13797 Peter Bullock – Best Man

First, let me say the bridesmaids look absolutely stunning. Their beauty is only outshone by Joelle, my brother’s beautiful bride. Gentlemen, I’m certain you agree with me that today is a sad day for single men as another beauty leaves the available list. Just as I’m sure you single ladies agree that today passes by uneventfully and without a ripple because there is one less single man.

My brother Dave and I are extremely close. I consider it a blessing to have him as my best friend as well as my older brother. We weren’t always this close. We had the normal sibling rivalry when we were young. Dave tended to be the mastermind of many of our pranks. But, I’ll always be proud of the time I convinced him that he was adopted. Our mother was not so proud, especially since she had to convince him otherwise. As we grew up we became very close, especially when Dave lost his ability to beat me up.

Today we are extremely close and I attribute it to the amount of time Dave and I spent bonding over the years. We played baseball in the backyard, pulled pranks on the pizza delivery guy and convinced Dave to initiate my friends into the gang. He accomplished that feat by convincing them to dress as super heroes and direct traffic in front of our home.

Our closeness grew over time in direct proportion to our escapades. As we navigated our way around Europe, hung out with the goon squad at Juniata, and cheered for the Phillies in the World Series you can be sure the Bullock brothers left our mark, and a few empty beer cans. I can’t wait for our next adventure.

You may or may not know that Dave was a bit of a wild man during his college years. For that reason I didn’t think much about it when he told me he was dating a girl he just met. I didn’t find out until later that he showed up for their first date 20 minutes late and the date ended with the ever promising hand shake. Somehow he managed to convince Joelle to go out with him again. Over the next few months they shared countless dinners, bottles of red wine and an awkward bear language they used to communicate. They also enjoyed some great costumes, especially a homemade bear costume for Halloween.

Through all these great adventures and wonderful memories their relationship blossomed and they fell in love. Before I realized it I found myself trying to hide behind a lamp post to take a photo of Dave proposing at the museum. Let’s just say I needed a little bit larger lamp post to cover my derriere. Despite that, the photo came out great and everyone was thrilled to learn they were getting married.

Lots of people have older brothers, but few of them are lucky enough to have older brothers who are role models. Dave has been my role model throughout my life. His intelligence, athleticism, work ethic and fun loving attitude are just a few of his attributes that I attempt to emulate. He’s one of my main advocates, my greatest teacher and a shoulder to lean on when I need it. I know that Dave’s close friends agree when I say we all consider ourselves blessed to know you and have you in our lives. We are better for your kind words, your great advice, your sense of adventure and a level of energy that is highly contagious. Sadly, our father cannot be with us today to share this beautiful affair. But, I know he is with us in spirit and he is extremely proud of my big brother.

Joelle, first let me welcome to having a much shorter and easier to pronounce last name. Normally, here is where I should welcome you to the family, but then I would be lying. You’ve been a part of this family for a long time now. You’re beautiful inside and out, smart, kind, and compassionate and caring. Most of all, you make my brother happy in a way I never could. Best of all, when Dave got together with you I didn’t lose my best friend, I gained a new one.

People say there’s two surefire ways to get to know someone. You travel with them, which I’ve done, or you live with them. I want to add an advanced category. If you want to get to know a couple, live with them right after they have a baby. This experience has shown me a true glimpse of both Dave and Joelle’s character. Through all the sleepless nights, some nonsensical arguments, as well as a few bizarre incidents, I can honestly say Dave and Joelle are amazing parents as well as an amazing couple. They show the love, devotion and compassion equally to each other and to their son James. I am confident James will grow up in a loving home with two of the best parents I know.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in a toast to Dave and Joelle. May they share joy, happiness and health for many years to come.