

## Here Comes the Bride

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This short screenplay (or theatre piece) is basically a collage of shots taken for a wedding (perhaps as if by an amateur videographer) set to the audio collage titled “Here Comes the Bride” (download available from [chriswind3@gmail.com](mailto:chriswind3@gmail.com) or at [www.chriswind.com](http://www.chriswind.com)).

Duration – 5:23

The audio collage (transcript below) begins with an enumeration of terms of the marriage contract, past to present, followed by a brief summary of statistics concerning wife abuse (a transcript follows); the statistics are subjected to an increasing amount of frequency modulation, resulting in distortion and a sense of pain; this track is juxtaposed with a church organ rendition of “Here Comes the Bride” (the “Bridal Chorus” from Richard Wagner’s “Lohengrin”), a cute piano rendition of “Daisy Bell” (also known as “A Bicycle Built for Two”), and various placed alarms and sirens.

Suggested shots:

(scenes from the proposal, picking out the china pattern, getting fitted for the wedding gown, and stag and doe parties might also be included)

1. nervous bride and her mother preparing at home
2. touching moment between bride and her sister

3. bride descending stairs of the family home, in all her bridal glory
4. bride getting out of wedding-decorated car at church
5. touching moment between bride and her father at the back of the church
6. bridal procession down the church aisle (flowergirl, bridesmaids, maid of honor, bride and father)
7. expectant groom at the alter
8. exchange of vows
9. exchange of rings
10. groom kissing the bride
11. newlyweds walking down the aisle
12. confetti throwing
13. bride throwing the bouquet
14. bride and groom leaving the church
15. reception line at the hall
16. various speeches and toasts and hitting of glasses with cutlery until the bride and groom stand up and kiss
17. cutting of the wedding cake
18. various couples dancing (including, of course, the bride and groom)
19. various children running around doing what they do at formal parties such as this
20. obligatory drunk relative at the reception

21. bride and groom leaving for honeymoon

At the last line, “94% of all women get married”, the ‘screen’ gets covered by confetti.

## Transcript of Chris Wind's "Here Comes the Bride"

The word "wife" first referred to those women who were captured, after the invasion and conquest of a neighbouring tribe, and brought home to be slaves – marriage, then, was a degradation.

Legal contracts are binding only if they are entered into with informed consent : obscured by religious ritual, commercial hype, and social custom and convention, the marriage contract is an exception.

The legal obligations of each party to the contract, husband and wife, are very specific; yet assignation of these roles – who is to be the husband and who is to be the wife – is determined not by choice or ability, but by gender.

It has been the legal responsibility of the wife to perform domestic chores necessary to maintain the home and take care of her husband and children.

She is bound by law to reside with her husband: she has to live where he wants and must follow when and where he moves.

She is bound by the concept of consortium which gives a husband the right to sex, services, and the society of his wife; he can sue her if he does not receive any of the above.

She cannot sue her husband.

She cannot charge her husband with rape, with taking what is legally his.

His permission is required for a tubal ligation.

It has been the case that a woman becomes civilly dead when she marries – she has no legal existence other than as an extension of her husband.

It is illegal for a wife not to use her husband's name.

A married woman, a wife, cannot own property –it follows she can neither buy nor sell it.

Upon marriage, her property becomes his.

A married woman cannot make a will.

She cannot represent herself in court.

She cannot enter into a contract.

She cannot vote.

She is bound by the principle of coverture which gives a husband the legal right to control his property – which includes his wife. “To have and to hold” is in fact a legal expression used to transfer possession of a piece of property.

A husband may physically chastise his wife – especially if he complies with the “Rule of Thumb” which allows use of a stick or whip as long as it is no bigger than his thumb.

Physical cruelty on the part of the husband toward his wife is not grounds for divorce.

A wife can sue her husband for damages to her property but not for damages to her person.

She is legally bound to obey her husband.

She is not allowed to do anything her husband disapproves of.

She cannot keep any wages she earns by work outside the home; nor is the husband allowed to pay for services in the home – these services are simply part of the contract – in fact, no contribution by work is recognized as long as the work is done by the wife for the husband.

Property purchased by the husband, with his money, in his name, belongs to him alone, even though she may contribute by paying for the mortgage, insurance, taxes, and repairs.

Unless the wife earns money of her own, everything she buys is legally his.

Upon marriage, the husband's credit rating becomes the wife's, even if she earns more money.

His signature is required for a loan.

A wife working in the home is not entitled to her own pension.

If the husband dies before the wife, she is not entitled at all to his private pension, and entitled only to a portion of his Canada Pension.

That the marriage contract is mainly a contract for sexual services, to be provided by the female for the male, not unlike that made with a prostitute (except that it's exclusive and for an unlimited number of times of an unspecified range of acts forever, rather than being usually for a one time occurrence of one specific act for the time that it takes) is evidenced by the following:

Inability to perform sexual intercourse has made the contract voidable. It has been the case that only women are punished for adultery – often punished with death.

Adultery is sufficient cause for a man to divorce his wife; however if a woman wants to divorce her husband, she must prove cruelty or desertion in addition to adultery.

In the case of adultery, the husband can sue 'the other man'; a wife cannot sue 'the other woman'.

A wife cannot charge her husband with rape.

Upon divorce, the husband must pay support only as long as the wife is sexually 'faithful' – that is, he must fulfill his end of the contract only as long as she fulfills hers.

Though the letter of the law may change – now this way, now that – the spirit remains the same:

- violence against wives will occur at least once in two-thirds of all marriages
- abuse is often directed to those parts of the body that do not bruise easily (this implies not uncontrolled impulse but controlled pre-meditation)
- half of the wife assault victims are kicked in the uterus when pregnant
- 20% of all visits to emergency medical services are the direct result of wife assault
- 1 in 4 wives are severely beaten during the course of their marriage
- wife assault accounts for 25% of all suicide attempts
- 60% of the women who are murdered in Canada are murdered by a member of the family – almost always by their husband.

**94% of all women get married.**