

LADO LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS

SYNOPSIS FOR FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

"Marriage is a way to get out of an embarrassing pause in conversation".

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Description</u>
Charles	He is always late. He is very British polite. He is a serial monogamist in search of "one true love".
Caroline/Carrie	American in England looking for true love. Had many boyfriends.
David	Charles' brother. He is deaf. He is a "dish".
Gareth	Funny, loud, man who drinks a lot and likes to be jolly and enjoy life.
Matthew	He is the quiet leader and advisor in this group of friends.
Tom class	Nobody takes him seriously. He always asks girls to marry him. He and his sister are rich upper English.
Fiona	Tom's sister. Always wears dark clothes.
Scarlet	A very tiny woman who always wears red.
Henna	One of Charles' old girlfriends.

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Vocabulary

marriage/matrimony	The state of being married.
wedding	The marriage ceremony and reception dinner.
ceremony	The set of steps taken to become married, usually done at a Church with a priest.
engagement/engaged	To formally promise to get married.
fiancé	The person you are engaged to.
bride	The woman who is getting married.
groom	The man who is getting married.
bride's maid	The bride's helper during the wedding.
best man	The groom's helper during the wedding.
congregation	A group noun meaning all the people that are present in a church.
Church/Chapel	Religious buildings where different ceremonies take place.
Priest	A religious official.
conjugate	Verb meaning to get together and marry.
spouse	Formal name for husband or wife.
honeymoon	Time where newly married couple celebrate their marriage and get to know each other.
service	Religious ceremony.
stag night	Party for groom. (men only)
shower	Party for bride. (women only)
worship	To pray.
Wedding gown	Wedding dress.
Veil	Piece of lace that bride wears over her face during wedding ceremony.
Receiving line	Wedding party greets all the wedding guests in a line.
Bachelor	Unmarried man.
Eulogy	Speech given at a funeral about the dead person.

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Plot Summary

This movie is a modern and funny look at the ideas of love, marriage, relationships and death. The movie follows a group of friends, and what happens to them, during four weddings and one funeral. During the five different ceremonies, this group of friends have many humorous, warm, and sometimes sad experiences as they search for their future partners.

The main character in this group is Charles. He is in search of "true love that hits you like a thunderbolt". The other friends in his group are also in search of true love in one form or another. Please note how very properly British and polite the characters act, even in embarrassing situations. Charles and Tom, especially, often put their "foot in their mouth".

The movie also examines the loneliness of love by looking at broken relationships, the search for love, and unrequited love. Unrequited love means when you love somebody but they don't know or they don't love you.

This movie also raises the issue of love in different forms, as shown by two homosexual lovers. It also raises the issue of "The Physically Challenged" in modern society. But, most of all, this is a very funny, warm, and human film that everyone can relate to because love is a basic human condition!

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W.H. Auden Poem

Taken from LADO FILM APPRECIATION PROGRAM'S Synopsis
for

Four Weddings and A Funeral. Scene 14.

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dogs from barking with that juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin.

Let the mourners come,
Let the airplanes circle moaning overhead,
Scribbling in the sky the message
He is dead.
Put great bows around the white necks of the public doves,
Let traffic policeman wear black cotton gloves,

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week, and my Sunday Best,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song,
I thought that love would last forever,
I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now, put out every one,
Pack up the moon, and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean, and sweep up the wood,
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

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SCENES, COMPREHENSION, AND ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY

WEDDING ONE

SCENE 1 Opening Credits: Wake up and go to church!
Who woke up late?
Whose wedding is it?
What colour is Carrie's hat?

SCENE 2 Bridal Procession and ceremony!
Who is Charles looking at?
What is Charles' job at this wedding?
What did he forget?
What kind of rings does Charles give the groom?
What song do the folk singers play?

VOCAB

hymn A religious song.
impediment Something that blocks.
pledge A legal, binding promise.

SCENE 3 Photos & Reception!
What does Charles ask Fiona?
What mistake does Charles make when talking with John?
Who does Fiona talk to?
What does she compare a wedding service to.

VOCAB

slut Slang word for woman who likes to have sex with many
men
splendid British English for Wonderful/excellent/great!
Pagan/Heathen Adjectives used for religions before Christian times.
wretched Br. Eng. for Terrible!
"bonking" British slang verb meaning "to make love".
condom A latex rubber or animal skin sheath/tube used by men while
 having sex. Used to prevent pregnancy and sexual disease.
"dish" Slang for sexy!

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SCENE 4 **Dinner & Speech - - - First dance!**

What does the old man tell Charles?

What kind of speech does Charles make?

What animal does he tease the groom about?

VOCAB

flirty	Adjective meaning playing games to attract people.
recrimination	Accusations after an event or action.
skeleton	The human body's bone structure.
"skeleton in your closet"	This expression means having bad secrets in your past.
awe	A sense of wonder and amazement.

SCENE 5 **Dance!**

Who are Matthew and Charles talking about?

What animal jumps out of the car?

How many rooms are in Tom's house?

Is he the richest man in England?

Where is Carrie staying?

Why does Charles spit out his beer?

VOCAB

to fancy	Br. Eng. verb meaning "to like".
castle	A huge old house usually built and owned by royalty.

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SCENE 6

Singing in the truck! The Boatman Pub!

Why does Charles get out and go to the Pub?

What room does he go to?

What happens there?

What does Carrie ask Charles in the morning?

Do you think she is joking?

Where does Carrie have to go?

VOCAB

"I'm In"

Slang expression meaning "to be successful".

to bugger
men.

Slang Verb meaning the sexual act between homosexual

Wordsworth

Famous English author/writer.

filly

Young female horse. Slang meaning for young woman.

to skulk

Verb meaning to sneak around.

tragedy

A terrible or sad event.

negotiable

Adjective meaning open for negotiation.

WEDDING TWO

SCENE 7

Wake up! Ceremony!

Who is getting married?

What is wrong with Scarlett's car?

What happened to her dress?

How many wedding services has the priest done?

Is he confident? What kind of mistakes does he make?

VOCAB

solemnly

Seriously.

lawful

Legal.

to witness

To legally observe some event.

spigot

A water tap or faucet.

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SCENE 8

Reception! Speech!

What is Gareth's theory about marriage?

Who does Charles meet? Who is she with?

Who does Charles sit with at dinner?

What are these women talking about?

Does Charles have an enjoyable dinner?

VOCAB

brandy

An after dinner alcoholic drink, similar to XO.

nonsense

Silly/ridiculous!

lesbian

Noun for female homosexual.

dull

Br. Eng. for boring!

vile

Terrible/Disgusting!

vomit

To throw up your food/to puke after drinking too much or if you are sick.

discreet

Adjective meaning you don't talk too much, able to keep secrets.

SCENE 9

Tom's Speech!

Does Tom give a good speech?

What has the girl learned so she can meet David?

Why does Charles go to the room by himself?

What does Scarlett compare "bonking" with?

What happens while Charles is in the room?

What does he say he was looking for?

Who does Charles go with?

What happens?

VOCAB

dog

Slang for ugly woman.

penis

Male sexual organ.

"saw it off"

This expression means cut/saw off his penis.

serial monogamist

A person who has many long-term relationships doesn't get married.

but

resist you

Defend against/not be attracted to you.

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SCENE 10 **Breakfast/Dresses/Past Loves!**

What kind of mail does Charles receive?
How much can he spend on a wedding gift?
Who does he meet? What do they do?
How many boyfriends did Carrie have?
Where will Carrie's wedding be held?
What does Charles tell Carrie?

VOCAB

Blimy	Br. Eng. slang meaning Wow! or How about that!
erection	Noun. When a man's penis is hard because he is sexually excited.
elephantine	Adjective meaning very large or huge.
haystack	A large pile of cut grass/hay.
gorgeous	Beautiful.
ruthlessly	Adjective meaning doing something with no mercy.
"Bollocks"	Br. Eng. slang word meaning "Nonsense"!, the US Eng. equivalent is "Bullshit"!

WEDDING THREE

SCENE 11 **Ceremony in Scotland!**

Whose wedding is it? Is Charles on time?
What are some of the men wearing?
What does Gareth tell his friends to do?
Who does Scarlett meet? Where is he from?
What does Fiona call Henna?

VOCAB

holy estate	Noun meaning marriage.
kilt	Scottish traditional dress worn by men.
bagpipe	Traditional Scottish musical instrument.
Brigadoon	Famous English musical play.
distressing	Upsetting/disturbing.
adored	Strongly loved.
dotage	Noun meaning old age.
atrociously	Badly or terribly.

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SCENE 12 **Bride & Groom enter/Reception/Speeches!**

What does Fiona tell Charles?

What does the old American woman ask Gareth?

What does he answer her?

What happens to Gareth?

VOCAB

deed	act/action
Oscar Wilde	Famous homosexual English writer.
evangelist	Christian priests who actively try to make people become Christians.
stiff	Slang for boring person.
confidentially	Secretly/Discreetly
Keep you posted	Let you know as things develop over time.
upstaged	This means when somebody does something better than you, or when somebody takes the attention/stage away from you
because of what	they say or do.

SCENE 13 **Funeral/Matthew's Eulogy**

What did people think of Gareth?

What was his famous recipe?

What kind of clothing was Gareth famous for?

VOCAB

outside chance	A slight chance.
regarded	Thought of.
thrilled	Excited.
recipe	A set of instructions on how to cook a certain type of food.
grave	The hole in the ground where a person's coffin is placed.
coffin	The box dead people are buried in.
hospitality	Kindness to guests.
waistcoat	Br. Eng. word meaning vest.
replete	Adjective meaning total/together/complete.
bugger	Noun meaning man. Slang meaning homosexual.

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SCENE 14 Funeral -- W.H. Auden Eulogy Poem

Who does Charles meet after the funeral?

What does she tell him?

What does Charles admire/like about Tom?

VOCAB

grand	Great/Very good/Wonderful.
Labrador	A type of dog.
Thunderbolt	Lightning.
"pop the question"	Slang meaning ask somebody to marry you.

WEDDING FOUR

SCENE 15 Wake up! Church Entrance!

What time is it? Who is getting married? Is Charles late?

How has Fiona changed? Why?

Who does Scarlett jump on? Why is he here?

Who does Tom meet? What does he say?

Who does Charles meet? What happened to her?

What advice does she give him about how to act during a wedding ceremony?

VOCAB

bastards	Slang for "You terrible people".
tragic	Terrible/very sad.
divine	Adjective for wonderful, or holy.
"set the dogs on you"	Attack you with my dogs!
rainbow	Beautiful arc of light you can see after rain.
sordid	Low class/filthy/dirty.
"in a state"	In a state of confusion/sadness.

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SCENE 16 Charles needs a second!

What does Charles say that the priest hears?

What does Matthew say about marriage?

What's wrong with Charles?

VOCAB

bugger

Slang word meaning, "Oh shit"!

hayfever

A kind of allergy to plants and flowers.

to sneeze

Physical action caused by allergies or colds.

SCENE 17 The Ceremony!

What does David say?

What does Charles say?

What does Henna do?

Who does Charles meet in the rain?

What does he ask her?

VOCAB

betwixt

Old English, meaning between.

advisedly/
unadvisedly

Doing something with or without thinking about it before you do it.

wantonly

Doing something because of want or greed or lust.

reverently

Doing something with respect or reverence.

soberly

Doing something seriously.

"face the music"

This expression means to take responsibility for your actions.

to suspect

To believe.

to blend

To mix things together.

to drown

To die because of having too much water in your lungs.

SCENE 18 Closing Ceremonies!

Who gets married?

THE END!