

SPEECH FOUR

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the bridesmaids, I must thank John for his kind words – I'm sure you will all agree the bridesmaids, all look stunning and have done a great job so thank you.

On behalf of those who don't know my names Brent, and John's younger brother.– our parents were obviously so disappointed with their first attempt they decided to try again. And despite knowing me for _____ *[years known the Groom]* years John decided to ask me to be his best man – well probably the best he could find anyway.

It's a great honour but unfortunately with that honour comes the responsibility of writing this bloody speech. But I feel a bit comforted by the fact I've actually rehearsed this speech in front of a live audience. At local geriatric home – and judging by the response I got, one could only assume that this speech is top shelf – they all pissed themselves.

It's traditional for the best man to let everybody from the bride's side know what sort of man their daughter has married. So I decided to ask a few friends and family about the groom, and I got a fairly diverse response. John is caring, loving – funny, charming, generous, successful. All very kind words. But then when I heard lazy, belligerent, selfish & short tempered I thought that's a little bit harsh, but then, if his parents don't know him, than who really does?

It is also tradition for the best man to talk a bit about the Groom's past. –I feel really qualified to do this, because John and I have been through a lot together – in fact, we were just saying the other day how glad we are that none of them are here today.

Interestingly enough looking at John past – I want to concentrate on John early employment... most of John earlier jobs when he was growing up seemed to revolve around food – a doubled edged sword for John surrounded by his one of his main passions in life but it also unfortunately meant he had to face his own personal occupational hazard that he could at anytime be sacked for eating on the job. And sadly for John this happened on at least two occasions - . I could never understand how he could get sacked from his first employers as it was the purveyors of fine foods "Palethorps" for those who have not heard of them, they produce uncooked pork pies with very low grade meat – I think John used to work there for the pastry

John my final tradition is to give you a few pointers for married life.....

1. Firstly Remember – That it is probably the last time you're going to be able to speak for ten minutes without being interrupted by your wife.
2. Never go to bed angry. And I've always lived by this – which probably explains why the neighbours are always calling the Police at three in the morning to complain about the shouting
3. Apparently marriage should be a 50/50 partnership. John you need to realise that anyone who believes that knows little about women and even less about fractions
4. Finally and most important Always Always TALK to your mother in law – don't for God's sake do what I ended up doing and not talking to her for two years. I honestly don't have a

problem with the lady actually I quite like her – I just was brought up to think its rude to interrupt Joking aside... Standing here on my brother's wedding day, in the company of so many friends and family, I feel overwhelmed by an unusual sense of affection towards John. I've realised today that my annoying older sadist brother who upon first seeing me tried to pick me up by my ears and whom I grew up with predominately arguing with is actually a pretty good guy.

I want to say it's impossible to summarise the last _____ *[number of years known the Groom]* years I have known John, I would like to say that over the years he has been the best anyone could hope for in a brother and also a friend – And I've always been able to go to him for support in dark hours I know that you will maintain these high standards as a fantastic loving husband everybody will agree you make a fantastic couple. It's been a fantastic day and it's great to be a part of this celebration of your dedication of the love you share for each other.

So I want everybody in the room to now be upstanding and I want to propose a toast to the happy couple, and at the same time quote the words of the poet Edward Blaylock - I wish the best day of the past together be the worst day of your future.