

TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

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INT. CHURCH OFFICE - DAY

A young couple, DAVID and REBECCA, sit in front of a PRIEST.

PRIEST

David. Rebecca. Congratulations on your pending nuptials.

REBECCA

Thank you sir. We just want a good old fashioned traditional wedding. That's why we came to you. I'm so happy to be getting married in the church I grew up in!

DAVID

I know I've never been to this church sir, but I'd do anything to make her day as special as it can be.

PRIEST

Fantastic. Unfortunately I don't find many couples these days who want a truly traditional wedding.

REBECCA

Oh but we do, we're very traditional.

DAVID

I even asked her father for permission...
(jokingly)
He said yes.

PRIEST

And you're both virgins?

DAVID

Yes sir.

REBECCA

Yes.

PRIEST

Then let's proceed with the planning of this joyous occasion.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Bridesmaids walk down the aisle. They all look exactly like... brides. They wear white wedding dresses, and VEILS cover their faces.

ANGLE ON David standing at the alter. Confused, he turns to the Priest.

DAVID
Sir, um... why do all the girls
look the same?

PRIEST
To confuse any vengeful spirit
presence who might try to harm your
bride, of course.

David looks even more confused.

CUT TO:

LATER - The ceremony is taking place.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
And now a reading of Ephesians.
(reading)
"Wives, submit yourselves to your
own husbands as you do to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the
wife as Christ is the head of the
church, his body, of which he is
the Savior. Now as the church
submits to Christ, so also wives
should submit to their husbands in
everything."

David looks uncomfortable. Some people in attendance do too.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
David, please remove your shoe.

DAVID
I'm sorry, what?

Rebecca gives him a "just-do-what-he-says" look. Reluctantly, David bends down and removes one of his shoes.

PRIEST
Now as is tradition, please strike
your bride with your shoe in order
to establish authority.

DAVID
WHAT?!

Some whispers from the crowd.

REBECCA
It's symbolic David, just do it
please. It's ok.

DAVID
Sir, I don't have-- or *want* any
authority over her--

PRIEST
Strike her with your shoe as per
traditions set forth by this
church...
(whispering)
...or cease to be married here
today.

David looks out at all the confused onlookers. He can't in
good faith stop the ceremony in it's tracks, so...

He SMACKS her across the face with his shoe.

David's half of the congregation FREAKS OUT.
Rebecca's half erupts in APPLAUSE.

DAVID
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

PRIEST
I now pronounce you husband and
wife!

Music sounds and wedding bells ring.

DAVID
Wait, what about the-- WHAT?!

Before he can do anything, Rebecca kisses him aggressively.
She's as happy as can be.

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Rebecca stands before a group of women as if she's going to
throw the bouquet. David kisses her on the cheek, ready to
give her space, when she bends over and takes off *her* shoe.

REBECCA
See, it's just tradition. Now it's
my turn!

David doesn't like it, but gives in.

DAVID

Well fair is fair I suppose.

He closes his eyes and waits to get hit with the shoe. Rebecca isn't looking at him. Instead...

She HURLS the shoe like a baseball pitcher at the group of women, hitting a BRIDESMAID in the head and knocking her over.

Again, half of the people in attendance GASP. Then silence.

Suddenly, the Bridesmaid LEAPS UP, joyous as can be, face completely bloody, with the shoe in her hand.

BRIDESMAID

Yaaaay! I'm next to be married!

Rebecca's guests CHEER. Seeing that the girl is happy about whatever just happened, the naysayers leave her be.

ANGLE ON David. He's standing dumbfounded.

REBECCA

Aren't traditional ceremonies so much better?

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Rebecca lies on David's chest. They've just finished consummating their marriage.

REBECCA

Wow. That was incredible!

DAVID

That felt so good!

They both roll to their backs, breathing heavily.

PRIEST (O.S.)

Congratulations you two.

The Priest emerges from a dark corner, having been there the whole time. David practically leaps out of his skin.

DAVID

AHH!! What the hell?!

David begins to move towards the Priest but remembers he's naked. He quickly keeps himself covered.

REBECCA

David relax, he's just here to make sure our marriage was consummated.

DAVID

WHY?!

PRIEST

Now now, all is well. I confirm you consummated your marriage in the eyes of God. May you have a long and fruitful union.

He exits. David is left, confounded.

REBECCA

I tell you one thing, I'm glad I don't have to sleep with him again. Last night before our wedding was pretty awkward.

FADE TO BLACK:

SUPER: "These traditions all actually existed."

"And that "wives submit to your husbands" bit from Ephesians... Some Christian ceremonies still read that shit."

FADE OUT: