

SIDE #4 - WILL, EDWARD, SANDRA, JOSEPHINE

WILL

Thank you all so much for coming. Josephine and I are unbelievably grateful to have so many friends here to help us celebrate.

JOSEPHINE

For people who don't know, this is actually where Will proposed to me. One year ago, right here on the banks of this river. I had just met Edward and Sandra, and I knew - I knew - that I wanted to be part of this family.

(They kiss...some coos)

WILL

So before we get to dinner, we have a couple of things to...

(EDWARD interrupts)

EDWARD

Yes, good evenin'! My name is Edward Bloom. On behalf of me and my wife Sandra - she's the gorgeous one right there - it is a pleasure to welcome y'all to Alabama!

(noticing WILL's objection)

Will told me that I was not allowed to give a toast. You'll notice there is no glass in my hand.

WILL

Technicality.

EDWARD

Technicality, he says! Will thinks I talk too much - but I would have loved to have a talkative father. My own Daddy, he was a farmer. Lucky to get four words outta him. But one day - one day I heard him out in the field, just blathering at length. Said he couldn't get a word in between me and my mother, but the corn - the corn was all ears.

(The CROWD laughs...some groans)

EDWARD

(to WAITER)

Oh, hey, back up here.

(He grabs a glass of champagne)

EDWARD

On the topic of fatherhood, I have an announcement.

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WILL

(panicked)

Dad!

EDWARD

After careful consideration, I have decided to become a grandfather.

(The GUESTS react, surprised but not unhappy)

EDWARD (CONT.)

Now, I'm sworn to secrecy, but I'm told my ambition may be fulfilled sooner than I dared hope.

(A silent beat...all eyes on WILL and JOSEPHINE...a look between them...finally, JOSEPHINE makes the save)

JOSEPHINE

Okay. Okay. It's time to catch the bouquet. Ladies, follow me.

(JOSEPHINE leads the women as they exit...WILL joins his mother, explaining and apologizing, sotto...EDWARD approaches)

EDWARD

C,mon, Will! It's good news!

WILL

(moving downstage)

It's too early. A thousand things could go wrong!

EDWARD

They won't! Why are you such a pessimist?

WILL

I'm a realist, Dad. And yes, it's good news. But it's our news. Why do you have to make everything about you?

EDWARD

I'm excited! I got carried away!

WILL

You always get carried away. I'm sick of it.

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EDWARD

I'm sick of you treating me like a child! What kind of son doesn't let his father give a toast at his wedding?

WILL

(overlapping)

The son whose father does this.

EDWARD

Grow up, Will.

WILL

I did! You weren't there. You were never there.

(SANDRA tries to intervene)

SANDRA

Calm down.

EDWARD

I was building a business!

WILL

You were running away.

EDWARD

From what, from you?

WILL

From reality. All I got from you is a bunch of crazy stories about how awesome you are and I'm sorry, Dad, that's not the man I see.

EDWARD

Maybe you never bothered lookin'.

SANDRA

Stop it! Both of you. Before you say something you can't take back.

WILL

I'm done.

EDWARD

So am I.