**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ADAM McCANN**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I’m Adam, Aaron’s brother. I know I speak for my family when I say that we are really happy for Aaron and Rachel and I personally am both very honored and excited to stand up for my brother as best man as he and Rachel “make it official.” I’d also like to extend congratulations to Rachel’s family, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and (**include Rachel’s brothers and sisters if you feel it’s appropriate**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as we all take our places and share in this new, extended family.

There was never a dull moment growing up with Aaron as my older brother... and it was like having a built in best friend since we’re only fourteen months apart in age. There have been so many memories etched into my brain.... (**For a little joke, do you want to add**) .... but I don’t want to scare Rachel this early in the marriage... (**and wait for the laugh**), so I’ll just tell a few.... Aaron and I lived together in Vancouver, Washington. I was attending college and Aaron occasionally attended (**not clear if Aaron took individual courses or was enrolled full time and just showed up when he chose... if the latter, you can say the following... if not, skip the sentence**) ... yes... he was a “stealth” student.... that is, he showed up randomly... you know... to keep things interesting and to keep his instructors guessing... (**and wait for the laugh**). That apartment we shared was within walking distance of the school which was a really good thing.... you see we... or more specifically Aaron... wasn’t particularly “lucky” with vehicles...While back in the old days, The Beach Boys would sing about having fun fun fun in a T-Bird, Aaron didn’t get that far... and neither did that car... it was “vintage”... ‘84.... and I guess we can estimate that’s about how many miles Aaron was able to squeeze out of it before it chose to break down for good... probably just to be relieved of the misery of being at Aaron’s mercy... so... guess what? Guess whose car was the next to be road tested on the way to and from work? You **GOT IT**!!! My ‘86 Chevy Suburban Diesel... sounds like it would be able to take some punishment, no??? **NO**!!! Within weeks the speeding tickets began flooding our mailbox back home... the car was registered to our parents, and then the fun **REALLY** started... show of hands... who knows how to fix a cracked fuel filter and housing? Guess what??? **I** **DO**!! **Now**!! Yes...Aaron was driving when the damage occurred... I’m scared to ask **how**...and he wound up stranded. A friend gave me a ride so I could “help out a brother....” literally, and somehow I managed to plug the crack with... **ready**? ... chewing gum... no, the **flavor** didn’t matter (**Wait for the laugh**), an ear plug, and duct tape. The fix was good enough to get the car back home, but Aaron had to find new wheels... knowing his history... and maybe a secret longing to be in the Tour de France.... Aaron relied on his trusty old bicycle to get back and forth to and from work every day at a local floral nursery...welll it wasn’t **REALLY** local... fourteen miles each way.. twenty eight miles round trip... I think Rachel must have married Aaron for his well developed hamstrings and quads... (**Wait for the laugh**)... and while he was peddling... I replaced the bubble gum and ear plug with some JB weld...the first week it happened... but I kind of “forgot” to tell Aaron so he kept pedaling... back and forth the entire summer... and he didn’t realize it until one day he saw the Suburban parked in a different lot... Aaron... my buddy... my **BROTHER**... I was saving you from **YOURSELF**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). (**Turn to Rachel and say...**) Rachel... I hope you’re taking notes... this is **VALUABLE** stuff I’m telling here!! ... and remember... try not to let him have the car keys and always keep chewing gum and ear plugs on hand... **JUST** in case!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Ah...Aaron... I once saw a guy with a tattoo that wrapped around his upper arm... it said, “Take my wheels and I’ll still roll.” I think that sums you up... happy, determined...easy going...dedicated...committed... and now you’re “rolling deep” with your **wife**... and although we’re all gathered here today to celebrate you and Rachel, distance didn’t really allow us to give you an “official” bachelor party, but there **WAS** that “**unofficial**” one.... it was fifteen years ago... when we lived together in college... Aaron and I and two friends decided to go to a very large club in Portland.. I remember we could barely afford the drinks... and when our server asked what special occasion we were celebrating, I... the MacGyver of fuel filters and all other things, hatched a plan... I told her we were there for Aaron’s **BACHELOR PARTY**... and before we knew it... **FREE ROUND OF SHOTS**!! And then Aaron was called to the DJ’s stage with four other contestants... who weren’t **NEARLY** as enthusiastic as our guy, for a **PUSH UP** contest!! Aaron was last to be announced but first to remove his shirt, flex for the crowd, and “get to work.” The third competitor dropped out at eighty five pushups leaving our man Aaron, last man standing... or pushing up...and the crowd went wild and cheered him to **ONE HUNDRED**!!! We got many more free rounds of drinks that night... and lucky they were free, because we were then able to afford the cab ride home. I can only imagine what we would have won if there were a **pedaling** contest!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Yes, having a brother like Aaron has been a real wild ride and I wouldn’t trade it for anything. And now a new chapter begins for him and Rachel and I know we are all excited to share in making new memories and putting more “mileage” on our close bond. I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Rachel and Aaron, here’s to a life together filled with love and happiness, family and friendship, and more than you might ever wish for... Congratulations! We love you!! Thank you all!!