

# THE CREMATION

by

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## The Celebrant

Second one today – Let's get this over with, not bad, 200 quid for 45 minutes work. They have invited me to the wake, but I will make a very valid excuse as to why I can't make it. Well, here we go, last look in the mirror, solemn expression on my face, step outside as the hearse trundles down to the doors. Sometimes these occasions are very sad, but not so this time, as he was quite old and had been ill for a while. There's quite a lot of mourners though. Here comes his daughter Madeline and her son Peter, stepping out of the car. Hand out, bit of a limp shake from Madeline, Peter's is much firmer. Let's get this show on the road.

## The Daughter – Madeline

I don't really know how to feel today, my dad was quite old and had been ill for a while and took a lot of looking after, so I feel both sadness and relief all at the same time. I hope a lot of people turn up, we have catered for 40, so fingers crossed. Following the hearse with his coffin in is quite stressful and I can feel myself starting to sweat (it is June though). Thankfully we are now pulling into the crematorium. Oh, there's that Celebrant, Damien, waiting for us. My son got him off the Internet, comes highly recommended apparently. Hope he's as good as these reviews – we will soon find out. Looks like a good turnout, lots of relatives and friends waiting to go in. Here goes ....

## The Distant Relative

I really didn't want to come to this funeral today. I hardly knew the man, but my wife said it was the right thing to do. Luckily, she is here by my side. I don't know hardly any of these people who I am supposedly related to. I hope they have some decent wine at the wake. I'm dying for a glass now, and I plan to have a few as Cath has agreed to drive home. At last, here comes the hearse – show time. Oh look, there's Uncle George and Auntie Petunia over there. At least I know someone. In we go ....

## The Deceased

Well, I've gone and done it. I've died, and now all this fuss is being made. I told Madeline, it wasn't necessary, but now I can't say anything, she has pulled out all the stops to give me a good send off. Lovely flowers, a shame they will only last a week at most. I did suggest Madeline asked for donations to the hospice, I hope they get something as they do a splendid job. Looks like a lot of people have turned up, Madeline will be relieved as she has catered for 40. Her life will be so much easier now as she doesn't have to worry about me anymore. We are pulling into the crematorium now, so I'll finally sign off.