

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

adapted by Caroline Franke

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

- STANLEY BANKS: a good man in a bad situation. a middle-aged father facing his own mortality, and the responsibility of paying for a wedding more expensive than the price of his home 25 years ago. He has a special "daddy-daughter" relationship with his daughter, Kay.
- ELEANOR BANKS: a beautiful woman after 25 years of marriage. She has become practical while raising a family without leaving romance behind. Her boys are easier to handle than her only daughter.
- KAY BANKS: a 21-year-old college girl who thinks it's time to get married, and the right man has just come into her life. She is a little *self-conscious* about telling her Dad about it, because she has been his "little darling" for such a long time, and it's difficult to tell him that it's time to call somebody else "darling."
- BEN BANKS: a high school senior with *senior-itis*. He is in love with Peggy Swift who lives next door. He is a good brother as brothers go. He is supportive to the family, but *a little full of himself* at this particular time in his life. He is a little *self-conscious* because he has found the mirror. a good-looking boy.
- TOMMY BANKS: a pre-teen or early teen who is smart beyond his years. He loves playing *the adult* around the family. This does not save him, however, from being a total *kid* when dressing for the wedding, forgetting everything, and having prepared nothing.
- BUCKLEY DUNSTAN: a college graduate who is now making money in the *plastics* business, a new industry in 60's. He is in love with Kay and is knocking at the front door unafraid. He looks like he can take care of Kay to the delight of Kay's mother and the consternation of Kay's father. Mr. Banks has taken good care of Kay for a very long time---very well.
- BUZZ TAYLOR: a *buddy* of Tommy Banks. He is the follower, while Tommy is the leader. Buzz likes motorcycles, Tommy likes books.
- DELLA: the family housekeeper. She loves the family, and the family loves her. She is a part of them. She can come from any country with any

particular dialect. What is important about Della is that she is the *mother hen* of the house. Mrs. Banks smiles at it, and allows it.....even enjoys it.

PEGGY SWIFT: a high school girl in love in Ben Banks. She is getting ideas about marriage herself because of Kay's wedding plans. They don't seem to bother Ben. AND.....she is the quintessential *lady-in-waiting*. You can tell she has been practicing.

MISS BELLAMY: the secretary of Stanley Banks. She is an efficient secretary, but she must have characteristics that are humorous be they physical, vocal, or emotional. Remember.....she is unmarried, not discouraged, attentive to her looks, aggressive, and probably the one to catch the bridal bouquet when it is thrown.

MASSOULA: a politely aggressive man who over dresses, and believes that he is the best wedding designer that money can buy. Oh, yes....he's a hand-kisser. He walks with assuredness, and deflates slightly when you do not like his ideas.

JOE: the circulation expert for Massoula's company. He is an undereducated assistant who has none of the qualities of his boss. Where Massoula is fussy, Joe is rusty. Where Massoula is hustling, Joe is leisured. Where Massoula would suggest, Joe would *yell*. This is a deliberate comedy dichotomy.