

Speak Now

comparison for structure

- paints speaker as a "good girl"

sets up conflict in first line

I am not the kind of girl who should be rudely barging in on a white veil occasion
But you are not the kind of boy who should be marrying the wrong girl
I sneak in and see your friends and her snotty little family all dressed in pastel
And she is yelling at a bridesmaid characterization
Somewhere back inside a room wearing a gown shaped like a pastry
simile

telling detail & clear image of wedding
Plus = you don't think of pastel colors for "snotty" people - they're gentle colors. Shows this wedding is a fraud

This is surely not what you thought it would be
I lose myself in a daydream where I stand and say
half rhyme

Chorus
Don't say yes, run away now rhyme/half rhyme
I'll meet you when you're out of the church at the back door
Don't wait or say a single vow
You need to hear me out
And they said speak now

description of wedding guests
Fond gestures are exchanged, and the organ starts to play a song that sounds like a death march simile
And I am hiding in the curtains--it seems that I was uninvited by your lovely bride-to-be
She floats down the aisle like a pageant queen simile - shows girl thinks of herself as not a loving bride, but as a winner
But I know you wish it was me
You wish it was me, don't you? repetition

simile shows speaker's emotions

[Chorus]

Climax

I hear the preacher say speak now or forever hold your peace
There's the silence, there's my last chance, I stand up with shaky hands imagery
All eyes on me repetition half rhyme
Horrified looks from everyone in the room but I'm only looking at you clear image of love conquering all

I am not the kind of girl who should be rudely barging in on a white veil occasion
But you are not the kind of boy who should be marrying the wrong girl

[Chorus]

And you say let's run away now
I'll meet you when I'm out of my tux at the back door
Baby, I didn't say my vows
So glad you were around
When they said speak now

mimic 1st chorus but with happy ending

Falling action

- 1) How realistic is this scene?
- 2) Do you think it would really end happily?
- 3) Is the bride-to-be truly awful, or does the speaker just think so because she's marrying her sweetie?