

I DO...

Written by

Someone Else

Copyright 2021

FADE IN:

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

DANI, 25, long red hair and lanky, looks stunning in her wedding dress. She stands next to GEORGE, 26, tall and handsome in his tuxedo.

Three BRIDESMAIDS and an equal number of GROOMSMEN flank the couple, as a middle-aged, portly MINISTER addresses them.

MINISTER

Marriage is a sacred institution in our culture. Of love and devotion by the wife to the husband.

Dani's eyebrows raise. A confused look on her face.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

It's a tradition of dependence by the wife on the husband, to obey him completely, completely giving up her life to serve him in all aspects of their relationship.

Dani's mouth drops open. She looks over to her Bridesmaids. They all smile radiantly, eyes fixed on the minister.

George squeezes her hand tightly. Smiles at his bride.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

People have said that marriage requires things like work, effort, sacrifice - almost all from the wife. It's what we expect.

DANI

(low)
What the...

Dani shoots a glance to the front pew. Her PARENTS, an older, fashionable couple, nod their heads in approval.

MINISTER

Dani, you will feel trapped in this relationship, completely cut off from your friends and family, expected to completely and utterly give up your life to serve your husband and many children.

DANI
 Many children? Where did that come
 from?
 (to George)
 We agreed! One kid!

George has no response. His focus is on the minister.

MINISTER
 You will work harder at this than
 any job you would ever have, and
 you'll feel little appreciation in
 return. But this is the role of the
 woman in today's society.

DANI
 What year is this? 1950? Am I the
 only one hearing this shit? These
 are not the vows that we agreed on!

The minister ignores her and presses on.

MINISTER
 Dani, if you're ready to commit
 your life to George, then repeat
 after me.

Dani stands there open-mouthed in disbelief.

MINISTER (CONT'D)
 Dani, do you promise to love,
 honor, obey and humble yourself
 before your husband and his
 parents, and sacrificing all of
 yourself for the betterment of your
 spouse and family? Do you?

Dani is in a daze. She can't comprehend what is happening.
 Everything is hazy, in soft filters, like some sort of
 daydream. She is in a complete funk.

MINISTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Dani?... Dani?

Dani snaps out of her reverie.

DANI
 I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

MINISTER

Of course. Dani, do you take George to be your lawfully wedded husband, to live together in holy matrimony, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, to have and to hold, from this day forward, and forsaking all others as long as you both shall live?

Dani looks to George, who waits patiently for a response.

DANI

I... I do...

The minister nods and turns to George. And just as he prepares to administer the vows to George--

DANI (CONT'D)

...Not. I do not.

MINISTER

I'm sorry?

GEORGE

Dani?? What...

But Dani is already rushing for a side exit, leaving the audience and the wedding party BUZZING.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Dani quickly jumps in a limousine waiting outside the church.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

MANUEL, 30, is startled by Dani's sudden appearance.

DANI

Drive! Just go!

MANUEL

What's happening? Are you okay?

DANI

Yes -- I'm escaping a life I wasn't meant to live. Now go!

The limousine speeds away.

FADE OUT.