

Stag Modifies



Headmaster Fleming

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In a life full of complexity and compounded by ironies two *Stags* joined together in matrimony at The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel on East 90th Street in the Apple Orchard.

Both Andrew Chapin, Thornton-Donovan's English Bard, and Amanda Romano, an advertising guru, led parallel lives as undergrads at Fairfield University in Connecticut. Fairfield uses the word "stag" as its moniker and as is the case with Andrew and Amanda their two stag lives simply became compounded with a two worded simple sentence uttered as

"I do." Saturday June 13 became the beginning of a 500,000 paragraph essay.

Many T-D family members were on hand to witness the union and join in the celebration. Seated behind my wife and I were T-D students Noah Vicencio, Lorenzo Gazzola, Izzy Rhodes, Liam Gorbutt, Dylan Pizzo and the three Curanaj youngsters all dressed to the nines. Nick Curanaj looked like he

stole a few ideas from Lorenzo Gazzola's hair stylist. Imitation is the highest form of flattery they say.

It was in those "I do" words that over 200 witnesses spontaneously erupted into applause. It's amazing what a propositional phrase can do, especially when a response has no subordinates. "I do" became two and lives independent of each other became, in the happiest sense, co-dependent clauses.

We "put on the Ritz" at the wedding reception, held at the Roosevelt Hotel on East 45th. It was exactly as billed – almost over the top. The filet mignon was a perfect ten and even the vegetarians had to yield to its aroma. The room was full of energy and no two guests wore the same attire. There were dozens and dozens of fashionistas on the dance floor joining in Andrew and Amanda's most special song. Some of its words were "don't go changin' to try and please me"- a Billy Joel classic. Everyone danced. A few with too much energy kept jumping up and down and parading around the dance floor like a run on sentence. Others simply danced as fragments. A few also acted like coordinating conjunctions. One gentleman who was thought of as Conan O'Brien was dancing alone and, then, partying with a Dr. Sanjay Gupta lookalike. Andrew's new bride Amanda, *romed* the dance floor with a wedding dress too elegant to describe and partners who showed their appreciation dancing like irregular verbs.

I've never been to a wedding with so many band members pumping up the volume tune after tune. Only one instrument was missing and, of course, it was the ukulele.

Andrew's dad spoke to me for several minutes. He didn't speak in a passive voice. Simply said, his dad was the personification of his son. Nothing was said out of context as he used one uber-superlative adjective after another. As everyone was dashing around the dance floor, Mr. Chapin described the reception as one big stag party. For me, I saw it as "Stag Nation." In this case, the word stag is not to be read as a misplaced modifier.

With Amanda and Andrew now in perfect harmony all the work prior to their red letter day seemed so worthwhile and, of course, their families and their guests were all on the same page.

The gathering of ideas, gathering of guests, organizing the ideas and supporting all the details made for a great afternoon and evening.

As compound subjects, this writer can only wish Amanda and Andrew an epic life journey; one that I hope very quickly takes them from I do to doe a deer. On June 13, 2015 Amanda and Andrew gave up their stag status and became Mr. & Mrs. Chapin. On June 13, 2015 both Fairfield Stag Alumni began a life fawning over each other as perfect complements and a rubric for all aspiring stags to follow. As Billy Joel sings-"a bottle of red and a bottle of white," Saturday became one of many future perfect nights.

Andrew, I'm sure you didn't need any lesson plans.

D.E.F.