Best man speech for a best friend: how to write it, with examples

A best man speech for a best friend works when you show why you chose each other, with one specific story and a real welcome for his partner. Childhood friends and friends who met as adults use different material. Neither needs a tour of every year you have known him.

Checklist

- [ ] Childhood friend, or a friend you met later
- [ ] Where the stories actually are
- [ ] When you do not know the partner well
- [ ] How to keep in-jokes out
- [ ] Lines you can adapt
- [ ] A full example: lifelong best friends
- [ ] His family. A parent or sibling will remember the version of a story you have smoothed. Ask for one memory, not "any stories?". Tell them the speech is kind, so they do not hand you a roast.
- [ ] The old group. One message in the chat: "I need a specific thing he did, not a compliment." You are looking for an object, a place, a sentence.
- [ ] His partner, carefully. You can ask what she loves about him, or a small habit she teases. Do not ask her to write your speech, and do not spoil a surprise she is keeping.
- [ ] Your own phone. Old photos and the messages you actually sent each other are better than a reconstructed legend. A screenshot you would be happy to read aloud is a candidate. A screenshot you would hide is not.
- [ ] Childhood friend, opening. "I'm Harry. I've known Daniel since we were nine, which means I remember the haircut and I have promised not to describe it."
- [ ] Friend met later, opening. "We met at work, not at school. I'm not the keeper of his childhood. I'm the evidence that he is still choosing good people."
- [ ] The loyal habit. "If you need him, he is already on the way. He will text to say he is on the way, and then he will text to say he is outside, and then he will come in with the thing you forgot you needed."
- [ ] When you do not know the partner well. "Sophie, I can't tell your story. I can tell you what happened to his. He got lighter. He started making plans that were not just about next weekend."

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