

Sleep Tight
Daddy-of-the-Bride
(From: I, Daddy's Little Girl...)

Nothing like crawling into bed after a long day. Boy, I need a good night's sleep, too, that's for sure... all this wedding stuff is wearing this old man out... but I'm between the covers now and everything is okay the planets are all aligned properly I've put out as many wedding plan fires as I can for a day and all I need is a good night's rest...

God, I just want to thank you for this day I know I worry too much about this wedding stuff, but she is my girl, ya know you only had a son and he unfortunately didn't live long enough for you to worry about weddings sorry ... that's probably not a good way to pray to God I'm not myself lately, but I guess you know that, right? But say, you're son did a pretty good job at that one wedding turned some bland water into some pretty fancy wine, I understand - and in doing so a pretty stale party into a rockin' good time, I would think Jesus was no slacker when it came to celebrating if his first miracle was something like that, I suppose I sure could use his help at my daughter's wedding ... Oh, I know you really aren't into the miracle bit any more, but I gotta tell ya that I'm not feeling real good about this Father-of-the-Bride stuff ... You know I barely get by paying my rent and living a simple life for the most part I'm not complaining, of course.... I'm truly grateful for the life I have you know my heart and so you know I think I'm the luckiest guy in the world because of those three girls you gave me But that's the kicker, God ... a Father-of-the-Bride is technically supposed to pay for all this wedding stuff ... and you know my heart says yes to everything, but my wallet says elope ... it's just frustrating, that's all I'm saying I see other guys my age whining about all the costs of their daughter's wedding and I just want to smack them ... I would be so delighted to be in a position to spend that kind of money on my daughter's wedding, that's for sure But maybe if I left a few barrels of water in the reception hall, you could maybe help out a little? sorry again this really isn't a good night for praying, is it? I didn't mean to bash my fellow dads of the world I guess I'm the one who's whining the most, huh? I'm sure everything will work out just fine ... the kids are doing so much of it on their own and are doing a great

job I'm just whining, that's all... you have so much more important things to deal with than my pitty-party and I really do need to get to sleep ... Watch over my girls and again thanks for letting me be their dad I really am a lucky man ... I'm such a whiner, thoughI need to go to sleep...

I wonder how many different kinds of wine we should have for this thing? do you just get one red and one white? ... how do you know which ones to get? people are pretty picky about the wine they drink, aren't they? ... I wonder what kind of wine they had at the wedding I went to last week? you know, everyone just said red or white I guess if you get some good stuff it doesn't matter ... I'm not much of a wine guy, so how should I know what the hell ... my daughter and Jesse are bartenders for crying out loud ... why am I even thinking about this wine stuff? I'm an idiot ... an idiot who needs to get some sleep the bar will be well stocked and I'm sure there will be no complaints ... go to sleep ...

I wonder if Jesus made white or red wine back then? it was made from water and nobody else makes wine from water did they have different wines back then? that part of the world seems pretty desert like ... where'd they get the grapes? ... I know they didn't have any Krogers back there ... okay, I'm starting to annoy myself ... I need to concentrate on getting a good nights sleep ... and stop thinking

I wonder what time it is? you know when your mind starts going like this it's easy to lose all track of time ... It could be later than I think ... damn ... I was really looking forward to a good nights sleep, too but whatever you do, don't look over at the clock ... that's always the wrong thing to do just concentrate on sleep and you'll wake up refreshed and ready for work in the morning ... concentrate let the wedding plans go it will all be there in the morning

God, I'm going to be a mess at work tomorrow if I don't get to sleep I can just see my boss finding me with my head on the keyboards in my cubicle sound asleep Boy, this would be a bad time to lose your job, that's for sureI'll be fine it's

probably not that late ... I just need to relax and gently fall asleep and we'll start a new day in the morning

Speaking of work, I wonder if Beth is going to be able to help out with the cake? I understand she does a pretty good job it's always good to have people help out who actually know you and want to help ... doing it for more than just the money is always a good bet I hear wedding cakes aren't all that cheap, either man I sure don't want to dump a lot of money on cake why do they make such a big deal about the wedding cake anyway? hell, everyone's going to be snacking, drinking and dancing ... the wedding cake is way too over rated but it's not my wedding it's my daughters and I sure don't want anyone thinking my daughter is cheap I'm sure the wedding cake will be just fine

I wonder who I should invite to the reception from work? I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings but I think the measuring line should be that they actually know my daughter - at least it's not my wedding, after all I'm sure most of those folks would love to come hell, free drinks, food and dancing? ... who wouldn't want to be there? no, I'm thinking this is the way to do it if I can talk to Tracy about someone at work and she has a pretty good idea of whom I'm talking about - they can be invited that sounds about right and that excludes bosses ... no one who ranks over me should be there I don't want to come off as a brown-noser, after all that should narrow it down to just a handful of people the guys I go camping with are easy ... let's see one two no, not her well, there aren't many, which is good this is Tracy and Jesse's wedding after all and I should really limit who I invite Heck, most of my buddies are playing in the band and I can throw in a few others who will come to help set up the band's equipment and that will do it for me pretty much it will all fall into place, I'm sure

I really did good by the band, tho I may not be able to pay for much, but I know the band is going to make this wedding memorable for all who come and to

think that these are my friends as well ... boy, it doesn't get any better than that....
having your best friends playing the music at your daughter's wedding and being able to
watch everyone there celebrate and dance the night away is about as good as it gets....
I've screwed up a lot of stuff in my life but this will be a payback moment ... watching my
daughter having such a grand time with all her friends and relatives while my buddies
provide the music that is so important to an occasion like this ... man, that will be a
great moment for meI can't wait

I'm doing it again I'm getting caught up in thinking about this damn wedding
instead of concentrating on getting to sleep I need to think about something else
something soothing and relaxing something that will slow my mind down and help to
mellow me out relax sleep release all thoughts sleep ... relax ...

Maybe I should count sheep? I've never understood that thinking what do
sheep have to do with sleeping? who thought of that remedy for sleep? we sure
come up with crazy remedies for stuff are sheep mellow animals? I don't think
I've ever come across a sheep I grew up in San Diego why should anyone think
that sheep would help me get to sleep maybe I should think of wonderful waves
crashing along the beautiful California shore well crashing probably isn't a good
word to use to get to sleep how about rolling well, if they're rolling, they're not
very good for surfing Boy, I think some of my favorite moments were those times we
hung out on the beaches in San Diego sitting on my surf board ... waiting for the
next great wave laughing with my friends man, I sure hated becoming an adult
...what I wouldn't give to just hold those moments at the beach forever but then I
wouldn't have had Tracy and I wouldn't have this great adventure of planing a wedding
with her

See, I'm doing it again I'm back at the wedding maybe that's why they
count sheep sheep don't lead you anywhere so they bore you to sleep makes
sense to me but how do you really count sheep? do they really have to be
jumping over a fence? ... it seems that if they are very active sheep, they won't help you

get to sleep wouldn't it be better to just count sheep lying around some gentle hills in the middle of nowhere? I wonder if they make much money on sheep? they just shave them and make a bunch of wool sweaters, right? now is a sheep the same thing as a lamb? what about goats? Are they all the same thing? Is a goat just a male sheep? then what is a lamb? damn, this is starting to sound like 'Who's on first' and it's doing nothing to help me get to sleep but at least it got me away from the wedding

Lamb would be good at the wedding I love leg of lamb one of my favorite meals but not too many people eat lamb we should probably stick to stuff people generally like to eat lots of snacky food, I'm told you sure don't want to get into a full meal with the number of people we're looking at besides, the reception is at four in the afternoon ... good snacks are the right thing they can fill up on that besides, with an open bar you want enough food and dancing to soak up the alcoholyou don't want any embarrassing moments at your daughter's wedding, that's for sure ...

Damn I just opened my eyes for a second and I saw the clock it's almost three in the morning crap I should have opened my eyes when I was turned the other way ... now I'm going to worry about the time but really, three in the morning doesn't mean much well, I guess it's how you look at it, really I can still get a solid three or four hours sleep if I go to sleep right now ... but who am I kidding? I'm a good month away from falling asleep maybe I should just get up maybe read some of my book? but if I turn on the light, I'm dead ... I'll never get to sleep but then, reading always gets me nodding off and it would get my mind off of the wedding, I'm thinking I could start the coffee and get into a project of some kind - writing maybe then I'll feel productive and won't feel so bad about losing so much sleep that's not a bad idea heck I did that when I was young I remember working the night shift at the hospital Friday night come home and go with the family to some event ... come home catch an hour or two sleep ... go back for another night shift... come home Sunday morning in time to go to church with the family ... come home catch a little sleep before another night shift ... come home Monday

morning with an empty house and absolutely crash until I needed to pick up the girls from school God, I hated that You've got to be a complete idiot to live like that ... no wonder my marriage failed ... what was I thinking back then? ... And I'm using this as a good argument for getting up now? ... I am an idiot if I go down that road, that's for sure ... No, I need to stop all this and just go to sleep ... no lights ... no books ... no projects to fool me into thinking I'm productive I just need to sleep ...

Speaking of projects, I wonder if I'll be able to pull off the invitations like I promised? ... I always feel like Homer Simpson ... my heart is always in the right place, but far too often I do more harm than good ... I think Rosemary and I are on the right track with the invitations and I'm thinking that it shouldn't be that hard ... but that's what scares me whenever I think it shouldn't be that hard, I'm notorious for missing a few items of information that will quickly elevate it to damn near impossible God I love that when it happens but I can't afford to screw this up it's Tracy and Jesse's wedding invitations, for crying out loud ... I have to get them right or I won't be able to face myself but it shouldn't be too hard Rosemary has some good ideas and I do know more about computers than I give myself credit for, so I just need to relax and have a little faith

Speaking of relaxing I don't even want to think of what time it is now it was almost three when I opened my eyes, but that must have been a good hour ago that means it's around four? oh, great that's really not enough time to get any beneficial sleep... but then again, maybe it's only been about ten or fifteen minutes your mind can mess with your sense of time, ya know but whatever ... do not look at the clock again Just get to sleep I beg you go to sleep your eyes are shut it's dark outside nothing is going on - you won't miss a thing, I promise you just go to sleep

Do you think people in Texas count cows instead of sheep? cows can't jump over fences, I know they do make pretty nice leather jackets to go over those nice woolen sweaters ... but I still will take a good leg of lamb dinner over a steak dinner any

time

Oh, great ... now I'm thinking about food I swear, if I start thinking about the wedding food again, I'm going to scream this is insane no matter what I think about, it always leads me back to the wedding when all I want is to get some sleep.

Maybe I should pray again no, that's kind of like using God for your own good Maybe if I pray real nice to God, he'll give me a solid couple of hours of deep, restful sleep that's praying for all the wrong reasons we always do that, tho we pray when we need something ... we should pray just to say thank you instead ...

but I'm so tired nothing's working

I really need to get some sleep ...

A good hour or two would be fine ...

Something

Stop thinking and start sleeping ...

What

What's that?

My coffee maker? ...

You must be kidding me!

It always starts up ten minutes before my alarm goes off oh, great ... I just fell asleep ... now it's time to get upthis is so wrong ... I'm going to be awful at work today maybe I should call in sick no ... then I'll just sit around like a zombie feeling sorry for myself hating life for being so unfair to me cranky old man ... who wants to deal with that?

Alright, already ... I'm getting up I'm going to get a cup of coffee and stand under a hot shower for about an hour and if God doesn't do me a favor and bring the second coming of Jesus Christ in that time, I guess I'll go to work but I'm not going to like it one bit

But I'll tell you what tonight, my friend, I am going to sleep well I'm going to bed as soon as it's dark enough and make up for last night, that's for sure

If I can only make it through the day without one of my daughters calling me about the wedding, I should be fine but I am the Father-of-the-Bride with three months to go

Sleep? far too over rated but I will have no research for that tonight, I tell you what.