

A beautiful wedding

What a glorious day it was for an outdoor wedding: warm and sunny with a pleasant breeze rustling the trees and cooling the guests as they took their seats in the garden. Classical music played softly in the background. The big day had arrived; my older sister Veronica and her fiancé, Sam, were finally tying the knot.

I looked around at the guests, who were happily chatting and laughing. Mothers were fussing over their children, straightening ties on the boys and hair bows on the girls. Those poor kids! It was plain what they were thinking; if only they could be playing some boisterous game, preferably one that involved getting their fine clothes grubby. I sympathised with them to an extent. I wasn't used to wearing a suit and a tie myself; it felt too constrictive.

Suddenly, the music changed, signalling the arrival of the bride, and all heads turned to look at her.

Dad held her left arm and beamed proudly as they made their way down the aisle, at the end of which awaited Sam. The priest stepped up to the microphone and welcomed everyone.

'Dear family members and honoured guests, I would like to thank you for being here today,' he said. 'Veronica ... Sam ... let us begin.'

It was a beautiful service with some light-hearted moments too. When it was time to exchange the rings, the best man, Tony, pretended he'd lost them. A minute later, he 'found' them and there were roars of laughter from the guests. With the rings exchanged, the priest pronounced them man and wife and everyone clapped and cheered. Shortly after came the custom all the women and girls had been waiting for. Facing away from them, Veronica tossed her beautiful bouquet high up into the air behind her. Ever ready for a game of fetch, our dog Rufus scooped it up in his powerful jaws and returned it to Veronica. I'll never forget that day!

- A** Feeling embarrassed about it, his face turned a deep red and he didn't know where to look.
- B** As they scrambled to catch it, it bounced off a head, narrowly missed all the outstretched hands and landed on the ground.
- C** In a stunning gown embroidered with pearls and a soft veil, she no longer resembled the tomboy I'd grown up with.
- D** They looked grumpy as they grimaced and squirmed, turning this way and that.
- E** He frantically patted his jacket and trouser pockets with a wild, panicked look on his face.