

# The day before: Aoife: The Wedding Planner

Aoife, the wedding planner, is in the midst of preparing for the culmination of her latest project—the much-anticipated wedding of Will Slater and Julia Keegan. As guests begin to arrive, she oversees the final preparations, ensuring everything from the vintage Bollinger champagne to the crates of Guinness are in place for the rehearsal dinner. With an experienced eye, Aoife notes the potential for chaos within the party, particularly from the best man and ushers, alongside the solitary wanderings of the bride's half-sister.

Her role has allowed her an intimate perspective on the dynamics and secrets of such occasions, emphasizing the importance of vigilance over every minor detail to prevent disaster. Amidst her tasks, she reminisces on the importance of her work: orchestrating a day of perfect joy amidst life's unpredictability, inspired by her own experiences with life's inherent messiness. Her preparations include lighting turf fires for a cozy atmosphere and confirming dinner plans with Freddy, her kitchen counterpart. Their menu includes a refined take on a traditional Connemara fisherman's chowder, signaling a touch of local flavor for the distinguished guests.

The complexity of the event is further highlighted by the specific demands of the bride, from the extensive drink selection to the elaborate wedding cake—a four-tiered masterpiece fitting the bride's lavish tastes, which Aoife has managed to transport safely to the island. Despite the outward focus on the wedding day's perfection, Aoife reflects on the deeper essence of her profession: creating a moment of unblemished happiness that stands out as a beacon in the mess of daily life. This particular wedding holds special significance for her, marking a transition from her past in Dublin to the ambitious endeavor of transforming the island's old folly into a premier wedding venue. The narrative closes with a moment of vulnerability shared with Freddy, revealing Aoife's underlying anxieties about executing such a high-profile event flawlessly.