FATHER OF THE GROOM/BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

LARRY BROWN

Hello everyone!!! It is so wonderful to be here at Morgan and Dustin’s wedding!! It has always been an honor to be Dustin’s father and today I am thrilled to also have the unusual and joyful privilege to be Dustin’s best man. (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) Dustin, you know your mother and I love you, your brother Rocky and your sisters Cheri and Rachelle equally but I have to say…and pay attention kids…. Best man…. equals **slight** edge…… (**And wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, we are thrilled to finally have Morgan “officially” in our family and we want to express very special congratulations to our newly extended clan: To Jeanine and Al and Samantha and Kim, Donna and I want to welcome all of you and we look forward to many wonderful, shared moments as our families grow together.

I was so flattered that Dustin asked me to be his best man- so much so that I wanted to be the **BEST** best man possible, so I did some research. I researched “best man duties” and discovered all kinds of things like: I would have to be his personal aide and adviser before and during the wedding, I would have to help him pack for the honeymoon- as needed, as best man I’d help him choose his wedding finery, I’d keep him on track, organize other celebrations, give a toast to the happy couple…. and then I realized that it sounds like the best man is really like the father, and I thought, **“I’VE GOT THIS!!”** So here we are!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

To know Dustin is to love him- just ask Morgan. To be Dustin’s father? Well, it’s a joy. Dustin is smart and resourceful, loyal and creative, (**If there are other adjectives that describe Dustin more accurately please use those**) and if you happen to be a golf ball, Dustin will annihilate you!! Besides his love for Morgan, it’s safe to say that he is a certified golfaholic. Although when Dustin was growing up I was **somewhat** dedicated to my job…. Okay I worked around **a hundred hours a week**, I’m happy to say that over the years we have happily become very close and I really do consider him not just my son but also my close friend. To paraphrase the words from the comedian Louis C.K., “…I’ve made a lot of mistakes and I don’t know what I’m doing… most of the time… as a father, but my kids love me. Go figure.” Heaven knows… I love them.

When Dustin decided to move to Florida and to move in with two female friends from high school, it seemed like possibly not the best idea… kind of like a flashback to that show “Three’s Company…” hopefully most of you are too young to know what I’m talking about, but it proved to be the most auspicious decision of his life. Shortly after he moved there, a third young woman moved in as well, and that was Morgan. Although it might have taken her a little bit longer to warm to the idea, Dustin was smitten, almost from the very beginning. The other two friends, (**Are they at the wedding? If so, it might be nice to name them**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ moved to Tennessee and the rest is… well… here we are!!

It’s obvious how much Dustin loves Morgan but I can see he does like to keep her on her toes…Who will ever forget the evening that Dustin took Morgan out to dinner… but first he wanted to stop at (**name the jewelry store**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_s to look at a Rolex he was thinking of getting. “**A ROLEX?!(\*&!?!!? Really???”** Morgan was ready to make this whole thing official, Dustin said he couldn’t afford a ring and he was **LOOKING AT A ROLEX?** **WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE???** Apparently **NOTHING** was wrong… in fact everything could NOT have been more **RIGHT**… especially when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brought out the ring box from the back of the store and Dustin proposed.

Well, he may not have gotten the Rolex…. yet, but we’ve gotten a wonderful, dedicated, loving daughter-in-law. All one has to do is see the light in Morgan’s eyes when she speaks of her students and you **KNOW** what a kind, supportive person she is. Teaching is her passion and encouraging her kids means the world to her. She gives tirelessly to her students and spends hours each evening working on projects to inspire her class. Last year she presented a challenge: if they proved that they read more books than any other class, she would do something special for them. They did and as their prize they wanted this gorgeous bride to dress up as a clown…red nose, painted face and all!!! And she did!! In this day and age when teachers and the education system itself are under such close scrutiny, it’s so refreshing to see someone that genuinely cares and I am proud that she part of our family now.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom.

Shakespeare said, “When a father gives to a son, both laugh; when a son gives to a father, both cry.” Dustin, I can’t even tally how much you’ve given to me; so needless to say, I honor you as you’ve honored me. Here’s to you and Morgan. May you both live in love and happiness, peace and harmony for many, many lifetimes. Congratulations! We love you!