



[A Special Day by Rosemary Gemmell - Setting the Scene](#)

The story begins in the old village church where Maddy is enjoying a few moments of peace before the guests begin arriving for her daughter's big day. She is preoccupied, but not with the usual concerns of the mother-of-the-bride.

Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

Peace and silence
Guests began arriving
Bustling with excitement in their finery
Almost time: the most special day of her daughter's life
Gemma
Independent teenager
About thirty, if at all
She'd confided
Paul
Teacher-training college
Church began to fill on both sides
The organist took her seat
The vicar
They came to stand in front of him
First notes of the Bridal March
Suddenly nervous
The little flower girl
Pale pink
Abigail
Straight hair under a circlet of
High-necked
Radiant yet hesitant
Her beloved Michael
Good head of greying hair
Steps seemed to falter
She gripped her father's arm
Maddy's throat tightened
Unshed tears
Maddy caught the end of a conversation between two of Michael's aunts
Looks a bit lost