By John Wilson



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### Introduction

According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death.

Well well now that you have laid your hands on the best material available ever on the father of the groom speeches you can leave all your fears behind.

Thank you for your purchase and many congratulations!

You can get set to experience the most entertaining wedding speeches you have ever read.

Also the book teaches you how to write your own father of the groom speech, just like a professional writer. You will also learn the tips and tricks of how to deliver a speech and make your presentation appealing. It prepares you on both fronts: content and presentation, both being the equally important aspects of speech giving. You will find lots of selected, exclusive and very relevant quotes and toasts that can be added to your speech or used otherwise on the wedding day.

I am sure with little practice and by following whatever you learn from this book, you will sail through easily and make an impression on the wedding day. Your speech will be truly a memorable speech.

This is the day that you owe it to your son to make him feel special and make him realize just how much he and his happiness mean to you. It is the most important day of his life and you surely are an important part of this day. You just can't afford to let him down.

Here you will find a variety of speeches to pick and choose from. I have tried to include different varieties of speeches to fit and match different personalities. Please remember that you might not like all the speeches but you will surely find lots of material to suite your individual personality and style. There's something for every father of the groom here. At least that has been my attempt.

Lots of anecdotes and incidents have been used to add entertaining value to the speeches. Please feel free to adapt your own real life incidents with these ones.

There are many stories that you can surely relate to and might not even need to make changes. I have tried to keep the writing style such that you can easily adapt the speeches and integrate your own stories in them.

Hope you find this compilation as useful as many others have already found it to be. I would love to hear from you and make improvements in my work. Please leave your feedback and comments and share your experiences with me about the wedding day by emailing me on my personal email john@bestfatherofthegroomspeeches.com

Your feedback gives me the motivation to improve thus giving a better output to people who need quality speeches.

Enjoy as you go along!

Being the Father of the Groom is an often over-looked part of the wedding day, so I would first like to thank the parents of the beautiful bride, Amanda and Mathew Smith, for allowing me the honor of addressing the attendants of this special day.

As a parent, I am more proud of our son today, than I have ever been. Well I am confident that he has made up for all the embarrassments he caused us in the past. It takes me back to the time when it was his first day at Kindergarten and he was peeled off our legs causing a commotion so loud that the other classrooms thought there was a fire in the building.

(Seriously, it was third grade). (Pause for laughs)

Watching a child grow and mature brings with itself different experiences and emotions for the parents; when you see your child is not going to be picked for a team or not pass the test they studied so hard for, it would be a lot easier to say things like, "Don't feel sad, that team will never win a game without you or the teacher must have changed the questions after telling your class which chapter to study." But the truth is sometimes you need to explain that they didn't make the team this year but if they were to practice and dedicate time to learning about the game they'll have a better chance next time. And instead of calling the school and complaining about the teacher's incompetence it's only fair to talk about better studying strategies and accept the poor grade with the resolve to do better next time.

Kahlil Gibran writes, "We are the bow and our children are the arrows. We are not meant to keep them, we are meant to clothe them, give them food, water and shelter and then one day, when they are ready, we are to be the bow they are shot from, not the force that keeps them from growing."

What makes us most proud of our son is the fact that when he met, Jane, he saw the gifted, talented, beautiful woman she is and decided to do whatever it takes to not let her get away.

(I think the restraining order was lifted a few weeks ago...right?)

Anyway, we are proud to invite our lovely new daughter-in-law to our family and have to admit that from the first time we met her, we felt as if we'd been family right along. The marriage of our son to Jane does not take a member of our family away but enhances what we already have and we couldn't be happier for it.

My hope is that for the past (# of years old) years, Rose and I have been able to not only offer advice in how to experience a successful marriage but have been role models who have shown, with our actions, that with a lot of hard work and compromise they, too, can have a happy marriage.

To the newest member of our family, Jane, I say welcome. Our hope is that you will feel as comfortable with our family that is now your own, too. We promise to do our best as in-laws to stay out of the way but always have an open door, especially when the grandkids start showing up.

Before I finish a special thank you to Jane's lovely parents for bringing up such a wonderful daughter and making her the person she is.

To my son, Tim, I say two things: one, you're a lucky man to have such a beautiful wife; and more importantly learn how to say this phrase: "You are SO right!"

There is a wonderful life before both of you, go live it.

Finally, there is an old Chinese proverb that says it all:

"May you LIVE every day of your life."

As the Father of the Groom, I am honored to be able to address you all today on the grand occasion of the marriage of our son, Tim, to his beautiful bride, Jane. It is very rare for anyone to hear from the Father of the Groom so I say thank you to Jane's parents; Jim and Jean Turner.

Watching a son grow up is much different than watching a daughter; there are mud pies, skinned knees, trees to climb, races to win, fly balls to catch, newspapers to deliver.

Little boys don't talk about fairy tale weddings and princesses...well, I guess some of them do...but that wasn't what we heard from Tim! What we heard from Tim was; I'm going to be a doctor, lawyer, rock-n-roll singer, best-selling author, major league baseball player, computer programmer, CEO of a huge advertising company, famous actor and Ambassador to whatever cause Angelina Jolie is involved with. With every new lesson came a new career idea. His mother and I are just grateful that the pro-wrestling thing didn't last too long once he realized how much it hurts when he decided to practice one of his moves by jumping off the living room couch onto the center of the room in a belly flop. Life with a son is full of moments like these.

When Tim came home from a date with Jane and asked me for advice about how he should go about asking her to marry him, I knew this was a goal he would stick with and that he would work hard at being a wonderful husband and maybe one day a father.

When I look over at the couple who sit before us today I see two intelligent, dedicated adults who are not disillusioned thinking that the wedding day is the end of a road but who see it as the beginning. I see two people who are ready to make a commitment to love one another, cherish and respect one another and compromise when necessary to make this marriage work.

#### My advice is this:

• Don't take yourself too seriously, laugh a lot

- Know that you have had different paths up to this point and will view the world thru the lens that your experience has created; you won't always agree and that's okay
- ASK for what you want; don't expect anyone to be able to read your mind
- Never say the words, "If you loved me, you would..." Because that's just not fair.
- Always think in terms of, "I feel...when you..." and you never put any blame on the other person
- Keep your expectations in check; high expectations or unrealistic ones
   make for big time disappointments
- Always show one another respect
- Listen to each other without interruption, you'll get a lot more said that way
- When you do disagree, and you WILL disagree, keep your cool and stay on subject; don't bring old hurts into a current discussion; leave the past in the past
- Always do the next right thing
- Let love have a little breathing room; as Kahlil Gibran put it so eloquently; "Love one another, but make not a bond of love: Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup. Give one another of your loaf of bread but eat not from a single loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone. Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

May you each take these words to heart and put them to practical use.

I, on behalf of my wife Rose and myself along with the parents of the bride, Amanda and Mathew Smith would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being here today to celebrate the marriage of our children. Back when Rose and I were married, it was almost unheard of for the father of the groom to make a speech, so I'd like to thank the bride's parents for this opportunity. Come to think of it, when we got married, there weren't any you-tubes and facebooks of the world...hmmm....

Fortunately, times have changed and I am allowed to share a few of my own thoughts about my son's marriage.

Rose and I were a little concerned that this day would never come because back when he was toddling around all he could ever say was how much he loved Batman and Spiderman – we were pleased when the first words he spoke of his young, attractive, brand-new-to-teaching preschool teacher was, "She is Berry Beautiful."

It's really amazing to have had front row seats while watching our son grow from a boy into a man. It's different with boys, and you know what I mean, there are Daddy's girls and everybody seems to want to be one of those, but Mama's Boys, well, they're not nearly as excited to hear that title thrown around. But there is a definite bond between a mother and her son that I have watched over the past xx years of our son's life. Seriously, there have been times when (SON) was upset about something and the only person he could talk with about it was his mother. They have a way of communicating that goes beyond words and they have had many, many conversations with me in the room, oblivious to them at all! I have always loved to watch my wife's face light up when my son would be dressed in a suit or a tuxedo and he would walk into the room. There is something special that is there between a mother and son that is exceptional and I wanted to thank them both for letting me see that over the years and be a part of what makes us family, even if I am, sometimes, completely oblivious to what is going on around me.

That said, I'd like to take a minute to tell you all how proud I am of the man my son has become.

He has become a man of integrity, he is resourceful, he is kind & considerate, and he has the loving capacity to know that starting today what makes him special is that he will always put the needs and desires of his wife first. When they are together in a crowd there will not be a single person who will not recognize that they're together and there will never be any question in his wife's mind that the only woman he sees, even in the midst of thousands of other women, is the woman he married today.

My son has become more of a man than I'd ever imagined. Don't get me wrong, I knew he'd be a good man, and with the exception of that Batman-Spiderman phase I always knew he'd end up with the prettiest woman who would love him like no one else. I knew this because that's what he deserves; a loving wife and a caring, supportive marriage.

Son, if there are just a few pointers I could give to you in hopes that if you follow them, you will be as happily married years from now as you are today, I would say:

- 1. Take out the trash without being asked to do it.
- 2. Always compliment your wife's cooking, even if it is as bad as that time your mother tried to make Thai food.
  - 3. Put the toilet seat back down when you're finished.
- 4. And no matter what she asks, if she's asking a question while crying for no apparent reason, go cut the lawn.

Having years of experience of being married believe me son these tips will go a long way to ensure that your marriage is a happy marriage.

So, ladies and gentlemen may I request you to join me to propose a toast to my two beautiful children (raising the glass)... when children find true love, parents find true joy. Here's to your joy and ours, from this day forward.

I want to thank the parents of the bride, Amanda and Mathew Smith, for giving me a minute or two to say a few words to all of you and to thank you for being here today with us all.

Our son came into the world like most little boys do; screaming, kicking and sucking his thumb. I'm proud to say that he hardly does any of that any more.

...I think...(pause to glance at son)

When he was little he used to run away from girls and didn't like them because they couldn't put a worm on a hook when fishing, hardly ever played hockey and weren't any fun to wrestle because they always seemed to wind up hurt and crying all the way home. His views of girls didn't change much for a lot of years and I have to admit, that probably had something to do with me and the way I was teaching him. I always told him to wait for a girl who would pump her own gas, fix her own carburetor and change her own car tires.

(Pause)

I guess he couldn't wait any longer and he found himself a real, beautiful, and good to the core woman, Jane.

Seriously, when Tim brought Jane home for the first time, his mother and I knew right away that she was The One. He could hardly cut his steak or finish a sentence when she was around and we knew that she was different by the way he looked at her. All that came from his eyes when he looked at her was love. Even those few times when his eyes would go crossed...and he'd stop speaking all together...

I was sure she was the one when we were going into a restaurant together one night, just the four of us, and without having to be hit on the arm, Tim (almost naturally) grabbed the door and held it until we all walked in. I have to say, I've been trying to get him to open doors and hold out chairs for his whole life and he never seemed to get it right until he was doing it for the right girl.

For these two newlyweds, I am hopeful that they will always find the lesson in the process, no matter how difficult it may be sometimes; there is always a lesson. I pray that the two of you live out your lives not looking at one another, but staring together, in the same direction, towards a common goal. I pray you will always laugh together; it's that genuine, right-from-your-gut laughter that allows us to live longer. And I hope you will always be respectful of one another and never, ever take each other for granted. Marriage is hard work and it takes a steadfast diligence to get it done. You have to put in 100%, all the time in order to reap the benefits of a good marriage. Always encourage one another; encouragement goes a lot further than criticism. And always remember what it was about each other that you first liked. That kind of character trait is usually there many years later, you might have to look a little harder for it, but if you do, it's worth the effort.

Thank you all, for being here, to celebrate this beautiful occasion with our children and please remember to be kind to your waiters and waitresses, they are working hard for you!

(Turns to couple, raises glass) To the two of you, a lifetime of love and laughter. Amen.

Hi everyone, thank you for coming. I know it's a little unusual for the father of the groom to say ANYTHING at the wedding, but our hosts, Amanda and Mathew Smith have graciously allowed me a few minutes to say a few words.

If I speak too long, you'll know why it is that the father of the groom is never heard at the wedding! (Glance at audience).

Being married can be the most wonderful experience you will ever have. Sure there are good times and bad times and then there are the times that you're both just bored stiff you could scream! But there is one thing, that if you can remember this advice, it will help you not only in marriage but in your whole adult life; life is about perspectives.

Everyone has a perspective and it is made up from all of our experiences, lessons we've learned, stories we've been told, traditions we've had in our families and so on. If you can keep in mind that no two people anywhere...ever...have had the same exact life experiences, you'll understand that two people will always see things just a little differently.

That being said, you can leave out the traditions you never liked, like Aunt Edna's famous date bread or Uncle Charlie drinking too much and falling asleep on the couch right after dinner; but you are also now able to build your very own traditions. You can start to do things that neither of your families has ever even heard of, and you will incorporate them into your own family traditions. It's a clean slate.

The real gem here is that if you can step into a situation, any situation where the two of you are having a difference of opinion and you are able to put your ego to the side and realize that marriage is not a competition; you will be able to acknowledge that just because you see things differently, because you have different perspectives, it doesn't necessarily mean that one of you is right and one is wrong; it simply means you see the situation through your own experiences.

Believe me, son, when I tell you that your mother and I rarely see things the same but we are able to respect that the other opinion may be different, it doesn't mean it is not correct. Unless, of course we're talking about Aunt Edna's date nut bread, because that stuff is just – wrong. No one should have to endure that torture more than once in their lifetime.

I'm sure your mother relayed this quote to me from the Dr. Phil Show, because you KNOW I don't watch it...but it's great advice: Do you want to be right? Or do you want to be happy? That's some brilliant thinking there. I can't count the number of arguments I could have totally avoided with your mother if I'd just respected her difference in perspective and if I'd never eaten that horrible date nut thing that her aunt in West-by-God-Virginia sent us the first year we were married...my goodness, I was sick for days after eating that disgusting excuse for a loaf of date nut bread she sent. (Squirms) Eww...just thinking about it makes me feel a little ill...

Sorry.

#### Where was I?

Oh yeah, perspective. You will save yourself so much grief if you simply agree to put the toilet seat down when you're finished because I don't know a woman who hasn't told the story about walking into a bathroom in the dark, in the middle of the night, and hitting cold water because the seat was still up...I swear, I've heard that one from every female I've ever known...what's that all about? Don't you girls ever think about turning on a light before sitting down?

I mean, geeze...

(Looks at watch) Oops, sorry, I don't have much more to say except that I'm blessed to be here with all of you at the beginning of a wonderful life together for my son, Tim and his lovely wife Jane.

Before I say anything, I'd like to thank Jane's parents Amanda and Mathew Smith, for not laughing at me when I inquired about saying a few words at the reception. I know this is out of the ordinary for the groom's father to speak, but I truly appreciate the time.

Life is full of mysteries and funny stories. When our son was young, and we went to see the movie, Toy Story, he sat in the theatre with his face in awe of what he was witnessing on the big screen. He barely breathed during the entire film and for weeks all he could talk about were the characters from the movie. He loved Mr. Potato Head and the dinosaur who didn't scare him, and he explained, "Because even though the dinosaur was really big and had really big, scary teeth, he had little, tiny arms and would never be able to bend down that low to pick me up."

We talked about the mean kid who lived next door and tortured the poor toys and how he would never grow up to be a bad kid like that one. But my very favorite comment our son made came shortly after seeing the original movie, Toy Story; it was getting close to Christmas and we'd been discussing what gifts he would be asking Santa Claus for that year when he looked up at me, he had peanut butter smeared on the sides of his smile from the sandwich he'd eaten for lunch, and with his big, innocent blue eyes and baby–chubby cheeks said softly, "Dad, all I want for Christmas this year is a Big Buzz and a Big Woody." I said, "I know sweetheart, me too."

He has always been fun to be around, let me tell you!

When I realized he would be proposing to Jane, I wanted to make sure he did it right, so I pulled him aside during a football game one Sunday and said, "I know you haven't asked me for advice about this, but I'd like to make a suggestion." He waited for me to continue. "I think it would be a really nice gesture and the gentleman-way of doing things if you went the old fashioned route and asked her father for her hand in marriage."

My first thought was that he was going to laugh at me, tell me that I'm always thinking in old fashioned terms and that people just don't do that anymore. What

he said was, "Yeah, I thought that, too, and I'm meeting him tonight after the game for a coffee and I'm going to ask him then. Wish me luck."

I knew he didn't need any luck; he already had luck and courage and class and my pride on his side. I knew he'd be fine.

Although he hasn't asked for it, I'd like to give some advice, from one husband to another.

- Remember the Serenity Prayer; "God, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." You'll never go wrong repeating that when you're not sure of what to do next.
- Don't leave wet towels on the bathroom floor, after a while; they just start to smell funny.
- Always open and hold the door for not just your wife, but all of the women you know.
- Never assume you know what your wife is thinking anymore than you think she is aware of what you're thinking...say things out loud.
- Never forget why you fell in love in the first place; a grateful heart will always be capable of loving.

Beautiful Jane is much more than what we wanted in our daughter-in-law. On behalf of my wife, Rose and I would like to thank Amanda and Mathew, for giving Jane the right values and making her the person that she is today. It is because of this upbringing and these values that we feel Jane is already a part of our family. I am very sure that Tim will always take care of Jane for the loving, kind and beautiful person she is.

The last thing I have to say is something that I wish for you, my son. That one day you will have the honor of standing in front of family and friends in order to say out loud that your son has turned out to be the man you always knew he could be, and more.

I love you Tim. God bless you both!

Today we celebrate the union of my son Tim and his beautiful wife Jane; a wonderful couple who deserves all the happiness in the world.

Needless to say, I'm a very proud papa today. I watched my only son pledge himself eternally to one woman, making the ultimate commitment. And as I saw my son at the altar, standing tall and proud beside his wife, I saw the symbolic representation of everything his mother and I have taught him during the course of his 22 years.

Today at the altar he stood tall beside Jane; a strong protector who will face any challenge or temptation presented them during the course of their married life. He did not cower at the prospect of joining with a wife, (smiles) as many men have and would, but faced his responsibilities with a firm stance and I'm confident that, with Jane's help, he will build a strong foundation for their life together.

Today at the altar he held Jane's hand; a kind, nurturing gesture from a very sweet man. Tim's nice demeanor is well known to his family and friends. Jane can be assured that Tim always will regard her with the utmost kindness and respect.

Today at the altar Tim stated his vows in a loud, clear voice; communicating to everyone his strong commitment to the woman beside him. Tim always has been a responsible young man who honors his commitments.

Today at the altar Tim kissed Jane with tenderness and feeling. He is an affectionate young man not afraid to show his love for the people in his life; and especially for his new mate.

Today at the altar Tim slid a beautiful gold band onto Jane's finger, beside the gorgeous diamond ring that cost, well, I won't venture to reveal how much. (Dramatic pause)... When I heard the amount I nearly fell into a coma.

Today at the altar Tim pledged himself to Jane; forming a bond that I know in my

heart he will honor for the rest of their lives.

I'd have to say our boy made us proud today. And I'll say something else for him; he chose a wonderful bride.

Today at the altar Jane stood firm and proud beside our son. She stood as his equal, just as she will for the rest of their married lives. My son picked a strong woman just like his mother. And believe me when I say (gives a mock cringe), my wife Rose is STRONG.

Also like my dear wife, Jane is kind and nurturing; when she held my son's hand she looked deep into his eyes, conveying a sweetness and pure sincerity that truly touched my heart. I know she'll take good care of him in the years ahead.

Today at the altar Jane said her vows in a strong but tender tone that displayed her conviction. Her commitment to my son shone through in every word, every phrase. I was touched by her dedication, which I know will carry over into every phase and facet of their married life.

Today at the altar Jane kissed Tim with the warmth and passion of a woman in love. In fact, speaking as his father, I looked away at least twice during their kiss (pauses for laughter). I know she will be a tender, loving wife, and their union just may produce many children (pauses for laughter).

Today at the altar Jane looked with pride at the ring Tim slid on her finger. I know she'll always treasure this token of his love, and that she'll appreciate each and every gift he gives her during the course of their bountiful union. And she will give him many gifts in return.

Today at the altar Jane pledged herself to Tim. And from what I know of her, she will make him a wonderful, beautiful, loving wife. I am proud to welcome her into my family and look forward to the years ahead.

When you think about it, today we did a lot more than honor this young couple. We saw the ultimate demonstration of what each will bring to their wedded union. Separately, both Tim and Jane are wonderful, strong, loving people. Together, they're unbeatable.

Before I begin I want to sincerely thank you all, on behalf of my wife Rose and also on behalf of Jane's parents Amanda and Mathew, for being a part of such an important day of our children Tim and Jane's life. Thank you all for coming over and blessing the couple. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both Amanda and Mathew for letting me share a few thoughts and feelings with you all today.

There are days when it seems like it was so long ago when my son Tim was born. Then, there are days when it seems like it was only yesterday. For those of you that have children, you know exactly what I'm talking about. My son Tim was born on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1981 and that day was one of the greatest, most glorious days of my life.

Twenty-two short years later and here he is, beginning a family of his own, about to embark upon the same journey that his mother and I embarked upon, with a beautiful wife and eventually a family – hopefully, there will be some grandkids soon. He thought his mother was pressuring him before, now it's only going to get worse. Tim, I tried to tell your mother to stop bothering you so much about grandkids, but I'd like some, too.

I say the years went by quickly, but time didn't always go by so fast for my son and I. We had our moments like any other father and son. The time comes to mind when Tim" borrowed" his mother's car for the night. Later on that evening, very much later on that evening, I got a phone call from Tim. "The car is stuck," he said. Well, I grabbed my keys and crept out of the house while his mother was sleeping, got in my truck, and headed out. Tim was in the middle of nowhere on some back road. He was all alone and his mother's car was a little more than "stuck." Long story short, we got a little elbow grease together and pushed the car out. Then we took the car to the car wash to clean things up so his mother wouldn't notice. I never said anything to his mother about what had happened, well, until now. I guess that's what friends are for.

Like any father and son, Tim and I have always been best friends. It's been amazing to watch him grow up into a man, learning from his mistakes, working through his

failures, and succeeding at everything he's wanted to accomplish. His new wife is one of the accomplishments. He told me one day, "I'm going to marry her."

"Only if she says yes," I told him. But he was right. Like I said, Tim's always succeeded at everything he's tried to accomplish. It's a whole new chapter in his life - one that I know both Tim and Jane are eager to begin.

To you Jane I would like to say a special thank-you for making us feel that you are already a part of our family. You have brought so much joy and happiness to not only Tim but to the entire family and knowing you, I am sure you will continue to fill our lives and hearts with happiness and joy. I on behalf of everyone in my family welcome you and look forward to sharing many more beautiful moments of our lives with you.

You know, as parents we spend our whole lives giving advice to our kids. Most of the time it seems like they don't take it. In fact, most of the time it seems like our kids flat-out avoid our advice. But, that's all a part of growing up - finding yourself, becoming an adult, building your own family and your own life.

So, keeping that in mind that you're just as stubborn as your father is, Tim, I ask that you listen to my advice. It's not the typical father-son advice you're used to about changing the oil in your car yourself, or never raising your voice to your mother. This advice is something I know you'll listen to and put to use. So, with that said, my advice to you Tim, and your wife Jane, is to always love each other and remember this day. Remember these moments when you professed your love to one another.

No matter how busy your lives get, and they will get busy, just remember your love for each other. Right now it probably seems like nothing could ever get in the way of the way you feel right now, but you have to know that things won't always be so easy. No matter how difficult things become, through each and every up and down moment, and believe me, there will be some. Whatever they may be, use those tough moments to grow the bond between you and your wife stronger. Never let anything get in the way, or force you to forget just how much you love one another.

With such a strong bond between two people, with the amount of love you share with each other – as long as you never forget this day and everything it means, and that you always continue to love each other, everything else will come in stride. The love you share will make everything else feel easy.

And so, in honor of the love between my son, Tim and his lovely wife Jane, let's all raise our glasses and offer them a toast to a lifetime of love, happiness, and anything else that they could ever ask for because they both deserve everything in the world.

I'd just like to start off by saying thank you to everyone for coming and being a part of this very special day for both families. We're glad that you could all be here and hope that you're all having a good time.

This day reminds me of the day my wife Rose and I got married and started our lives together. My son, Tim, was born the following year after we were married and our lives were never the same. Of course, I mean that in a good way – for the most part, at least.

That first year, Tim was pretty tough on us. As all the parents in the room know, you don't get much sleep that first year, and when you do sleep it's in intervals. You never really get a good night's rest. In Tim's case, he was certainly no exception to the rule. He was a very fussy baby boy.

"Don't pick him up every time he gets upset," I'd tell Rose. But she wouldn't listen. "What you're doing now is doing us in for years to come. He'll be crying every time he wants something," I told her. Well, she didn't listen. I didn't take my own advice either. Tim was just too cute to let cry. From those first moments, even those late night fits he'd put us through, I knew I was in for it. I was wrapped around his little finger.

You know what, Tim never really got too bad as he got older. He's always been a calm and easy-going soul. There was always a lot of love in our family and I'm certain that even at such a young age the little guy could sense that.

I'd like to think that Tim learned a lot about what a family is all about and what that bond between a husband and wife, father and mother, is all about just based on what he saw in his mother and I.

I look at his beautiful new wife Jane and I welcome her and her family into ours. I look at Jane and can tell her with confidence that she's going to have a husband that will take care of her always and Tim will always be there for her.

There's nothing on this earth stronger than the love you two will share with each other and it's important that you always remember just how strong this bond is and how much love there is between the two of you.

Son, I've watched you grow up into the man that you are today. Throughout your life you've struggled and you've succeeded. You've needed help and you've done things all on your own. Well, things are different now, son. Now, you'll never have to succeed or fail on your own again. You'll always have your beautiful new wife there at your side and I know that she'll always have you at hers.

And so, I congratulate both you and Jane on this new life together. Let us all raise our glasses and congratulate my son and his wife on the beginning of a wonderful life together. God Bless you both!

Welcome family members and friends. On behalf of my dear wife Rose and Jane's parents Amanda and Mathew Smith, I would like to thank you all for being a part of this special day and I hope that you're all having a good time. I'd just like to have the room for a moment to say a few words.

First off, I'd just like to say that this is a great day for a father, when his son marks the beginning of a whole new life and the beginning of his own family. Nothing could make a father more proud than to see his son marry such a beautiful young woman and to see just how happy they are together.

You know, I wasn't really sure Tim would ever find a bride and get married. Rose and I are still pretty astonished by the whole thing. When we were getting ready this morning Rose looked at me and said, "Is it really happening?" And it was. It was really happening. Our son was getting married.

And when I say that we were astonished that Tim was getting married, I don't mean that as an insult to Tim. It's more of a sigh of relief. No, I'm only kidding. What is so astonishing to Rose and I is that our son has found true love. Love is truly an amazing thing and ever since the first time we saw Tim and Jane together, we knew that they were truly in love. It's true love that is an astonishing thing.

True love is not something that everybody is lucky enough to find. But, here he is, our son Tim, with his new wife Jane, now bonded by their true love and forever happy together.

This speech can never be complete without mentioning a special thank you to Jane for making us feel that she is already a part of our family. Well surely the credit goes to her parents Amanda and Mathew for bringing up their daughter in such a rightful manner. I am sure they are equally proud of Jane as we are for having her as our daughter in law. I must say that Jane's parents are such lovely warm people. I welcome them in our family.

Son, I am sure you realize that just how lucky you are - not only to have such a beautiful and caring wife, but to have discovered true love. It's important that you

always show each other how much you love one another and that you're always there for one another. A marriage is more than just a word or a vow, it's a lifetime of happiness shared between two people and any new members of the family that might come along -whenever they come along. There's no pressure.

Congratulations, son. You've really made me and the entire family proud and we welcome your new wife Jane and her family into ours.

I ask that we all raise our glasses and offer our congratulations in a toast to my son, the best son a father could ever ask for, and his beautiful new wife. We all wish you a lifetime of happiness together.

We're here today to honor the union of my son Tim and his beautiful wife Jane; a sweet, beautiful couple. Thank you all for coming and blessing the newly-weds as they embark upon a new journey of their lives.

Of course, as Tim's father I happen to know him a little bit better than most. It's hard to believe this handsome man in a tux and tails was once a scruffy T-ball player, the star of the Redmond Rocket Shells junior team.

It seems like yesterday he was bugging me to buy him a souped up tricycle with an annoyingly loud horn. Now he's ready to start his own family, his own life, and with a remarkable young woman.

Tim first announced his intention to marry at the tender age of 6. He had a mad crush on his first-grade teacher Miss Moore, who I believe is here today. (Waves) Hi Miss Moore! Just thought I'd start off my comments by making you and everyone else here just a bit uncomfortable.

When Tim informed me of his crush on Miss Moore, I assured him that although his teacher was single and indeed lovely, he might want to hold out for someone his own age. He found that, and far more, when he met Jane.

Just like Miss Moore, Jane is a teacher; and, from what I gather, an excellent one. She tutored my son through a heartrending semester of Algebra, stealing his heart in the process.

During the five years of their courtship, Jane has taught Tim much more than, well, whatever it is you learn in an Algebra class. She taught him to hold the door open for a lady, to listen when his mother and I talk (Rose and I are especially grateful for that one, Jane), to stop and admire a pretty sunset. She makes him laugh, and more importantly she makes him think.

Of course Tim was a fine young man before he met Jane. He earned honors as a Boy Scout, and was always known as the boy who would clean our neighbors' yards free of charge; accepting kudos and chocolate chip cookies as payment.

In school Tim had a perfect attendance record and excelled at sports. Now he's the best assistant coach ever to grace the football field at Claremont High School.

One of the few things Tim didn't excel at was the troublesome subject of math; and one day during his freshman year in college, he was referred to a smart young tutor named Jane.

I'll never forget the phone call I received from Tim the day he met Jane. I could hear the excitement in his voice as he described the lovely, funny young woman who actually understood what all those fractions and formulas meant. It was at that point I began to see the change in him, the subtle metamorphosis that continued as their love for one another grew.

I spotted him a fifty for their first dinner date, so he could take her someplace nice. Before his major culinary interests were of the burger and fry variety.

His mother advised him on which flowers to buy Jane on the occasion of her 19th birthday; before his knowledge of plants was limited to the case of poison ivy that, 10 years earlier, cut short his first attempt at summer camp.

I remember the weekend he brought her home to meet us; how he hung on her every word and declared to me, in private, that she was the woman he'd marry.

He made this declaration public last Christmas, when he invited Jane to spend the holidays at our home. On Christmas morning, beneath the lights of our tree, he asked her to become the newest member of our family. And when she said yes, we all got a gift that was priceless beyond measure.

Jane took a scruffy, loveable junior sportsman and transformed him into the elegant, refined young man you see before you today. She made herself the perfect

husband; and in return, she's getting a man who will love and honor her beyond all reason. I've seldom seen a man more devoted to a woman, or more changed by her love.

Today I wish Tim and Jane the best of love and luck. I wish them a happy life filled with prosperity, and with children (my wife Rose, of course, can't wait for them to get started on that part). Above all, I wish them a good life.

Before I close I would like to express a special thank you to Jane's parents Amanda and Mathew for bringing up a daughter so full of virtues and values. She is already a part of our family. I am sure Jane feels the same way. Also I want to thank you for all your effort that has gone into making all the arrangements for today. This is what has made today's day so very special.

The couple has my warmest wishes for the best of love and luck. Tim and Jane already have more love than many will ever know. And above all, they have each other.

We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of my son Tim and his wife Jane. And as I send them off on their life's journey, I'd like to give them some precious gifts to help them on their way.

The first gift, of course, takes the form of the big check I slipped in their wedding card. And the brightly wrapped package my wife Rose just placed on the bridal table (Don't worry, Kids, it's not another can opener).

My other gifts take the form of words of advice that, or so I hope, will ease and facilitate their road to the future.

Stop rolling your eyes, Tim, I know you don't like to get advice from your old man. (Turning to the crowd) You try tutoring this kid in Algebra or teaching how to ride a bike! He thinks he knows it all!

Tim, it seems like only yesterday I was teaching you how to walk. Now I'm watching as you walk away from me, and towards your new life with Nancy.

As you take this walk, always make sure that your wife walks beside you, not in front of or behind you. You must always treat your wife as your equal, and respect her views and opinions.

Keep in mind that, as you start this journey, you and Jane are brimming with passion and energy. Did anybody get a load of that kiss at the altar? (Pause for laughter). Down the road a bit, though, you might grow tired and frustrated. On some days you might wish to stake out on your own, leaving your partner behind.

Don't do this; for, after that first moment of freedom and independence, loneliness is sure to set in; and as you yourself have told me, Tim, you'd be lost without Jane.

Also on this journey, you're sure to encounter a mile or two of bumpy road; problems will come up, and you just might stumble. Jane will pick you up--and you'll do the same for her.

Remember that, as you take your journey, you're always welcome to visit home.

Rose and I have come to love Jane as our own daughter, and you both have a place in our homes and hearts.

And we, in turn, would like to make the journey to your new home, to be a part of a family that—or Rose fervently hopes—is bound to include many grandchildren.

Also on the road to your new life, you're bound to encounter many detours. Things might not always go as planned; even so, every change in plans will mean a new adventure in your lives. Welcome change; embrace it, just as you embrace each other.

And know that whatever happens, you don't walk alone. Tim, as always, your mother and I are just a phone call away. And the same dear friends and family members who gathered today for your wedding will be there to support you throughout your married life.

Yes, at times your journey will be long and tumultuous—just as your teen-aged years were but at other times it will seem like a joyous sprint, a walk in the park; a walk that you'll enjoy with hands clasped and irritating grins on your faces (pause for laughter). Your life together will be filled with many joys. Be sure to treasure every moment and memory.

And may I say, Tim and Jane, that each of you has chosen the ideal travelling partner for your long journey together. Tim, you're an amazing son, smart, funny, kind, and endlessly talented. He gets that from me, by the way (pauses), and from his mother, of course! I don't want my own 'road' to get bumpy here (pauses for laughter).

Jane, you're a bright, lovely, good-natured woman; the ideal match for our son. We welcome you into our family with open arms and a joyful heart.

Together you two are unbeatable; I know your life together will be a smooth road filled with laughter and love. And we'll be behind you every step of the way.

Congratulations, Kids. We love you!

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank everyone for coming today to bless the newly-wed couple. I'm sure you will all join me to say thank you to the bride and groom for letting us share their special day with them.

For those of you who don't already know, I am the father of the groom and a very proud father too. My son Tim has proven to me, not just today but every day that I am the luckiest Dad around. This day has been a long time coming and as you can see the months that my daughter in law Jane and our families have spent organizing everything have been worth it. I would like to thank Jane's parents Amanda and Mathew Smith and also my dear wife Rose for ensuring that everything flows smoothly on this special day.

Many years ago it was hard for me to think that my son would ever find a girlfriend. He was, well let's just say, he's now grown into his features. Now it seems that my little boy who had the nerdy glasses and the braces has now become a true man and is now taking the huge step into marriage.

I am so proud of my son and think he has excellent taste in women as I can't think of anyone who I would want more for a daughter in law. So I would like to welcome beautiful Jane to the family and I am sure that Tim will take good care of you! After living together for a while it is safe to assume that she can live with his bad habits and they look set for a long and happy marriage together.

My son was never one for the girls. As soon as they smelt his socks or saw the state of his apartment they seemed to run a mile! But for some reason, I'm not quite sure what, Jane put up with it and even managed to have such a positive influence on him!

Rose and I have been married for years now. I won't tell you how long because that will reveal my wife's age and if I've learned anything in my "ahem" years of marriage it's never to give my wife's age away!

We, like all marriages have had our ups and downs but what we have learned in the process is that you work through your problems together. You become a team that

tackles things together and soon you have additions to your team. Both Tim and Jane have today committed themselves to each other and have therefore started their journey into marriage. I am sure that many many happy years are ahead of them.

So ladies and gentlemen if you could please raise your glasses and join me in toasting the bride and groom. May they have a long and wonderful marriage. To the bride and groom!

Well what a wonderful day this has been. I have gained a daughter and lost a fortune! My new daughter in law has spent the past year organizing this day and I must say that she has done a fantastic job. Who would have thought that one day would take so long to plan? But apparently finding the right napkins to match the chairs takes time! For those of you who don't know, I am the father of the Groom and I'd like to take a minute or two to say a few words.

My son and I haven't always seen eye to eye. When he was a teenager he loved his sports. He was captain of the football team and spent most of his time training and playing in games. Unfortunately I didn't share his enthusiasm for sport and my dreams of him becoming a world class lawyer were slipping away from me.

Of course, as most Dads do, I underestimated my son and when he went to college he proved to me that not only was he a great sportsman but something of an intellectual too. Now he is working for one of the best companies in the US and I am proud to tell everyone that he is my son. I can only hope that my underestimating him will teach him to trust his own son one day. I thought Tim couldn't make me any prouder until he brought his beautiful girlfriend, well now wife, home. Jane is funny, gorgeous and has really settled into the family. Tim has chosen very well and he is as lucky to have her as she is to have him!

It is traditional for the father of the groom to give his son a few lessons in marriage. Well there are a few things that I have learnt. The first and most important thing I have learnt is the saying "yes dear". Learn this fast son; it will save you from many arguments and rows for years to come! The next thing I have learnt is compromise. Although you have found your soul mate, you may not always agree with everything and as such you should learn to compromise.

It should not be a case of winning or losing but more a way of both getting what you want and if all else fails, this is where the "yes dear" comes in! The third and final thing that I have to tell you is to work at it. Things may not always be rosy during a marriage and obstacles will come up that you are unprepared for and may not see coming. They may put pressure on your marriage or create a bit of tension.

Whatever it may be you must remember that everything important is worth working hard at and a marriage is no different. My wife and I have been together for 25 years now and its all thanks to the hard work and effort that we have put in.

Now all the heartwarming stuff is out of the way there is just one last piece of advice that I would like to give to Jane. As compromise and working at a marriage is very important, so is letting him watch his football games! It's best never to get in the way, hide the remote or generally speak if he is watching a game! I suggest going out with his credit card instead and leaving him in peace!

So ladies and gentleman I would finally like to welcome my daughter in law Jane into our family and wish the happy couple many happy years to come. To the bride and the groom!

Ladies and Gentlemen I am the father of the groom and it's my turn to say a few words about the happy couple and give them a few helpful hints on how to have a happy and successful marriage. Before I do all of that I would like to say what a lovely day we have had. I think you will all agree with me when I say that the ceremony was heart warming and the bride looked stunning. It took her several months to find the right dress and several months more to have it fitted but I think that it was worth it because she looks amazing. I would like to welcome Jane into the family and hope that she and her husband Tim have had as good a day as we all have.

I am very pleased to say that today I am the proudest father in the world. Who knew that my son could scrub up so well?! I will never forget the day Tim was born. He decided that he wanted to enter the world 3 weeks early. It was about 2 in the morning and my wife Rose was feeling very uncomfortable. Eventually she decided to wake me up and said that we had to go. NOW. We got to the hospital and because of him being so early Rose was sent to a special ward. I came back from parking the car and her bed was empty.

No one seemed to know where she had been moved to and I was stuck running up and down the halls looking in every room (not a pretty sight by the way)! I eventually found her with only minutes to go and as soon as she saw me she grabbed my hand. Within minutes Tim was born and we were the proud parents of a baby boy and I was left with two broken fingers!

Ever since Tim has always insisted on being early for everything and has always managed to be there whenever I break a bone! He was the one who threw the ball that broke my thumb, he was holding the ladder when I fell off the roof and he was the one that drove the bike over my foot. So I am extremely pleased that he will one day be a proud father too and I hope that my grandson or granddaughter may seek my revenge!

As for marriage, my advice to my new daughter in law is to invest in good health insurance! I don't have many pearls of wisdom as far as marriage goes but there is

one thing that has worked for me over the years and that's to be honest. Talking about problems and speaking freely about your feelings means that you both know where you stand and are able to sort your problems out quickly. It has kept my wife and me happy for the last 20 years and I hope it will keep us happy for many more.

Finally it has come to the time to make the toast but before I do I would just like to reiterate how proud I am of my son and my new daughter in law. They have made me so happy and I hope that they will make each other happy for the rest of their lives. So can we all raise our glasses and wish the bride and the groom all the happiness in the world. Thank you for listening. Here's to the bride and groom!

Conclusion

Hope you enjoyed what we had to offer.

Hope that the book has helped you to grow personally and will in some way help you to enjoy your son's wedding with much more confidence than what you would have done without it.

Hope it has turned your public speaking fears into challenges and hope you will find your son's wedding as an opportunity to have lot of fun and cherish the experience forever.

That's what I have aimed to deliver to you through this book.

Remember giving a speech on your son's wedding is an honour. Take pride in it. If you remember the simple rules and practice a little, speech giving is certainly not a complicated affair like creating a space shuttle!

Just take it easy. Believe, you will do well. There is no reason that you will not.

Now is the time to make your son feel special, now is the time to show him how much you love him, now is the time to welcome your daughter in law, now is the time to strengthen the bond of family relations, now is the time to leave a long lasting impression on everyone and now is the time to create some wonderful memories.

Just enjoy the day and have confidence. Everything else will surely fall into place.

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