

Good afternoon everybody and thank you all for join us on this amazing day. As most of you know I'm thrilled to be standing here in front of a room full of people, in a cold sweat with everybody looking at me, but apparently hiding in the corner isn't acceptable, especially if you're the groom.

I have to say that after the first time I met Anna I'm surprised we ever saw each other again. She was at Jane's, sitting quietly in the corner when Me and Chris turned up, on a bit of a red-bull high, being a little loud. By loud I obviously mean shouting the standard barrage of abuse about the lack of coffee and the standard plethora of expletive greetings. "A dear in the headlights" would be a fairly accurate description of the terrified expression across Anna's face. I don't remember her sneaking out, but I'm guessing it was at a fair speed! Never the less she kept reappearing and it wasn't long before I was hooked and bruised. A little while later and we'd both taken over Jane's spare room and Jane had a wife and her kids, Zakk and JJ, had a slave driver. Anna has helped me find a direction through my life again after wandering aimlessly for so long. She has been there every day since, whether they are good days or bad, she is always there. You all know that Anna's heart is on her sleeve, she is always there when you need her, nothing is ever too much. There was a time, not too long ago, when starting a family again was not an option, I was at the bottom of the barrel and just getting out of bed wasn't always guaranteed. I had just about given up, but being with Anna has turned everything around and I'm now looking forward again. I can't wait to start a family with you and spend the rest of our lives together, although the number of kids is still a matter for discussion. Thank you for making me so very happy, bringing meaning back to my life and for agreeing to be my wife 😊

Now I have a dilemma over my best man Adam.....Do I assume he's going to do the traditional best man speech and go out of his way to embarrass me. If so then I think a pre-emptive strike if only fair. However I didn't know Adam until recently in life, so he doesn't have the majority of the embarrassing stories, so maybe I should be nice..... A strike speech could include stories of when Adam thought it would be a good idea to wear an inflatable ball pit as a skirt and dance round his lounge one evening when Anna and I were over for dinner, whereas the nice version would cover the hours playing pool and chatting. The strike could mention his ability to randomly forget how to use his legs when getting off the sofa and falling flat on his arse but the nice version would cover the frantic racing around the go-kart track desperately trying to keep up. I'm Looking forward to the rematch now I'm 2 stone lighter, I reckon you half-a-second a lap advantage is well gone! I could cover working together over the past few years, his positive work ethics and determination to see things through or the fact that every time he gets stuck my phone rings...There's the fact he's a father of two great kids, married to his wife who he loves dearly or the fact he needs google to change a fuse. Whichever choice I pick it won't change the fact that I have a lifetime friend in Adam and I'm proud to have him as my best man. He has also promised that unlike most best man speeches, his will not be full of sexual innuendos and that if anything is slightly risqué, he will whip it out immediately.

Next I have to do something that goes against every fibre of my being and be nice about my little sister... I have accumulated a growing huddle of sisters who are all bridesmaids here today. Either by blood, marriage or proxy, you're all stuck with me. Each of you contribute so much to our lives and we love you all. Whether it's Freyja's "Butter wouldn't melt attempts", Lara's rowdiness and troublesome encouragements, Emma's straight up, no BS attitude, Caitlyn's optimistic bubbly outlook or Lisa's infectious hilarities, each of you assert a different personality into our lives that can never be replaced. It's also good to see that Mr Hudson is still with us, all be it, slightly singed. I still think you should have been a bridesmaid too as you would have looked fabulous in any one of those dresses darling!!. All of you have a place in our hearts and if you ever need us, all you need to do is ask. That's it sis, rowdiness is as close too nice as you're gonna get.

Brian, Granddad, according to your granddaughters you have the softest hair and give the best hugs, and for as long as I've known Anna it's been the same "If I ever get married, I want my granddad to give me away". Today you made that dream come true. I never got the chance to meet her father, but I think it's safe to say he would have been honoured that you took his place here today. Thank you.

Now normally the opposing family factions never get along, there are arguments, feuds and neither side will speak to the other. The mother-in-law visits are dreaded and a quick trip to the sister-in-law results in near bloodshed. I am thankful that this is not something I will ever have to endure. I have inherited 3 more sisters, another mother and more grandparents, all who make me feel like part of their family, as much as I'm part of my own. When the only family problems I have to face are the aching ribs from the laughter caused by a Moreish bowl of punch and a great afternoon of family and friends then I don't think I have much to worry about.

The fact there are so many people here and a camera is recording every moment will make denying the next bit a tad tricky, but don't be fooled I will try hole heartedly. I don't think I've every stopped and taken the time to tell Mum and Dad how proud I am to have them as parents, how much I appreciated their advice and guidance or how much their help and support meant to me through the years. If I turn out to be just half the people they are then I'm going have done just fine. They have instilled many important values and responsibilities in me over the years and have help to guide me into the person I am today. The most important lesson instilled upon me would be one by my father and that is the simple fact that being married to the right woman means you can be as cantankerous as possible and still survive.

Stewart, not sure how you've survived this long, but I'm glad that you have. Thank you for putting up with my little sister and being a great father to Jack and Poppy. Whether you're recovering and repairing my poorly car, helping the old man and me polish of a bottle of JD or ushering our guests to their seats, you're a great additional to our mildly mad family.

Matt, he's the guy trying to hide behind the camera, take a selfie... I'm over 2 stone lighter thanks to your persistence and it feels pretty good. Getting me to the gym is a way off yet, but I get the feeling it's not going to go away. You're also responsible for the only thing I've been dreading more than giving this speech, having to watch me giving this speech!!

Finally I'd like to thank the hordes of people who offered to help in the preparations for our wedding and to apologise for my wife's minor control issues and OCD, but please remember there will be plenty of cleaning to do later and there are a few bills still outstanding.

Again, thank you all for joining us on this amazing day.

Now tradition dictates that I hand the floor over to my best man to conclude the speeches, but Mrs Smith 😊 likes to throw tradition a curve ball whenever she can so now I'll pass the floor to her instead to say a few words.