



Photograph by Alvaro Serrano - Unsplash

Families! Families!

Chateau Lavande
Vence
France

19th February 2019

Dear Mr and Mrs Simpkins

Our second daughter Annabelle surprised us by announcing her engagement to your elder son James. We rather hoped that my husband's permission would have been first sought as is usual, but Annabelle has always been headstrong.

We understand that James is establishing himself in the City so hopefully he will be able to provide an adequate home for our daughter. She has asked us to contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss the wedding. Of course, we will need time to prepare for this.

Yours faithfully

Edmund and Sophia Milton-Blythe

*Flat 139
Lavender House
Battersea Road
London*

Monday

Dear Ed and Sophie

Hope you don't mind us calling you that seeing as how we'll soon be related. You must be so pleased with our Jamie. He's quite a catch, done very well for himself. Nice pad near Canary Wharf so you needn't worry about an adequate home as you put it. Your Annabelle will be well taken care of we can promise you that.

Our Jamie says he can't believe his luck meeting your Annabelle. He calls her Belle which he says means beautiful in French as you probably know with living there and all. He says what a coincidence it is with our addresses. Your house being called lavender in French and our block called the same. Even though you actually have lavender growing in the fields Jamie says, not like here.

It's raining again. What's it like over there? Bet it's a bit warmer. About us meeting up, give us a bell and we'll fix something.

Ta ra for now

Dave and Marge

P.S. Your Annabelle's a great girl. We love her to bits

Chateau Lavande
Vence
France

10th March 2019

Dear David and Margaret

We have begun to plan the nuptials. Of course the wedding will be held in our local church, with a small reception in our garden. Annabelle's sister Petronella will be Matron of Honour and her small son, Tarquin, the page boy.

Hopefully we will be visiting London next month when we can arrange a meeting. Yes, the weather is warm here, as it is the South of France.

Yours sincerely

Edmund and Sophia Milton-Blythe

Flat 139

Friday

Dear Ed and Sophie,

It will be great to see you. We're all looking forward to it. Me and Dave both come from big families so there will be a lot of people for you to get to know.

We expect you need to come to London to look for outfits. Me and the girls have already been down the West End having a window shop. But the prices! Cor Blimey! We'll have to save up a bit. I reckon you know Jamie has three sisters. They'd all love to be bridesmaids with your Petronella. Jamie's the first one to be married so they'll be wetting themselves with excitement.

See you soon

Dave and Marge

Chateau Lavande
Vence
France

23rd March 2019

Dear David and Margaret

As we live near the Italian border we will be going to an Italian designer for the wedding gowns, they are so much more elegant than London I think. As for your daughters being bridesmaids we are planning a more intimate ceremony with just a Matron of Honour and a page boy to carry the train. Much more tasteful we feel. I'm sure your daughters can be bridesmaids for each other when their turn comes.

We plan to be in London at Brown's Hotel on the 20th of next month, for a short stay. It is not such a vulgar place as some of the larger hotels. We will advise you when we arrive and perhaps we can meet for tea.

Yours sincerely

Edmund and Sophia

Flat 139

Tuesday

Dear Ed and Sophie

The girls are so disappointed not to be bridesmaids but it's your call. Their Dad says they can splash out on their outfits to make up for it and he'll foot the bill. He's a right treasure is my

Dave. He's doing well with his taxi. If you let us know when you arrive at Heathrow he can pick you up. It's a pity really that the wedding will be in France. We always thought family weddings would be in dear old Wandsworth. We do a real good knees up here. But still I'm sure it will be great. You sound as if you've got it all under control.

The only thing I'm worried about is our Darren. Did Jamie tell you he's been in a bit of bother? Nothing too bad I hasten to add. But he's got this tag thing on so he can't go out of the country. He's got it on for another four months. Have you set a date yet? Being his only brother our Jamie will want our Darren to be his best man. He's been doing so well on this drugs programme. We're so pleased with him.

See you on the 20th.

Dave and Marge

Chateau Lavande
Vence
France

12th April 2019

Dear Mr and Mrs Simpkins

Sophia has asked me to write to you as she is laid low with a migraine. After going to the considerable expense of ordering the dresses and the caterers for the wedding. Not to mention having the invitations printed, we were devastated to get a telephone call from the Bahamas where your son has taken our daughter. Apparently, they were married there last week. We consider the whole business to be an insult. Just as we were beginning to accept the fact that our daughter had chosen to marry your son he has acted in this reprehensible manner. We will need time to recover from the shock before we can consider welcoming him again into our home.

Edmund Milton-Blythe

In Flat 139 there was a great celebration. Good for them said Marge who had begun to dread the wedding. That Sophie sounded a right stuck up madam. We can have a really good beano when Annabelle and Jamie get back and wear our new dresses so they won't be wasted.