BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

STEVE SCHNACKEL

Hello everyone! I’m Brian’s brother Steve and I am very proud to be here to “stand up” for my brother as he marries Shannyn. This is a very special day for the Schnackel family as we celebrate this beautiful couple. I’d like to welcome Shannyn to our family. This is a major turning point in Brian’s life and I think we would all agree that weddings are the time we tend to look back, so let’s get a glimpse of what life was like “Growing Up Schnackel.”

A woman named Pamela Dugdale once said, “Siblings are the people we practice on, the people who teach us about fairness and cooperation and kindness and caring-**quite often the hard way**.” Brian… are you **SURE** you never met this woman?? (**Wait for the laugh**) I can’t imagine what my life would have been like without Brian. No. Really. He’s always been there… mainly because he’s three years older than me. My big brother… My guiding light… My…. well… It’s amazing to be here at this wedding, and after I give you all a little peek into what it was like back in the good old days, you’ll see why I really mean it when I say, It’s **amazing** to be **ANYWHERE**. Don’t worry… I haven’t gone all soft and misty…. I mean it!! Having Brian as my older brother taught me to stand on my own two feet… if I was **able**… He taught me so many things…. Who can ever forget the time when I was one and Brian was my big, strong, four year old brother. … that is… strong enough to throw away my bottles…. (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes, thanks to Brian I learned, “Do I **REALLY** need nourishment to grow and become strong? Isn’t formula **overrated**?” (**Wait for the laugh**). Somehow I grew… well at least I got older… and Brian’s concern for me never ceased. He continued to have my best interests at heart… I really **DO** want to believe that… especially when he decided to teach me physics and gravitational pull when I was five years old and he knocked me off Dad’s ottoman and I landed right in the middle of the fireplace!!! Good aim Brian!! (**Wait for the laugh**). As far as I can remember there was no fire burning at the time… uh… Bri (**or use whatever nickname you call him**)… was that good news or bad?? (**Wait for the laugh**) But fortunately I did **NOT** have to dress as a “**smore**” for Halloween that year… Somehow I made it to my **sixth** year of life… maybe that was his devious plan… keep me alive to test out new techniques… who will ever forget the time we played forts with a whole bunch of pillows and somehow, by some twist of … who knows what… I wound up getting a golf club to the head… Is it just me or did the cavalry **ALL** have golf clubs in their forts? (**Wait for the laugh**). Through it all Brian was and is a great older brother, always showing me the **ropes** for all aspects of life… and the **golf clubs**… and the **fireplaces**… and…. you get the idea. As the saying goes…. and I have to remember this one too… “I smile because you’re my brother. I laugh because there’s nothing you can do about it!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Some people go to “Whole Paycheck” I mean… Whole Foods… to find fresh produce, great sustainable products…. twenty dollar bars of soap… (**Wait for the laugh**), but Brian, being the great, charismatic, wonderful guy that he is, found **L-O-V-E** and as J-Lo taught us, “Love don’t cost a thing…” which is good because it all goes to the food bill anyway! (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes, our bride and groom met at work, at Whole Foods…. Dare I say, “**Pick up in aisle 5??”** (**Wait for the laugh**).

I may kid about my older brother, but there’s one thing I have to say. When it comes down to it, he’s the real deal. We joke… he’s can be a character, but he knows what he wants. And he knew he wanted Shannyn in his life. He was even inspired to go to a Lady Gaga concert… **TWICE**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I also will never forget back in 2011 he showed me a handwritten letter that Shannyn had written and he told me then that he thought she would be his wife and here we are!

And Shannyn is great for Brian. You can see her determination in everything she does, and her skiing technique is a metaphor for the way she takes on challenges in life… like that trip to Breckenridge… the hill seemed too steep but she faced it on her own terms. And after she thought about it, she made a plan and conquered that slope! Brian… you **KNOW** that Shannyn has the strength and determination to overcome **ANY** challenge… even if you **DARE** to try anything if she’s sitting on an ottoman next to a fireplace!! Watch out!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Brian, you a great brother, a wonderful friend, a fantastic uncle to our (my?) son, David, and now you’re a loving, caring, resourceful husband to beautiful Shannyn. Like I said earlier, I really cannot imagine life without you and now that you are married, I can’t wait to hear of all of your adventures with your newly extended family.

(**You can propose a toast now- it might be funny if instead of raising a glass you find a really big baby bottle and fill it with champagne**)

I would like to ask all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom (**You raise the baby bottle and make sure everyone sees it**).

Here’s to Shannyn and Brian…. You already have the “**formula**” for happiness… may you share many, **MANY** years of health, happiness and togetherness, and may the “**forts**” you build together be comfortable, safe and loving!! Congratulations! We love you!