**[EZ Speech Writers No. 14921]**

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Remarks by Best Man Jeremy Sellers on the occasion of the marriage of his best friend, Matt [last name], presented on [date] at Cambridge Mill Hall, Ontario, Canada.

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hello there, everybody. my name’s jeremy sellers, and i’m matt’s best man tonight — or at least i’m the best man he could dig up to spearhead the celebration of the death of his bachelorhood. But i hasten to add that this a joyous occasion, because who *wouldn’t* want to give up bachelorhood for a woman as gorgeous, as sweet, and as capable as . . . [gesture toward the bride] . . . the lovely and beautiful [full name of bride]? [anticipate applause]

[gesturing toward matt] . . . matthew, old man: you might have made some questionable choices in your life, but marrying [first name of bride] sure as hell wasn’t one of ‘em! I mean, after all: how often does a guy find a girl who’ll both love him and *also* let him watch all the football games he wants to on the weekends, and only complains the teeniest, tiniest little bit?!? for that alone, matt, you’re a lucky and blessed man.

but matt’s been blessed in a number of ways, all throughout his life. one way, obviously, was his good looks . . . [gesturing toward matt] . . . you handsome devil, you! . . . but another was his tremendous athletic ability to go alone with those good looks. y’know, i first met matt when we were both playing football for the syracuse orange and he turned out to be one damned fine quarterback. i could tell you a ton of stories about matt and his exploits, but two of the funniest had nothing to do with his personality *or* his athletics achievements. they had to do with the simple fact that matthew [last name] is a canadian.

So there was this one time that matt and i were asked to represent the syracuse orange at a community service event to honor some local school kids. I was the driver and Matt was providing navigation. One of the directional commands he gives me was to “turn left on bear street.” well, there *was* no bear street in syracuse back then, so After driving around and around for damned near 15 minutes looking for this “bear street,” i finally snatched the direction out of matt’s hands to see if i could decipher what it was he was trying to tell me. So i’m reading the directions out loud and come to a line that says, “bear left past the intersection.” “you got bear problems down here at intersections?” Matt asked incredulously. No, I explained. “Bear left” just means to *turn* left past the intersection, and he says, “you americans talk funny; we never use ‘bear’ up in canada unless there’s one about to eat us.”

but his canadian ancestry wasn’t through putting matt on the spot that day. You see, we’d thought originally that we were just supposed to show up at the school, sign a few autographs as “orangemen,” hang with the kids for a while, then leave. we didn’t realize that our visit was actually the centerpiece of a whole organized event, which ended up with these two rather large football player types — matt and me — scrunched down into a couple of really, *really* small chairs in the middle of a gym filled with 50 or 60 grade-school kids, getting ready to read some stories to them out loud. And of course, like most assemblies in American schools, everyone was first asked to rise and recite the pledge of allegiance together. well, you should’ve seen the look of utter fear and perplexity in matt’s eyes when he heard this! they were big as saucers, and he turned to me and whispered, “dude, you’re gonna have to take this one yourself. i can’t hardly remember the words to *“oh, canada!”* [anticipate possible laughter.]

but to tell you the truth, one of the best things that came out of that experience was that it brought matt and me closer together, and very soon afterward, we became roommates at college and have remained BFFs ever since.

so what else can i tell you about matt [last name] that you might not already know? he’s still a bit of a jock, of course, but he’s also as loyal, dependable, and reliable a true friend as a guy could ever have. he’s funny as hell, too, and yet he doesn’t take himself too seriously at all. he’s always there for you when you need him, and you’ll never hear him say “no” if there’s ever any way for him to be of help or service to others. he’s also competitive as hell. he’s one of the most competitive people i’ve ever met, in fact. i mean: how many people work up a sweat just playing video games?!?. matt does, but then, matt does *everything* at “compete level: high.” that’s just who matt is, and what’s amazing to me is that [BRIDE’S first name] here has figured out a way not only to put up with this wild and crazy guy, but to love him deeply and cherish him as well.

i don’t want to close my remarks without giving a big and heartfelt shout out matt’s father, “big phil” [last name], and his good buddy, jim [last name], both of whom have been terrific friends of mine for at least [number] years. and just in case you might wonder why we call him “big phil” [last name] I’ll just tell you about this one time up in syracuse when phil and jim had driven up to take matt and me out to dinner. “i’m on a diet,” big phil says, as we get ready to order, with the greatest look of pride and sincerity beaming across his expression. Then he went ahead and ordered a salad, a bowl of soup, more than a small order of breadsticks, and a four-cheese lasagna! [anticipate possible laughter.]

WELL . . . I COULD TELL YOU A lot of other STORIES ABOUT matt, BUT THAT’S NOT WHY I’M STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW. I’M STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE matthew [last name] ROBERTS IS VERY SIMPLY THE BEST AND TRUEST friend A GUY COULD EVER HAVE, AND I’M PROUD, HONORED, AND PRIVILEGED TO BE HIS BEST MAN TONIGHT.

UPS AND DOWNS . . . THICKs AND THINs . . . HAPPINESS AND JOY — WE’VE SHARED ‘EM ALL, matt AND I. WE’VE BEEN AS CLOSE AS TWO NON-BROTHERS COULD BE TO actually *BEING* BROTHERS. AND NOW, ON THE EVENING OF YOUR WEDDING, MY DEAR BROTHER . . . [HOLD A WINE GLASS TOWARD matt] . . . I WISH YOU ALL THE JOY, ALL THE HAPPINESS, AND ALL THE FULFILLMENT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER. AND IF YOU wouldN’T MIND, I’D LIKE TO finish my remarks BY QUOTING AN ANCIENT IRISH TOAST to both you and your lovely bride [first name]: “MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT, AND NEVER WANT AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!”

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**SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKER/PRESENTERS**

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1. ***Preparation.*** There are only five rules for presenting an effective speech, and the first three of them are: ***Rehearse, Rehearse,*** and ***Rehearse!*** Unless you really feel you need to, you don’t have to memorize your whole script, word for word. But your eyes (and, more importantly, your “inner ear”) should see/hear the words of your script ***at least five times*** before you actually give the speech. And you should try to perform *at least one or two* of your rehearsal “read-throughs” for a live audience (family, friends, work colleagues, neighbors, etc.), so that you can actually hear yourself giving your talk out loud. You’ll be absolutely *amazed* at how this “Five-Time Rule” will totally prepare you to deliver your remarks easily, fluidly, and comfortably.

4. ***Personalization.*** The one thing EZ Speech Writers *can’t* put into your speech is your own heart and soul. Your script has certain sections highlighted in yellow where you’ll need to fill in certain specifics, like names, dates, or places, and so on; and some of the highlighted sections ask you to make choices about a piece of content or the form of its expression. We’ve left these items “blank” because we didn’t have enough information on your Order Form to fill them in ourselves. But however well your script might otherwise have captured the spirit of the moment: The feeling, the sincerity, the emotion . . . in short, the ***heart and soul*** of this speech . . . must come from you.

5. ***Presentation.*** Except if your speech is political or hortatory in purpose, don’t let yourself think of it as “giving a speech” or “delivering remarks,” or anything formalistic like that at all. Just think of it, literally, as ***having a conversation*** with your friends or colleagues, at home in your living room or kitchen, in the company cafeteria, wherever. Just think of it as “talkin’,” not “speechifying!” (This comes naturally, incidentally, if you apply the “Five-Time Rule” before each and every speech you give, and this applies equally to formal, academic, scientific, and technical speeches as well.)

 But one final word of caution on the topic of *Presentation*. There are two types of speakers in the world. There are fast speakers and there are slow speakers. The southern United States, for example, is known for the slow, laconic, almost “lazy” tempo of its version of English speech (which, down there, averages between 95 and 125 words per minute). On the other hand, first-time visitors to New York City are often flummoxed by the 140-165 wpm tempo at which that City’s natives speak naturally, every day, even when they‘re relaxing at Starbuck’s. The point is, slow speakers (wherever they’re from) tend to be slow listeners, too. And whereas fast listeners can put up with a slow speaker, slow listeners are a very bad audience for a fast speaker.

 So the bottom line is: ***Don’t rush***. If you’re not used to speaking in public — and especially if this is your first time doing it — you’ll probably have a few jitters right before your presentation, just like 80% of *all* Americans would! But don’t let these jitters rush you through your talk “just to get it over with.” If you’ve followed the “Five-Time Rule,” then you’ve got the words down pretty well by this time. And if during practice you set your speaking pace at right around 125 words per minute, you’ll come across just fine with all audiences!

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