On behalf of both sets of parents and of course the happy couple, I want to thank all of you for coming today and helping to make this wedding a day that we will always remember. It’s truly been a special occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen, if there's anybody here this afternoon who's feeling nervous, apprehensive and queasy at the thought of what lies ahead, it's probably because you have just got married to Bertrand

Ladies and gentlemen, this is only the second time I’ve been a best man. I hope I did a good job that time. The couple in question are at least still talking to me. Unfortunately, they’re not actually talking to each other …

I’ve only known Bertrand for 6 years, so I was surprised when he asked me to be his best man. But on reflection, I think he was swayed by the fact that I know very little about the first 25 years of his life, which therefore puts some rather embarrassing stories out of reach. Or so he thought.

When Bertrand first asked me if I would be his best man, my reaction was, ‘Why me? The best man has to make a speech, doesn’t he, and I don’t know you as well as some of the others do.’ He said, ‘That’s why I’m asking you.

Now, I'm sure a number of the guys here today have been a best man at a wedding before, but I wonder how many of you have ever received written guidelines from the bride to be? Before I go any further, I'd like to explain that two weeks ago I received this email from Sam:
I was very pleased when Bertrand asked you to be best man at our wedding. I knew that by selecting you, he had made the right decision. But, as we get close to the day itself, I'm sure you appreciate the stress that we are both under. And adding to this, there are two aspects of the day that cause me concern - your speech and your conduct. I appreciate that as best man you are required to write a speech that pokes a certain amount of fun at the groom, with stories and jokes about his past exploits. But I do want you to remember that this is our wedding day, and I don't want something that you might say or do to spoil it. I would ask that you also keep a very close check on Bertrand as well. With this in mind, please take note of the following and I’m sure we’ll all have a wonderful day:
Remember at all times that my family is there.
Remember at all times that Bertrand’s's family is there.
So do not get drunk.
Do not use bad language.
Do not tell dirty jokes.
Do not use your fingers when eating.
Do not take food from anybody else’s plate.
Do not sing.
Do not pick your nose.
Do not talk about Paul's little problem.
Do not leer at women with low cut tops.
Do not belch.
Do not harass the bridesmaids.
Do not steal anything.
And do not let Paul do any of the above.
But most importantly, enjoy yourself - but not too much.

If you ever have a disagreement, ask yourself this question: 'do I want to be right, or do I want to be happy?'

I would like to wish you both a very long and happy life together as you face life’s challenges and questions, such as “Why did we do this again?” And with that, it’s my absolute honour and pleasure to ask the rest of you to join me in standing and raising your glasses and toasting the latest pair of Wilsons. To Bertrand and Sam