**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**NICK HOLSOPPLE**

Hello everyone! It’s great to be here, to have the chance to celebrate two special people that could not be more right for one another, and to have the privilege to stand up as Best Man for a guy who is more like a brother to me. To the families of both Luke and Beth, congratulations and thank you for making all of this possible. What a memorable and fun night we have ahead of us!!!

For those of you that may not know me, I’m Nick.... I’m one of Luke’s closest friends... I **think**... and yes... Luke and I go back.... waaaaayyyyy back... we met on the playground of St David’s preschool twenty years ago.... and we’ve been kind of inseparable since then. I consider Luke like a brother and my mom thinks of him as her “second son...” which is great, but my father??? In his eyes, Luke can **Do. No. Wrong**... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) ... thanks for raising the bar, Buddy... (**And wait for the laugh**).

Luke and I grew up side by side, living lives as intertwined and shared as two kids can be. We shared our paths growing up... first riding pedal bikes... advancing to dirt bikes... daring to tackle quads... Now that we’re getting a bit older, we still “roll” together... hunting and fishing and continuing to do what close friends do... we’re there for one another. We’ve experienced a lot of firsts together.... First day of grade school... first day of middle school... first day of high school... first jobs working construction together... first ride in a cop car together... (**If you want you can say**)... we were **VOLUNTEERING** (**and make “air quotes” and wait for the laugh**). We also made our first trip to Nashville for Luke’s bachelor party.... (**If you want, you can turn to Beth and say**).... Don’t worry Beth, that’s **not** where we met the **inside** of the cop car... (**and wait for the laugh**). Luke... as you all know... is funny, caring, thoughtful, generous, kind, witty... he loves the outdoors almost more than he loves food, and... (**turn to Luke and say**) ... uh... Luke??? I can’t read what else you wrote here... (**and wait for the laugh**).

As I was thinking about this wedding and what I might say, my mind drifted back a few years... to our senior prom... Luke, Beth, and I were there (**mention a couple of other friends that are at the wedding**), along with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but one thing stands out in my mind. At one point, I looked across the table, and there were Luke and Beth... it seemed like they were in their own little world together... they were having a ball...just the two of them... laughing and dancing, and truly, genuinely, enjoying and appreciating each other... At that moment, I really **GOT IT** and I realized and began to believe that what they had, and what they have now, is obviously something special.... and that world they began to build back then just keeps growing and getting stronger. I sensed it back at the prom... and I wasn’t wrong.... because here we are, celebrating their bond.

Beth... I want you to know that I’ve always admired you... your ability to “roll with the punches...” or the quads... or the bikes and the “squad...” **especially** with this group of guys. We may not be the easiest group to “conquer” and get along with, but you did it!!! You fit in!!! It’s been great getting to know you over the past several years... and it’s been great seeing you and Luke together... I can’t imagine that Luke could have ever found a more perfect match for his wife for the rest of his life...

I think it’s best for me to wrap this up right about now... first of all, we know that long Best Man speeches have a way of, well... you know... keep it short... keep it moving... especially since we all know that every second I go on takes time away from Luke on that dance floor...”**busting moves**” and that “**UGH**” twangy country music he loves so much.... on **second** **thought**... (**reach into your pocket and take out a really loooong piece of paper... it could be funny to scribble on toilet paper and have it unroll... if you don’t think that’s too gross... and wait for the laugh).**

I’d like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast... a little while ago, someone special told me, “Don’t marry the person you can live with, marry the person you can’t live without...” I really believe that is exactly what Beth and Luke have done tonight, so....

To Beth and Luke... here’s to a lifetime of love, happiness, friendship, adventure, and more than you might ever wish for.... let the good times roll!!! Congratulations and thank you!!