BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

LAURI AARNIO

Hello everyone!!! How great is this celebration!!!! We’re all here to share the joy of our happy couple, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Jesse, and I am really honored to be one of Jesse’s best men…among several!! In the spirit of remaining the **BEST** best man, I’ll keep my thoughts short and sweet…. **nnnnnnnaaaaahhhh**…. maybe not so sweet…I want to say that all of you ladies in the bridal party look really beautiful and (**name the bride**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you really look wonderful, radiant and happy… I guess marriage agrees with you!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). As I look around, everyone is so happy and the room is filled with lots of love…Okay… enough of the nice polite and sweet stuff!! (**Wait for the laugh**)…Just kidding…or maybe….

I can’t imagine life without Jesse…. **no matter how hard I try**…**GOTCHA**!! All jokes aside, Jesse and I are really brothers from other fathers. Since we’re cousins, Jesse has been like a built-in best friend, protector, teacher…and I suppose I have been his shadow, his wingman, and most importantly, his bone breaker…. oh **YEAH**…more about **THAT** in a little bit!! But anyway…Jesse’s seven years older than I am…and Jesse, you’ll **ALWAYS** be seven years older!! But since I was a kid, he pretty much brought me up. He showed me the ropes and taught me the best lessons in life-of course there aren’t many that I can discuss in mixed company…. getting nervous yet Jesse??? Let’s just say that growing up with him made for an interesting, exciting, and adventurous youth!!! …There I go being polite again!

I have so many vivid memories of good times with Jesse. When we were kids, at our summer place, I can picture my father and Jesse’s father standing by the house, each one strong and tall, and while taking turns, at the top of their lungs, one would yell a really **LOUD** curse word and the other would yell an even **LOUDER** curse word and sure enough, from out of the blue, faster than the speed of light, Jesse would come running and at the same time, from the opposite direction, I would appear, more powerful than a locomotive… (**Are you familiar with Superman? That was part of the opening of the TV show from the 50’s).** Of course, as kids, we believed we were invincible and indestructible and able to leap tall buildings at a single bound…yes, we thought we were **Supermen**!! Welllllll… not quite… Legend has it that once we counted and we figured out that I was responsible for **nineteen** of Jesse’s broken ribs… which means I have five more to go for a perfect score…Hey Jesse… wanna meet me out back and settle some business? (**Wait for the laugh**)

Jesse always watched over me…to make sure I didn’t spill the beer he made me fetch for him or and his friends (**Wait for the laugh**)… You’ve heard of drug mules?? I was the “beer mule” Jesse-did you know there are trained dogs with little barrels strapped to their necks to do that job and **NOT** little innocent cousins??? (**Wait for the laugh**) He taught me how to have selective and discerning taste... like when he’d send me out as his “wingman” to “charm the ladies” and see what they were up to. And then-all those stories behind those nineteen broken ribs…**ahhhh** … those were the days!! (**Wait for the laugh**). But through it all, Jesse always watched out for me, he had my back, and always made sure I was okay, and that’s why I’m standing up for him today…. come to think of it, I can’t even count the times I had to help **HIM** stand up!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Jesse, you and I have had many adventures together…and many accidents…back to those broken ribs!! But there is one thing I know for sure, and that it was no accident that you met and fell in love with (**Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The two of you really blend together like a great and intoxicating cocktail!! Here’s to many years of love and happiness and everything the two of you might possibly wish for, and if we’re very, very lucky, the next generation of Aarnio’s (**do you have the same last name? If not, mention both last names**) will be the best of friends as we are. Congratulations!! We love you!