

SCENE 5

Back to the wedding party, who continue to wait. There is an air of restlessness.

CHRISTOPHER

What is taking them so long? I could eat a horse.

GRANDMA PAT

No, you couldn't. You would order the horse, it would arrive and then as usual, you would take a few mouthfuls, throw your hands up and announce that you just couldn't eat another bite.

CHRISTOPHER

What if she's changed her mind?

GRANDMA PAT

Impulsive decisions, in this family? Surely not.

CHRISTOPHER

Well, if she has maybe we could go straight through and start the wedding breakfast. Or wedding dinner at this rate.

GRANDMA PAT

It would be a waste. Your generation have no idea about the concept of frugality.

CHRISTOPHER

You're right, for once mother, it would be a waste! Maybe we should take a vote.

GRANDMA PAT

What do you-

CHRISTOPHER stands up and faces everyone.

CHRISTOPHER

Hello, esteemed friends and family of the happy couple. As I'm sure you have all noticed, there have been substantial delays on the Marriage 25.

He waits a moment to see if the joke has landed. He looks unimpressed that no one is laughing.

CHRISTOPHER

Marriage 25? M25?...Ugh, never mind. Now I put it to you that we have been through enough already! I personally started going on a diet three months ago so I could fit into this suit, and I've put contact lenses in for the first time in a year, and I had to drag this old bag out of the house far too early this morning and *on top of that*, I had to parallel park. Parallel park, ladies, gentlemen and queers! I'm sure you all have similar stories to share. If there is to be no wedding-

The entire party looks startled and confused.

JANINE

Who said there isn't going to be a wedding?

GRANDMA PAT

No one, he's just being dramatic. Yet again.

JANINE

Oh.

GRANDMA PAT

You get used to it. Pay him absolutely no heed. You'll only encourage him.

CHRISTOPHER

All I'm saying, is that we need a Plan B. The question remains: what happens to the food? There are members of staff of this fine establishment who have put themselves through at least two years of catering college for this, and who have toiled over a hot stove purely for our culinary enjoyment. And what? Are we just going to say 'no, thank you' to their possibly and hopefully delicious offerings? No! As my ancient and often gaseous mother has always told me, 'Waste Not, Want Not.'

DARREN walks up to CHRISTOPHER.

DARREN

(quietly)

You're embarrassing yourself.

CILLIAN returns to the room, looking shifty.

JANINE

What's going on, Cillian? What's taking so long? I'd like to go in and see my son.