

included in the ceremony. Afterward, the newlyweds and the wedding party spent the afternoon driving around in the limo and drinking champagne. They arrived at the reception at 6 p.m., and after the introduction of the wedding party by the DJ the festivities began.

It was a fun reception. Everyone had a grand time eating, drinking, dancing, and socializing. We spared no expense, although we were hardly in a position to put on an extravagant wedding. We only had one daughter and wanted that day to be a special one as she started her new life.

Bob and Beth spent their wedding night at a local hotel, while the rest of us went home. It was about two in the morning, and I was still wound up and could not get to sleep when the phone rang. It was Beth. They had made love and Bob fell asleep; she just wanted to talk with me.

“I’m so happy. It was a great wedding and a great wedding night. Thanks for a great day, Mom, we’ll stop over before we leave on our honeymoon and open our gifts.”

The day after the wedding, we invited a few guests over to join Bob and Beth as they opened their gifts. Leftover food from the reception was served, and a short time later the newlyweds left for Niagara Falls.

While on their honeymoon Beth called me each evening and gave me an update on what they had been doing and seeing. Five days into their honeymoon, Matt was kidnapped.

“God, help me, what do I say when she calls to give me a happy update on her honeymoon excursions?”

I had to decide what to tell her. Should I wait until the body of her murdered father was found, or simply tell her that her father had been kidnapped and we didn’t know what would happen. I could offer to keep her posted, but ruining her honeymoon at that moment served no purpose. If her knowledge of the kidnapping would help her father, I would tell her in a minute. I made the decision to play the role, when she called, by conducting the biggest cover-up of my life. I also decided that in the morning, if her father’s body was found, I would call her hotel and ask her to come home. But until his body was discovered I would not tell her anything. That Thursday was the only evening during her honeymoon that she never called. Later, after she returned home and found out about Matt, she told me that on that particular evening they were so busy and she was so tired when they returned to their room that she did not feel like calling.