



## **A SPECIAL DAY by Rosemary Gemmell.**

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]

Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this story, which is called 'A Special Day' by Rosemary Gemmell.

### **A Special Day by Rosemary Gemmell.**

Maddy sat in the old village church, enjoying the peace and silence. She was glad to be alone with her thoughts before the guests began arriving, bustling with excitement in their finery.

It was almost time: the most special day of her daughter's life.

She recalled Gemma as an independent teenager full of career plans.

"Of course, I don't intend getting married until I'm about thirty, if at all," she'd confided.

She'd laughed when Gemma and Paul met and fell in love at teacher-training college before they were even twenty.

Soon, the church began to fill on both sides. The organist took her seat. The moment was almost upon them. The vicar took his place, smiling to Paul and the best man as they came to stand in front of him. The organist looked up from her music to the far end of the church, and nodded. The first notes of the Bridal March rang out and everyone stood.

Maddy was suddenly nervous. They were almost here. She took a quick look round. The little flower girl came first, a picture in pale pink. Then, Gemma's best friend, Abigail, in a grown-up version of the flower girl's outfit.

Finally, Maddy looked at her beautiful daughter.

Fair, straight hair under a circlet of white and pink roses, flowing veil and demure, high-necked, long-sleeved gown. Her face was radiant yet hesitant.

Maddy wanted so badly to touch her, to let her know how much she loved her.

Then Maddy's eyes moved to the figure beside Gemma. Her beloved Michael. Still a good head of greying hair, the same warm brown eyes, tall and erect carriage, if a little fuller.

Suddenly, Gemma looked straight at Maddy and her steps seemed to falter. Then her smile became wider and she gripped her father's arm more firmly.



Maddy's throat tightened with overwhelming love and unshed tears. This was her precious family.

Too soon, the happy couple made their way back down the aisle to the sound of church bells.

Maddy caught the end of a conversation between two of Michael's aunts.

"It's so sad that Maddy isn't here to see how beautiful Gemma is today. Such a tragedy, the accident, and missing your only daughter's wedding. Poor Gemma. And Michael still looks a bit lost."

Maddy passed by them unseen. She turned to take one last look at the happy couple. She smiled, remembering Gemma's direct look at her in the church, her faltering steps. Now she could let go. She had kept her promise. She had not missed her daughter's special day.