispers to himself the opening sentence of his speech.

YOUNG FRED

(whispers to himself)
Honey. Bees. What do they have in common?

YOUNG VERONICA

Never forget the importance of a warm up. It will help you as a speaker maintain and achieve spectacular results. Thank you.

YOUNG FRED

(whispers to himself)
Wow! She's so good.

The class applauds loudly. A female adult teacher, MISS ROACH, (58 years old), stands to the front of the classroom. She joins in the applause with a wide smile on her face.

MISS ROACH

Fred Viladis, you are next. Come up.