**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**TONY RISNER**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone! My name is Tony and I am so proud to be here as best man, standing up for my great old friend, Jason.... or as he is more well-known, Doc, as he marries his beautiful bride Kristin. Since Jason and I go back.... way.... way... **WAY** back... like... I'm not bragging but I heard the first words out of his mouth were... "Tony... Wanna go out and play?" .... Of course I was the only one who understood the code... you may call it baby talk... but we knew... (**Wait for the laugh**), you can really understand that we have truly spent our entire lives as "brothers from another mother." And speaking of mothers, I want to extend very special congratulations to Doc's mom, Betty... you and I always got along so great, and as we both know this moment is that much more special because, well... it took a while for Doc to find his other half. Doc, I know your Dad, Tom is watching over you and Kristin and I am sure he is very happy and proud of you. I would also like to acknowledge Kristin's parents, Doug and Peggy. I'm pretty sure by now you know how special Jason is and I know your daughter must be **at least** as special.... I mean... Doc was pretty used to the single life til Kristin came along!! Thank goodness she did! I don't think he's ever been as happy... to Kristin's maids of honor, Whitney and Jenn, you both look beautiful and I am sure you have served and stood by Kristin very well today... that's what friends are for!

Let's go back, back, way back in time... to Hensley Drive. There's an old Dolly Parton song called "Two Doors Down." Well, we lived **three** doors down.... but who's counting... actually, when we met, who even knew what counting was? We were babies! (**Wait for the laugh**). Actually when you think about it, Doc and I have really known each other for our **entire** lives. Neither of us can recall a time when we weren't friends, and that really makes us more like family. Our subdivision on Hensley had lots of kids (**If any of your other friends are present you can mention them as well**) ... in fact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are also with us today.... and as we get older, we realize that it's those friendships that we formed so many years ago that mean so much to us today. We both grew up on that street and lived there until we were old enough to go our separate ways.... I married my beautiful wife Jennifer and Doc moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to practice his fishing.... well actually, for those of you that really know him, you **KNOW** he's a great fisherman... Right? (**Wait for the laugh**). PS.... (**Make a gesture like you're whispering to the crowd and say**) By the way... don't make a big deal about this to him, but I usually catch more fish... (**And wait for the laugh**). But back when we were kids, we were together all of the time playing cops and robbers, basketball, baseball, you name it, we played it.... and what I am reminded of is that one of the main places we would play was the base of a house... we called it "The Foundation" because after all, that's what it was...and it proved to be the setting and **foundation** for our entire lives... of sharing a great friendship. Those were great times... no technology... no cares... just fun times forming great memories.

Doc dedicated most of his early adulthood to exploring and living the single life and although we had moved on from Hensley, we were always there for each other. And whether we were fishing or hunting or playing golf.... going to Cubs games or cheering on the Bears, we both have always known that distance doesn't matter when it comes to true friendship.

Jason loves to have fun. He had and has a wonderful life... and although he's funny and friendly, we also know that he is the kind of friend that has your back. He would do almost anything for a friend and that's one rare quality that you just can't trade or make up or put into words... Jason is genuine... and that's how I knew that finally, when he met the woman that would be by his side forever, she obviously had and has to be pretty special.

Kristin, Although we don't know each other very well.... **yet**.... I know that if Doc wants to spend the rest of his life with you.... that's enough for me.... after all, I know what it means to have him as an FFL ... friend for life!! I also know what it means to finally find and have THE ONE by your side through thick and thin... and let me tell you, I KNOW you chose a GOOD ONE!! Just keep telling him he's a great fisherman and you'll be fine!! (**Wait of the laugh**).

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Jason and Kristin.... two things in life that are really rare and precious... genuine friendship and true love. I know the two of you have both. May you have a life filled with friendship and fun, love and health, happiness and prosperity... Congratulations!