BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

JUSTIN LOWENSTEIN

Hi everyone! What a great wedding this is!! And if there’s one thing we all know, it’s that love is in the air and Hunter and Jess bring out the best in each other and in us too!! Before I begin, I want to tell you something I once heard an old time comedian say. “The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you’re born and stops as soon as you get up to speak in public.” (**Wait for the laugh**) Hopefully that won’t be the case today because I really want to take a few moments to honor our bride and especially our groom. I want to congratulate Hunter’s family (**Name Hunter’s parents and brothers/sisters if any)** , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You guys know that Hunter has been like a brother to me and we’ve known each other for half our lives. This is a really important moment in the evolution of the HeLal family and I am proud to be the best man and to have this bird’s eye view of these festivities. To Jess’s family, (**Name Jess’s parents and family members**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, welcome to the HeLal family, and yes, I come with the package!! (**Wait for the laugh**) I look forward to sharing and hearing about many, many more of Jess and Hunter’s “Adventures in Married Life,” and I’m sure that this newly extended family will all share many blessings. Hunter…. I’ll get to you in a minute…be afraid…be very, **VERY** afraid… just kidding… **or AM I**??? (**Wait for the laugh**) But first I want to say that Jess, you look beautiful and radiant and it’s clear that today is probably one of the happiest days of your life, if not **THE** happiest. You’re about to begin a new life together with Hunter, and I am so thrilled for the two of you. You two are building that life on love, trust, and partnership, and I wish you the very best of luck…. remember-I’ve already lived with him!! I’ve seen-and lived through-the previews!! (**Wait for the laugh**) And I promise I’ll share any tips I can think of… that can be shared in mixed company!! Hunter, I know you’re sitting there, probably counting the bubbles in your glass of Champagne, so before you doze off, let me say this. **YOU. LOOK. MAHVELOUS!!!** Of course Jess is beautiful, even more so than brides usually are, but I have to say, **YOU** are simply **RAVISHING**. I have to say, you make the word **GROOM** make sense!! Have I ever seen a more handsome groom? Has **ANYONE** here **EVER** seen a more handsome groom? I don’t think so!! Fernando **(From the Billy Crystal Saturday Night Live skits**) may have said, “It’s better to look good than to feel good,” but man, today, you’ve got it all!!! Looks, happiness, swagger!!! You really cleaned up well!!

Okay, let’s get to the good stuff… Hunter and I met in high school, probably about twenty years ago, but we really didn’t become best friends until we both attended college together. That’s right, these two nice boys went off to the same college, Texas A+M, to be more specific, and in spite of, or because of, some quirkiness, our friendship was solidified and taken to the next “level.” We were roommates for our junior and senior years at school, and even afterwards, as we prepared to conquer the professional world, we remained roommates and close friends. Of course, I didn’t have to check myself quite so much in the mirror and managed to graduate in 2000 while Hunter graduated in, **ahem**, 2001 (**Wait for the laugh**). Through all of the quirks and adventures, I have to say, and I am sure that those of you who really know Hunter will agree, he is an amazing friend, a great guy, and he will have your back even if you think you don’t need that. I know he’s always had mine. We’ve all heard the expression that “When life hands you lemons…” well, Hunter had his own version of that… As we made our way after school, I faced some financial challenges. Hunter was always there for me with encouragement, friendship, and a much needed movie ticket and refreshments. Life was handing me lemons at the time, but Hunter handed me wild cherry slushees. Ahhhh…and the best part was, he never expected me to “earn” that treat. He’s thoughtful and generous and considerate…as long as…

There are so many things that make Hunter special. Jess, did you know that Jim Carrey once said, “Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes??” Get ready Jess….. start rolling-I’m about to highlight some of Hunter’s eccentricities!! Jess, were you subjected to the foot interview? I remember long ago, and he may have grown out of this…like an old pedicure (**Wait for the laugh**), that Hunter would check out a girl’s feet before he dated her. I suppose you could say that if Hunter didn’t like what he saw when he checked out a prospective date’s toes, she would feel “**DEFEAT**!” (**Wait for the moan**). If the girl didn’t “do her digits,” neither would Hunter!! (**Turn to Hunter and say**) Hey Hunter-I made that one up myself-I thought I **“NAILED**” it!!! Another curious and quirky thing about Hunter’s former dating tests is that I remember one time he smeared ice cream all over his face-just to see how a date would react. Some may think that might be weird; Hunter probably decided he needed to moisturize to maintain his good looks!!

It’s fun to joke about close friends, but the truth is, as I said before, I couldn’t have asked for a better friend. Hunter and I have been through a lot together, and I suppose the time will eventually come when he’ll get a chance to “roast” me (**If you’re married and he has spoken of you, add**) [again]. And you know what? I’d welcome it, because that’s the kind of friendship we have. It’s a friendship that took a while to cultivate and build, but it’s one that has turned out to be a really priceless gift in my life. As we get older and learn more about life, it’s true that we see who our true friends are, and I also know that really good friends do eventually become family. I know that my friendship with Hunter, and now with Jess, is always evolving, and as we each face new adventures and challenges throughout our lives, it’s good to know that Hunter is there-maybe not always physically or geographically, but definitely in spirit, and I couldn’t be happier.

So now, Jess and Hunter, you’re Mr. and Mrs. (**If the bride is taking his last name, use it)**. Long gone are the days of smearing ice cream and checking toes…may the next toes you check be very little and perfectly formed!

So many wise things have been said about marriage, like, “Here’s to the bride-may she share everything with her husband…including the housework,” to Socrates’ wise words, “By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you’ll be happy. If you get a bad one, you’ll become a philosopher!”… Well Hunter, it looks like you won’t be a philosopher anytime soon!!

I’d like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast to Jess and Hunter:

Here’s to a lifetime of love, health, happiness and all that you can dream of together. Congratulations!!