Best man speech when you don't know the bride

You do not need a fake biography of someone you have met twice. Centre the groom with one true story, add what you have actually seen of them together, welcome her by name without inventing intimacy, then toast the couple. Ask the groom (and, carefully, her) for one safe detail before you write.

Checklist

- [ ] This is more common than people admit
- [ ] What the room actually needs from you
- [ ] What to ask before you write
- [ ] A simple structure that still includes her
- [ ] Lines you can adapt (without fake intimacy)
- [ ] What to avoid
- [ ] UK and US notes
- [ ] A worked mini-example
- [ ] Prove the friendship with one specific story about him.
- [ ] Name her early enough that she is not an afterthought in the last ten seconds.
- [ ] Say one true thing about them together, or about how he is around her.
- [ ] Welcome her without claiming a private bond you do not have.
- [ ] Toast both by name.
- [ ] Ask the groom: one thing he loves that a mate is allowed to say in public; any topic that is off-limits; how she prefers to be named in the toast (full name, first name, nickname).

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