BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

DAVID NEUFELD

Hello everyone!! It’s really great to be here and I am honored to be David’s Best Man at his wedding to Margaret. I’m so happy to be able to celebrate with David for so many reasons. First of all, it’s really special to be back in the states and to be able to spend some more time with David and to get to know Margaret better. In the past David and I were really close, so knowing that he’s chosen Margaret as his partner in life lets me know she must be special! How well do I know him? For those of you that may not know, I know David really, **really** well! We grew up together…. and there was definitely good reason for that… some of you may notice that the groom and I look kind of similar… I hear some of you think we look **VERY** much alike, and although there have been theories throughout history stating that in some way, shape or form, we are **all** related, in this case it’s true!! David and I are cousins!

Some of my earliest memories are of hanging out and playing with him. We spent the earliest part of our lives together… from age one to age thirteen we were best friends… and then I moved to Canada with my family. There have been quotes and sayings and probably even jokes about cousins, but I think the phrase that rings true for me is the one that says, “ Friends are forever…. Cousins are for **LIFE!**” And that’s certainly true with us. Distance and time may have separated us, but I would not want to be anywhere but here, witnessing this really important moment in my friend and cousin’s life.

I guess it’s obvious that we have so much in common besides our DNA and our name. Our similarities apparently extend to our “ devilish good looks…” and from what I’ve heard, ours is not the only resemblance at this wedding…You can also see the strong family ties and likeness between Margaret and her sister Nancy, her Maid of Honor… so I hope no one got concerned or thought they were seeing double during the ceremony… Think of Nancy and me as sort of the stand-ins??? …Stunt doubles?? … for the bride and groom! And by the way, there’s an easy way to tell us apart…. David and Margaret are the two that have those beautiful new and shiny wedding bands on their ring fingers!! Yeah!! That’s the clue! (**Wait for the laugh**).

The David I knew growing up was a really great kid. Although he was quiet and shy, he was always a true gentle soul and a gentleman and I have always had tremendous respect for him…. even as a kid…. especially when he worked so hard to keep me in line and keep the both of us out of trouble!! David, I don’t know if you realized this as we grew up together, but I always looked up to you and I still do. And if I haven’t said it before or said it enough, thanks for being the voice of reason and for watching **BOTH** of **OUR** backs!! (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) … Good lookin’ out David!! (**And wait for the laugh**). I will say, however, that I remember **ONE** incident… and folks, this is probably the **ONLY** dirt I have on David… this gives you an idea of his calm, even, gentlemanly manner… here goes… (**You can say a little mischievously**)… Are you getting nervous my friend???? This is probably the only time he ever was mad at me… that I can remember. Maybe I’m in denial… maybe he has **OTHER** stories about **ME**, but I remember when we were younger he always had a big stash of candy and I stole a pack of gum from him. **He was annoyed**. That it. That’s all I got!! (**I think it would be cute if you got the same pack of gum and gave it back to him and said**)… and this has really bothered me for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, so I have to make amends. Here’s the gum. Let’s start fresh!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

(**Turn to Margaret and say**) Margaret, it saddens me that I didn’t have the chance to meet you sooner, or to be there as your romance unfolded… as David met you, fell in love with you, and realized you are **THE ONE**. But knowing David as well as I do, and knowing how much he cares for you, I am looking forward to your future life together and getting to know you in the coming months and years. Let’s face it; our family has grown for the better today as we welcome you and your family to ours. We both know that David is a patient, devoted, and calming force and as he practiced on me to keep me focused and grounded and centered… even as kids, I know that in your marriage the two of you will bring out the best in each other. Knowing David as I do I am sure he will be the perfect husband, and remember- I looked up to him when we were young, as he set the bar for what makes a true gentleman. Someday I hope to find the true love the two of you have found.

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say. If no toast you can just say the last paragraph**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom:

To David and Margaret here’s to a life of love and devotion, health and happiness, partnership and prosperity, humor and respect, faith and understanding, and may all of the love that is in this room tonight be with you always. Congratulations!