

**THE TALK**

by

What she said

Thriller, Teddy Bear, Wedding Reception and Accountant

**FADE IN:**

**INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT**

A wedding reception is in full swing. The room is at capacity with one hundred and fifty guests. From the five-layer cake to the band, money was not an issue.

At the Head table, flanked by their wedding party, are the bride and groom. They are LISA, 24, and TOM, 25.

Just off from the Head Table is the Table of Honor where the parents of the bride and groom sit.

Lisa's mother is ANNE, 50. Anne looks half her age in her form-fitted gown. DAVID, 55, in his Armani tuxedo, is absolutely dashing. The only blemish is the very noticeable SCAR under his left eye.

Anne leans on David's shoulder and points to the Head Table.

ANNE

They make a beautiful couple.

DAVID

They're made for each other.

Anne turns to David and puts a hand to his cheek. She passes her thumb across the scar, as if to wipe away a tear that only she can see.

ANNE

I think it's time, David.

DAVID

You really want to do this here?

Anne's pleasant expression hardens ever so slightly with a hint of anger in her tone.

ANNE

It has to be tonight. It's tradition.

DAVID

Okay, okay. It's your call, Anne.

David kisses Anne on the forehead and makes his way to the-

**HEAD TABLE**

As David approaches, Tom stands in greeting and respect.

TOM

Sir.

DAVID

No sirs, Tom. Call me Dad.

TOM  
Yes, sir. I mean, Dad.

David addresses Lisa.

DAVID  
Look at you. You look gorgeous.

LISA  
Oh, Daddy. Thank you.

DAVID  
Lisa, would it be okay if I stole  
Tom away for a moment?

David puts a hand on Tom's shoulder and gives them both a big smile. Lisa gives a little clap of her hands while Tom smiles uncomfortably.

LISA  
Is it time for-  
(hand motion quotes)  
-"The Talk"?

David looks unsettled.

DAVID  
Just a little chat.

Lisa nods and motions them away with a 'shooing' of hands.

David leads Tom out of the hall and down a-

#### **CORRIDOR**

He walks at such a pace that Tom can barely keep up.

David stops in front of the Women's Lounge.

TOM  
Um, the Men's Lounge is across--

DAVID  
I know. You're meeting with Mother.

David holds the door open for Tom.

DAVID  
And I wouldn't keep her waiting, if  
I were you.

Tom nods a puzzled affirmation and enters the-

#### **WOMEN'S LOUNGE**

-to see Anne seated on a plush chaise lounge. She pats the cushion for Tom to sit. David remains in the corridor.

ANNE

Please. Sit with me. And call me Mother.

TOM

Okay...Mother.

Tom sits and Anne takes a hand in hers. She smiles and looks him eye-to-eye.

ANNE

So, Tom, you're an accountant, right?

TOM

Financial analyst, actually.

ANNE

You deal in profit and loss? You understand and manage risk, right?

TOM

Well, yes, but-

ANNE

For simplicity sake, let's just say you're an accountant. It's who you are and what makes you special.

Tom shrugs and just goes with it.

ANNE

So, now that you've married my daughter, you need to understand who she is and what makes her, like all the women in her family, special.

TOM

Uh, okay.

ANNE

First, a little family history. You see, my mother had horrible fits of rage when she was a child. The doctors back then instructed her parents to nurture her and to get her a doll as a friend for her to, well, work out her issues.

Tom is uncomfortable and just nods his head.

ANNE

Now, when I was a little girl, my mother gave me a Barbie to be my friend and to help with MY issues.

Tom squirms in his seat.

ANNE

On my wedding night, my mother had  
a talk with my new husband to let  
him know that I was special. She  
gave him a token to forever  
remember how special I am.

Tom's face is blank of emotion.

ANNE

So tonight, I've a little token for  
you. You see, Lisa is special too.

Anne takes what looks like a button from her clutch purse  
and hands it to a confused Tom.

ANNE

It may not seem like much but it's  
all that remains of Lisa's friend.  
It's an eye from her Teddy Bear.

Tom holds the eye for closer inspection. The plastic is all  
scratched where the pupil and iris were once printed.

ANNE

Yes, she scratched out the eyes.  
Lisa didn't like that Teddy could  
see her for what she truly is. It  
took many, many years of our care  
for her to control her...issues. It  
can still be a delicate issue.

Anne puts a hand on Tom's thigh that makes him jump.

ANNE

Do you understand what I'm telling  
you? Don't forget how special Lisa  
really is. Keep her happy. Content.

Tom nods.

ANNE

Is that a yes?

TOM

Yes...Mother.

ANNE

David, bless his little heart,  
forgot how special I am once.

Anne puts a hand to Tom's face and passes her thumb under  
his left eye like she did to David earlier.

ANNE

He won't ever forget again.

Anne lets that sink in for a moment before continuing.

ANNE

So, use your special little accounting skills and think about what you can gain...and what you can lose. Treat her well, Tom, and reap the rewards. Otherwise...well, we won't have to worry about that, now will we?

With another pat, she stands and walks Tom to the door.

ANNE

Now, if you'll excuse me. I need a moment of privacy.

She gives him a peck on the cheek and Tom exits into the-

**CORRIDOR**

- where David awaits. After the door closes-

DAVID

You okay?

TOM

I, uh, I'm alright, I guess.

DAVID

I want to show you something.

David reaches in his pant pocket and pulls out a ragged old BARBIE head with the eyes poked out.

DAVID

If I can give you just one piece of advice tonight, it's this: Keep that token near and dear.

TOM

I won't forget.

DAVID

Now, how about I buy you a drink.

**FADE TO BLACK**