BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

BRETT JAMES

Hello everyone! It’s great to be here to celebrate Randy and Carrie, and I have a special place in my heart for both our bride and groom-I have been friends with both of them for the past 20 years, so I **REALLY** know them and know what a perfect match they really are. They also know **ME** and I have to say that there is truth to the expression that friendship is really **one mind** in 2, or in this case, 3 bodies… however, regarding the mind that Carrie, Randy and I share, I would have to say that they probably got the part of our mind that likes public speaking-because I think it skipped over my part!!! More about this later!!! Tonight I will expand my horizons and speak before all of you about these 2 great people… because the other 2/3’s of my mind said so!!!

First of all, I want to congratulate and thank Mr. and Mrs. Hucko and Mr. Lee for raising such amazing people (and friends) and for making this wedding such a beautiful and unforgettable experience. I’m sure everyone would agree that all of the bridesmaids look stunning and are only “out dazzled” by Carrie, our gorgeous bride. I also have to say that Randy and my fellow groomsmen clean up really well too!!! Good work!! I’m proud to be in such distinguished company!!!

So, “who’s he?” some of you may be wondering. For those of you who don’t know, Randy, Carrie and I have been friends for the better part of two decades!! We all grew up together right here in Pittsburgh and attended the same high school. We have shared many good times together (**If you want to make a joke, you can say, “Of course apparently Randy and Carrie have spent a few more good times together…”)** and we have remained close through high school, college and beyond. Ahhh…the memories!!! When we were all in high school, our group of friends always liked Carrie’s group of friends. We all share many of the same tastes and interests… The Jimmy Buffett concerts, the Trussie, that …**infamous** toga party, the numerous winter trips … the list goes on and on…. About 2 months ago, I received a call from Randy telling me he would be in the Boston area and would like to come up to Portsmouth New Hampshire for a night and hang out and stay over…I thought, “Sure, great! Just like old times…” Randy loves to be spontaneous and, hey...what the heck, it would be great to see him. The evening arrived and Randy and I were warming some seats at the local watering hole when Randy asked me to be the best man at his wedding. “Sure!” I said, immediately and spontaneously-inspired by Randy’s enthusiasm, and we celebrated and celebrated…. into the wee hours of the night. The next **day**, I awoke to find Randy fast asleep on my couch at around **noon** – of course this meant some lucky stand-by passenger got Randy’s seat on the 11 am return flight to New York. We decided to “leave the driving to them,” and Randy safely boarded a Greyhound Bus (**Keep this as Greyhound-because their slogan was “leave the driving to us”**) back home, and then it hit me… I would, as best man, have to speak in front of **all of you**…. after the initial panic, I admit I had second thoughts …and third thoughts … and then I discovered that the bus did not allow passengers to take or make cell phone calls, so here I am, crossing one item off my bucket list of dreaded things to do in my life. Thank goodness you seem to be a friendly crowd!!! (**If you want to make a little joke, you can say, “and the tomatoes are small!”**). I conquered my fears, especially being inspired by all of the great times Randy and I have had together, and I do admit, after taking a couple of long, deep breaths, or as some medical professionals might call it, **“hyperventilating**”, it **really is** an honor and a privilege to stand up for such a great friend and genuinely good guy.

I have to say that every time I am around Randy and Carrie, I am amazed at what a perfect couple they are and how they complement each other in the best way possible. I have never seen Randy as happy as he is when he is with Carrie, and vice versa. They are the most caring, loyal, fun loving couple I know. They are both selfless and devoted to their friends and family and always put others first.

One of the traits I admire most about Randy is his continuous desire for self-improvement. A great illustration of this happened when Randy was in college. Always looking for the next eye-opening experience, he decided to study abroad in Lyons, France. I remember when he got back, he told me one of the funniest stories I had ever heard. I am sure you all know that Randy is a very friendly, animated and personable guy. For his stay in France, he was to live with a host family comprised of a mother, father, and extremely attractive young daughter. Imagine the thoughts that went through the host father’s mind when he realized that some handsome young American guy would be staying in his house…. right down the hall from his young daughter’s bedroom!! Arrival day came, and the host family went to greet our groom at the airport. Introductions were made and in his charming yet broken French, our boy said, “Nice to meet you, I’m **Randy**.” I wish I could have been a little “**mouche**” (**French word for fly**) on the “**mur**” (**French word for wall**), just to see the look on the host father’s face, because between you, me, and the lamppost, “**randy**” in French directly translates to “sexually aroused or excited.” Needless to say, that was the beginning of an experience of a lifetime-for all parties involved!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I also want to say that Randy’s last name Lee means “shelter from wind or weather given by a neighboring object.” When I think of it, that’s also kind of like the definition of a true friend. Randy and Carrie, you are the perfect couple and the perfect audience for my first (and hopefully my best) best man speech. Keeping that in mind, I would like to propose a toast to our bride and groom. I‘d like to ask everyone to raise a glass. To Randy, you are a true “**Lee**.” You provide support and protection and reflection to those around you in the best way possible. To Carrie, now you are a “**Lee**” too, and I wish for the both of you a lifetime of mutual respect, happiness, nurturing, love, **support**, and **shelter** from storms that may come as you sail together and protect and shelter each other through life.

Thank you all!