BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

RYAN BAUM

Hello everyone! It’s great to be here tonight to celebrate John and Trish, and it’s really special to have been selected as best man and to get a real insider’s view of this legendary couple and all the details that have gone into this wedding and saying, “I do.” When John asked me to stand up for him, of course I was honored! I rolled up my sleeves, started to do my research to learn just what to do to be the **BEST** best man ever, and I made a silent promise to myself that as a tribute to my special friendship with this great guy, I would make him proud… after all, he’s probably had a million other things on his mind during these past several months …… Well!! I started my investigation to see exactly what being a best man entails, and wouldn’t you know…. Here’s what I learned in the first article I read entitled, “How to Be a Great Best Man.” “Actually, you've got it easy. When the German Goths began the best man tradition nearly 2,000 years ago, the best man had to fight off the bride's angry relatives when the groom kidnapped her.” **Alrighty then**…. I, for one, am REALLY glad times have changed and traditions have evolved and become more civilized!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) Because if you ask me, I’m cool with making sure the wedding rings get where they have to go. I’m totally down with making sure the bachelor party was fun yet tasteful (**you can say, “ahem” if you want to be cute**) and I am totally on board to mastermind any kind of organized or disorganized fun and games in honor of my close friend’s wedding, but really…. fighting off the in-laws and they’re not even mine??? “**Pasadena**!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, Trish, you are a beautiful bride and I wouldn’t blame John if he wanted to go “old school” and kidnap you, but I’m pretty sure he won’t, so I look forward to only good times shared with you and your great family tonight!

In all sincerity though, I am really proud to be John’s best man and this whole “ride” has been an unforgettable experience. It’s given me a chance to see new sides and dimensions of my close friend and I can see that so much of life’s adventures, including the ones we shared throughout so many phases and periods of our friendship, have all contributed to this day and to his new life as John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, **husband**. The radio personality Bernard Meltzer once said, “A true friend is someone that thinks you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked.” It’s my guess that John and I would both agree with that statement!! And since we’ve known each other for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, it’s a safe bet to say that over time and through our mutual trials and adventures, we’ve seen the cracks and admired each other and had each other’s back through it all.

 I met John in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when we were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The bond was fairly instant, after all, two “wild and crazy guys,” looking to conquer the world, enjoying the finer things in life-camping, fishing, all kinds of sports, and … what about those parties? Thinking of how those shared adventures prepared us- I mean **YOU**, for “**husbandhood**,” let’s take a little trip down memory lane…. Ahhhhhhh some of my favorite times spent with you were on those great camping trips back in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when we went to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How much fun were they?!?! Remember when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**tell about a short but** **funny incident from** **a** **camping trip**) Okay-let’s think of another one….. Let’s try to remember…. hmmmm …. and let’s keep those comments to ourselves, please (**say that a little devilishly and wait for the laugh**) Remember how we set up camp and foraged… how we fended for ourselves…. how we found nourishment in those back to nature baloney sandwiches (**Or name some other weird food you used to bring with you on camping trips**)…. well, John, now you can think back at those times and realize they primed you for your roll as “housekeeper/chef” in your new marriage!! And what about those times we went fishing? Looking back on those adventures has given you the experience to help Trish with food prep and clean up… Trish-yes, he does know how to catch and clean a fish (**I hope he does! If not, you can relate another activity he did while fishing).** All I can say is, **Knife skills,** Trish, knife skills-don’t let him try to convince you otherwise!! Ah…yes, I remember all of those fishing trips when we had such great bonding time… I was hooked!! (**Wait for the groan**). Your passion for sports, especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have helped to teach you all of the positive aspects of real teamwork-see Trish-there’s a real upside to being immersed in Sunday football!! (**Or name another sport John may be obsessed with**). Forget about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**name 2 teammates John likes in a favorite sport**) you and John make a great team and “Dynamic Duo!” John, I also have to say that your finely honed charm and ability to navigate a party will serve you well as host in your new home and marriage. We’re all waiting for the first invitations!! To all of the guests here, just wait-even if he weren’t the groom, he’d be the life of this party!! Trish… It takes a strong and special woman to keep up with this guy, and I know you’re just the one to be able to do it!! John, you’re funny, smart, extravagant and witty. As you and Trish think of life as **your** party, I’m sure each one of us would want to be around to celebrate both of you for a long, **LONG** time!

John and Trish, you’re beginning on the greatest adventure of your lives. It was destiny that the two of you should meet, and the love and caring you have for each other is mutual and inspiring. We all hear how love and marriage is work, but it’s **teamwork,** and that’s the best kind of work. You’re each other’s “everything” and all of us are inspired by the mutual love that fills this room. There’s an old adage that teaches us, “Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.” I know it’s safe to say that is the case with the both of you. John, I’ve already said it-you’re smart, funny, and you play all out. Trish brings out even more of your good points and knows how to temper those “other” facets, and that’s the beauty of being a loving couple. The way you care for and about each other inspires each one of us to want to have the same kind of love in our lives, and all of us celebrate both of you tonight and always.

Jerry Seinfeld has been quoted as saying, “Being a good husband is like being a good stand-up comic-you need ten years before you can even call yourself a beginner.” For more wisdom in marriage he also said, “Men want to make women happy. We want to do it. We don't know how to do it. Sometimes we do it, and we don't know how we did it. We can't ask how we did it because it looks like you don't know what you're doing. We can't do **nothing**. If you do nothing, she says 'I can't believe you're doing that.' We say 'I'm not doing anything.' She starts crying.” And **THAT**, ladies and gentlemen, explains the mystery of life AND love. Just remember John, “Happy wife, Happy life.”

Back in the middle ages, marriages were arranged… I guess that’s why the groom had to do the kidnapping thing. It’s been said that bridesmaids were used as sort of “decoys” to distract evil spirits from finding the bride. It’s also been thought that the tradition of throwing rice at the happy couple was to feed those same evil spirits to keep them from doing harm to the bride and groom. One tradition that has developed over time is the sweet and touching moment when the best man… hopefully after he survives dealing with the bride’s family (**Wait for the laugh**) offers a toast to the bride and groom, and I would like to invite all of you to join me right now. May I invite each of you to raise a glass as we offer a toast to the new Mr. and Mrs. John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

In the words of the ancient Chinese proverb:

Ten thousand things bright

Ten thousand miles, no dust

Water and sky one color

Houses shining along your road.

Congratulations, health, happiness and humor always! Thank you!