BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

AARON READ

Hello everyone!! It’s so great to be here at the wedding of Lindsay and Connor and it is a real privilege and pleasure to be Connor’s best man. For those of you that may not know, I am Connor’s older brother Aaron. Few people in this room know him longer or better than I do… but because this is such a special and elegant occasion…my lips are sealed! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s been said that it takes two men to make a brother and that is certainly the case with us. It also took those same two men… to watch each other grow and learn and remain close friends in adulthood. Even though we’re different ages it was fascinating to watch you as you grew up. I am honored to be your best man on this… probably one of the most special days of your life and I know I will never forget having the honor of standing up for you as you took your vows with Lindsay. I would also like to say on behalf of everyone in the wedding party that we thank you for letting us all be such an integral part of such an important day. The planning, preparing, partying… all in the name of real true love!! It has been a blast and we are all thrilled that the two of you get to be together and spread the joy that is so obvious when the two of you are together.

Connor, we all now know that I am your big brother and we **BOTH** know I have witnessed you go through quite a few phases in your life. Seeing you now as a married man with this great woman at your side really shows how far you’ve come in life. And take it from me everyone, the transformation is **AMAZING**!! We all face obstacles and challenges in life, but today is living proof of your strength and determination. You have built an impressive life for yourself both professionally and personally with Lindsay and I cannot imagine that it could be possible to be more proud of you than I am today. I consider myself lucky to have you as my brother and friend.

Lindsay, from the day we met I knew that you were perfect for Connor…. or let’s be a little more specific… from the day my kids met you I knew. One of the most beautiful things about children is that they have an innate sense of truth. They have a way of spotting authenticity and inner goodness in people. It’s like they can see right into your soul. They may not understand the technical terms involved, but I will never forget both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were ready to go home with you five minutes after they met you. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)… Yup. 5 minutes later and it was like Daddy **WHO**??? (**And wait for the laugh**). There is something about you… maybe it’s the “**Lindsay Factor**” that just hooks people… Intelligence, thoughtfulness, beauty and a low key but funny personality all wrapped up into one great young woman. Connor could not have found a more perfect partner in crime… and in life. And let’s be honest without that “**Lindsay Factor**” … your positive influence on Connor is obvious, and without it he just might still have been death growling in a band while sporting hair past his shoulders. For those of you that might have missed that phase, believe me… it was sort of epic… or not… (**Wait for the laugh**). You’ve been the constant, positive inspiration in his life…. ah the things a man will do for the woman he loves… if she’s **not** into metal… On behalf of our family and Connor’s friends. Thank you. We owe you. (**Say this with exaggerated humbleness and wait for the laugh**).

With this wedding you are now officially together and the future is waiting for you. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few things to keep in mind as you walk along the path of life together. Connor, I might not be wiser than you… nooooo I am **NOT** in Mensa, but I am older and there’s something to be said for wisdom and experience. Don’t sweat the small stuff and do what it takes to **NOT** make mistakes that cannot be fixed. Take responsibility for **ALL OF IT**…. the good, the bad, and everything in between. Connor, I know how seriously you contemplate just about every decision you make in life. Keep this in mind- choosing the person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life is probably the biggest decision you will ever have to make… and you hit the nail on the head!! As you go through life together, give yourself the chance to have perspective. Step back together and assess your options. Trust yourself and each other. Have each other’s back. Always communicate. Share what’s going on… come to think of it, I don’t think that would be much of an issue for the two of you… In the times when we’ve been together-when you’ve come down to New York, I would have to say that it was pretty clear you have the verbal communication thing down…but observing the two of you makes me think of how important it is to say what you feel … respectfully and kindly. Consider each other’s opinions and space. We all have our own unique points of view and no two people see the same thing in exactly the same way. That’s what makes life so fascinating. Remember to empathize-place yourself in the other’s shoes. You’re both young and have a lot of growing to do as husband and wife and hopefully as parents… no pressure… after all you’ve been married for what? Two… three hours already?!?! (**Wait for the laugh**). Just remember you are better together. You give strength to each other and you make a great team. Connor, I remember that when you were a kid how much you loved to spend time with our father going to the movies. Well, the world is now yours and Lindsay’s and the screenplay of your lives is ready….

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to ask you to raise your glasses as I propose a toast: Here’s to Lindsay and Connor, May the sum of your hopes and dreams lead to only the best of love, luck, health and great fortune. I can’t imagine two more loving or wonderful people and your bright future is waiting to unfold! Congratulations! We love you!

Thank you all!