

Raised Right

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As a child, Wilf had earned hundreds of warm toothy smiles from teachers, older relatives, and friends' parents. For he had always expressed polite gratitude and had never let a door swing shut in someone's path.

Now, a day before his forty-fourth birthday, he was bearing his own incisors with an appreciative grin. In securing a back-door deal to open a new coal mine, Wilf offered profuse thanks as he shook each politician's hand in turn.