

OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE

Written by

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Lights up on the empty dressing room of GWEN BRADFORD, 25, on the day of her wedding; wearing a bathrobe. In one corner Gwen stands in a bathrobe in front of a full length mirror, putting make-up on. Opposite of that, there is a table with various items to prepare for a wedding, such as make-up. The third corner is the door to the room, the fourth is empty. DAVID LOUIS, 25, wearing a suit, steps into the room and stands by the door with a tiara in his hand.

DAVID

Hey.

GWEN

(running over to hug him)
David! Thank god you are here! Do you have him?

DAVID

Yes. The eagle has landed and you will have a groom for your wedding.

GWEN

Didn't rough him up too badly last night?

DAVID

Well, I believe my two duties are to throw a hell of a bachelor party, and get him here on time. No one said anything about the condition he'd arrive in.

GWEN

Ha-ha, fair enough. Oh, and you brought me my tiara.

DAVID

Well, I saw it just sitting out on a table on my way in and suspected that you just might want this.

GWEN

Thanks Dave, you are the best.

DAVID

I know I am.

Gwen goes back to her make-up as David stands at the door, looking at Gwen in contemplation. Gwen notices in the mirror.

GWEN

What?

DAVID
(coming out of thought)
Hm? Oh it's just. Uh, you look
really pretty today.

GWEN
Thanks David.

David continues to stare while thinking of what to say.

DAVID
Hey Gwen.

GWEN
(distractedly)
Hm?

Before David can say anything, MARY REID, 25 and VIRGINIA BRADFORD, 56, Gwen's mom, burst into the room. Virginia comes in with a flower arrangement and Mary is yelling into her cell phone.

MARY
CERULEAN you pea-brained little man! CERULEAN! Not "cyan", not "sky-blue", CERULEAN!

VIRGINIA
Gweny, what do you think about these flowers?

MARY
Oh yeah? Well, I swear to god, if they come and are anything but cerulean, I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN AND PUNCH YOUR THROAT! I know Krav Maga and I will crush your windpipe!
CRUSH IT!

She hangs up, heaves a gigantic sigh.

GWEN
Uh, I don't know, I think they're fine.

MARY
Oh no! Not this again!

VIRGINIA
What!? I want the **bride's** approval on this.

MARY
No, leave her alone to get ready.

GWEN
(nervously)
Is... everything OK?

MARY
(with a big smile)
They will be. Don't worry about it
hun, we have it all under control.
How are you!? You excited!?

GWEN
Yeah, of course. How are you?

VIRGINIA
(still dissatisfied with
the flowers)
The only thing is, we can change
out the azaleas.

MARY
BUT THE AZALEAS DON'T MATCH!
(takes a deep breath and
turns back to Gwen)
Oh, just fine. Getting last minute
things pulled together, checkin' in
on you, the usual pre-wedding junk,
blah, blah, blah. Sure you're
alright?

GWEN
Yeah, I'm fine here.

VIRGINIA
Are you sure Gweny?

GWEN
I-

MARY
YES SHE IS SURE!

VIRGINIA
What do you think David?

All eyes turn to David. He freezes

DAVID
(panicked)
Well-

GWEN

(jumping in to save him)
Just make the decision yourselves,
I need to get ready, and David
needs to get back to what he was
doing.

David, Virginia, and Mary turn to leave but then, suddenly, Mary's phone rings and she answers.

MARY

Hello?
(the smile drops from her
face)
WHAT!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO
CERULEAN!?

She starts to rush off stage, pushing past David, screaming and can still be heard once she exits.

MARY (CONT'D)

WE ORDERED THIS MONTHS AGO AND **NOW**
YOU TELL ME YOU DON'T HAVE
CERULEAN!? THAT'S IT, I AM COMING
TO WHERE YOU LIVE AND I WILL BE
DROPPING ELBOWS!

David, Virginia and Gwen look at each other awkwardly

DAVID

Thank you god for not making me a
caterer, jeez.

GWEN

I know, I know, but she means well.

VIRGINIA

I'm not quite sure Gwen

GWEN

She does. I promise.

DAVID

(jokingly)
Well, I do love cerulean.

They all chuckle.

VIRGINIA

(looking at both of them)
Tsk, just look at the two of you.
(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

It just boggles my mind to think
that the two of you are so grown up
now. You were so young once.

(to David)

God, I still remember when you
would come over at 10 in the
morning and the two of you would
play out in the backyard for the
whole day till you stayed over for
dinner!

DAVID

(chuckling about it)

Oh yeah, of course. You make such
great mashed potatoes, how could I
say no?

VIRGINIA

Oh, stop. They take about 5 minutes
to make, no big deal.

DAVID

Well, they were my favorite.
Thanks.

VIRGINIA

And thank **you** for being there for
Gweny during all that trouble her
father went through

She looks at her watch

Uhp! Look at me getting all
nostalgic! I need to go put these
flowers on tables, whether Mary
likes it or not!

(to Gwen)

Ok, **you** get ready.

(to David)

You keep an eye on that groom.

She hugs both of the kids, takes the flowers, and exits. Gwen sees
that David is once again looking at her in the mirror.

GWEN

What?

DAVID

Oh, it's just-

He goes back to struggling with the phrasing of what he's trying
to say.

GWEN

Come on Dave, I gotta get ready.
(Gwen turns back to the
mirror as David continues
struggling)

Yees?

DAVID

Hold on for a sec, OK? I just
wanted to tell you that-
Gwen, there's something pretty big
that I have to tell you real quick.

GWEN

Yeah, sure, what is it Dave?

DAVID

I don't know, that whole thing
about when we were kids- it's just
that, well, I was thinking about
back then, when we were kids. And
how much fun that was.

GWEN

Dave, what's up? Just say what
you're going to say. Come on!

DAVID

Well-

Once more, David gets interrupted by Mary who enters holding a table cloth and immediately goes to Gwen.

MARY

Gwen, could you come out and take a
look at this for me? I **think** that
this is the color we want, but I
just want you to reconfir-

DAVID

(trying not to show his
frustration)

Hey Mary, could you just give us a
sec?

MARY

Dave, this is kinda important.

DAVID

I know, I know. I just have to talk
to Gwen real fast. Then you can
have her, I swear.

MARY

Wait, why are you in here? Come on
Dave, no slacking off!

DAVID

I just need her for a minute.

Mary starts to push Gwen off stage.

GWEN

(shrugging)

Sorry Dave, gotta take this. I
swear, I'll be back in a flash.

Mary and Gwen exit.

DAVID

O-OK...

David lets out a heavy sigh and his shoulders slump. He gives the door one last look, and then starts to focus on the room. He awkwardly shuffles about, trying to find some thing to fidget with, and settles on the tiara. As he examines it, VIRGINIA walks in. David jumps in surprise and puts the tiara down quickly.

VIRGINIA

Gweny, what do you think of- Oh,
David! What are you doing in here?

DAVID

Oh, just waiting for Gwen.

VIRGINIA

Still? That girl sometimes...
(notices David is sad)
What's wrong Dave?

DAVID

(He smiles unconvincingly)
Nothing Mrs. Bradford, I swear.

VIRGINIA

Come on Dave, you aren't fooling
anyone. What's the matter? This is
a good day, two of your best
friends are getting married!

DAVID

Yeah, that **is** good news. I'm
excited for them.

VIRGINIA

Then, why don't you sound it? Are you a little jealous?

DAVID

(suddenly very defensive)

NO! Not that at all!

VIRGINIA

Hey, I get it. Two people who have been so close to you for so long, once they get married, you're worried that you're going be left out in the cold. I get it.

Virginia gives David a big hug.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Well David, you aren't going to be alone forever. You're gonna find someone real special real soon, OK? And they're going to make you a very happy man. Hey, I'll bet she, or he, is right under your nose, and you don't even know it.

DAVID

(he sighs)

I'm sure **she** is. Thanks Mrs. Bradford.

VIRGINIA

(solemnly)

But when you **do** find her, make sure you treat her right! It may not always be easy, but if you truly love someone, their happiness is as important as yours.

At this, the door opens and David and Virginia turn to look as Gwen walks wearing her wedding dress; David is immediately taken aback and focused solely on Gwen. She is followed by Mary, who enters in a flurry and is on the phone again continuing her argument about cerulean.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Oh Gweny!

Virginia runs over and hugs Gwen.

GWEN

Dave, what do you think?

DAVID
I really like it. A lot.

VIRGINIA
He's a lucky man Gwen.

DAVID
He really is.

GWEN
Thanks you guys. I'm glad you like it.

MARY
(hanging up the phone)
Wait, what are you doing in here?

VIRGINIA
You had something for Gwen, right?

All eyes turn to David as he snaps out of his trance and immediately feels the pressure.

DAVID
Weh- well... you, know what?
Doesn't matter.

GWEN
(playfully)
No, wait, what!?

MARY
Yes David, because if you were just using Gwen as an excuse to shirk on your duties-

DAVID
No! The thing is-

MARY
Yeeeees?

DAVID
Ok, hold on.

There is a tense moment where he can't quite find the words as he decides what to say.

GWEN
What Dave?

David takes a beat to finally make up his mind.

DAVID

It's- It's just that... uh, you
look really pretty today.

GWEN

(puzzled)
OK... thanks. Dave, are you sure-

MARY

YAWN! Ok, well that **stunning**
development out of the way, you
need to get back to whatever it is
that you were doing. Gwen needs to
come with us. I need to do some
touch ups on your hair and the
bathroom is the only place in this
building with decent lighting.

David silently watches the women push Gwen out of the door. Once
she is gone, his shoulders fall and he heaves a heavy sigh. Lights
down.