

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Wedding Belles

by Bruce Shearer

EXTRACT

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Wedding Belles

A short play by Bruce Shearer

Cast

- Ella** Ella aged 19 is getting married to Loren's brother Georgie, but she has fallen in love with Loren.
- Loren** Loren aged 19 is Ella's bridesmaid, best friend and Georgie's sister.
- Mama** Mama is the all powerful matriarch of Loren's family.
- Papa** Papa is Georgie and Loren's dad who has worked hard all his life to pay for his children's weddings.
- Dada** Dada is Ella's dad who has worked hard all his life to pay for his children's weddings.
- Mumsy** Mumsy is the all powerful matriarch of Ella's family.

Synopsis

This plays is about Ella who is in her late teens and is getting married to Loren's brother, but she has fallen in love with Loren also in her late teens. At the last moment she reveals her feelings and confronts a shocked Loren with the truth.

Setting

The play is set in the anterooms of a city cathedral on Ella's wedding day, and at Mama's house.

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(**ELLA** IN HER WEDDING DRESS IS TALKING TO **LOREN** HER BRIDESMAID.)

Ella: I don't want to do it!

Loren: You must!

Ella: I just can't go through with it. I've thought about it, I've rationalised it, but I can't actually do it.

Loren: It's expected.

Ella: I know.

Loren: You can't get out of it (PAUSE) and live!

Ella: I have to.

Loren: (SLOWLY) What about the families?

(LIGHTS GO DOWN AND COME UP ON **MUMMA** AND **MUMSY** IN THEIR FINEST CLOTHES TALKING IN AN ADJOINING ROOM TO **ELLA** AND **LOREN**.)

Mama: Our babies.

Mumsey: Will marry.

Together: Aaahhh!

Mama: Our babies.

Mumsey: Will have babies.

Together: Aaahhh!

Mama: Our babies.

Mumsey: Love their Mamas.

Together: Aaahhh!

Mama: Our babies.

Mumsey: Are just perfect.

Together: Aaahhh!

(**MAMA AND MUMSY GIVE EACH OTHER A BIG HUG.**)

Mama: Fulfilling our hopes.
Mumsy: Just as I dreamed.
Together: Aaahhh!
Mama: That I lived to see it.
Mumsy: To feel it, to know it.
Together: Aaahhh!

(**MAMA AND MUMSY GIVE EACH OTHER A BIG HUG. THE LIGHTS GO DOWN AND COME UP AGAIN ON ELLA AND LOREN.**)

Loren: It's all arranged.
Ella: I know. I have been keeping my eye on developments.
Loren: Down to the minutest detail.
Ella: I said I know.
Loren: And the cost.
Ella: I know, I know, I know, and please don't talk about the cost!

(**LIGHTS GO DOWN AND COME UP ON DADA AND PAPA IN AN ADJOINING ROOM.**)

Dada: The cost of prawns.
Papa: The cost of veal.
Dada: But we're prepared.
Papa: We've saved.
Dada: All our lives.
Papa: To give them everything.
Dada: We've missed out on.

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Papa: Without regret.
Dada: No, with joy
Together: But the cost!
Dada: We don't mind.
Papa: Only the best will do.
Dada: We have provided
Papa: We can be proud.
Together: Forget the cost.
It's our duty!

(LIGHTS GO DOWN AND COME UP ON **ELLA** AND **LOREN**.)

Ella: I need just a bit more time.
Loren: You've had plenty.

(LONG PAUSE)

Ella: I need to think about it. It's a big step.
Loren: I know.
Ella: We might have to extend the engagement.
Loren: AGAIN!

(LONG PAUSE)

Ella: I'm just not ready.
Loren: You better be.
Ella: I'm not ready to settle.
I need to experience life. To find out what's out there. What it all means!
Loren: I see.