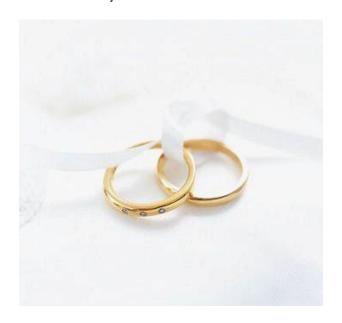
## **Maid of Honor Speech Templates**

By Belinda Hamilton



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### SPEECH TEMPLATE 1

Thank you so much [BEST MAN] that was certainly quite an enlightening speech. I'm sure that I'm not the only one who learnt something new about [GROOM], perhaps more than any of us ever needed to know! [BRIDE], was hopefully given the heads up before THOSE stories were told!

I certainly can't top [BEST MANS] speech in terms of humor or with embarrassing stories, so I'm not going to try, I thought I might take a slightly different take on the whole speech giving...

For those of you who don't know me, my name is [NAME] and I am very lucky to be the maid of honor at this beautiful wedding. It isn't very often that any girl is lucky enough to be the maid of honor, but I'm sure it is even less often that maid of honor gets to stand up and give a speech from the bottom of her heart, without any fabrication!

Today is the day my best friend [BRIDE] married the man of her dreams, and there is nothing better than watching someone so wonderful finally snagging the perfect man. And although I am a little jealous, I'm so happy for her, no one deserves happiness more than this beautiful girl and nothing makes any of us happier than seeing her have her perfect day.

Regardless of all the crazy things that [BEST MAN] said in his speech, there are a few things that we certainly do agree on, [BRIDE] does look incredibly beautiful, that dress is amazing, and all of the bridesmaids also look gorgeous. We also agree on one other thing, [GROOM], despite all of the crazy things he did in college, he is a great guy and he is perfect for [BRIDE].

I've known [BRIDE] for [x] years, and I've seen her with lots of boys. Well, not LOTS of boys, [GROOM] don't worry, but she has had her fair share of boyfriends over the years. But I have never seen her so in love or so attached to any of them.

[BRIDE] has always been a pretty relaxed and easy going girl, with a great sense of humor and a love of life, but when I first saw her with [GROOM] I knew that there was something special going on.

I had never seen [BRIDE] so happy, she was practically glowing with it and I had never seen her so giddy. [BRIDE] had always had it together, but when they first started dating, whenever [GROOM] was around, she was so uncoordinated. She would drop things or trip over or say the wrong thing. And that's when all of us, her friends knew, she had the bug, the love bug! And I'm very happy to admit, she's still got it, and she'll have it every day. They are perfect for each other!

Today [BRIDE] and [GROOM] have made their vows and we all witnessed the moment that they fully committed their lives and wove their future into something that will last forever and I can honestly say I speak for every friend of the bride and groom when I say, congratulations, you have proved to all of us that we can do it.

I know that when, if, I ever get married in the future, I hope that I will be as blessed and happy as you are today, [BRIDE], I really hope that the rest of us will find that perfect person and have what you have together.

[BRIDE], you are my best friend and it is my honor to have had the chance to be your maid of honor today. I feel so blessed to be your friend. We have been through so many ups and downs together and you have always been there for me, it was my absolute pleasure to be there for you today. Thank you so much for the opportunity, you are a wonderful friend.

I think that is probably enough from me, considering I'm getting a little emotional now, so I'd just like to wrap it up with a toast.

If you would all raise your glasses once again to the bride and groom, 'May your happiness last as long as your days on this earth, and may you go through this life hand in hand. We love you both.'

### **SPEECH TEMPLATE 2**

I'd like to start by saying thank you to you all for attending this beautiful wedding ceremony today, and what a day it has been! It has been a perfect day and we have all had the absolute pleasure of watching [BRIDE] and [GROOM] join together today.

I'd like to start off by thanking the people who helped make today such a success. It couldn't have happened without your help. To [BRIDES] parents, her sisters and her

friends who all really stepped up and did everything in their power to make today go as smoothly as possible.

To [GROOMS] family as well, who really gave a lot of time and energy setting up the venue and driving us all around, we really wouldn't have got today organized so quickly without you!

Also, to the caterers, the bar staff, the ushers and all of the staff at the church, and of course you Reverend, thank you. You have all done such a great job and will continue to do so for the rest of the evening, thank you for taking any stress out of the actual day. You are all an absolute godsend to us all.

I first met [BRIDE] when we were little girls in the playground. She was a bossy little kid with her hands on her hips and she was busy ordering around some other kids... she never dared boss me around, I was always much bigger than her, and she really wanted to ride on my double bike with me, so she charmed me right away.

Despite our rocky beginning of arguments over Barbie dolls and teddy bears, our fights over pool toys and ice cream flavors, we really did have the best of friendships.

[BRIDE] grew out of her bossy behavior by the time we hit junior high and then she was truly the best friend that any pre-teen girl could ask for. She was all braces and awkward arms and legs for a while. And don't think I was making fun of her, I wasn't, I was even more awkward. We laughed at each other and at everyone else.

We fell in love with stars like Jonathon Taylor Thomas and listened to the Backstreet Boys and the Spice Girls. We dreamt big and we fell hard when our dreams looked like they weren't going to come true. We went through it all together. When I look back on what it was like being a teenager, I'm so glad I only have to go through that once in my life, it was a lot of fun, but there was also a lot of shame and heartbreak and tears.

I can't imagine anyone I'd rather have by my side than my best friend [BRIDE]. She was always gracious, always generous and always gentle, and she always made me laugh, once to the point of no return... but we won't talk about that. College didn't

tear us apart, even though we went to different schools; we still saw each other during summer and kept each other updated on all of the hilarious gossip.

When [BRIDE] called to tell me that she'd met the man of her dreams, I couldn't believe my ears. She was obsessed with him, she couldn't talk about anything but how nice his eyes work, how cut his bum was and how much fun she had with him.

They broke up, and then she met [GROOM]. Just kidding! It was of course [GROOM] she was talking about, and now here we are! And I'm sure you will all agree that they are the world's most perfect couple!

I couldn't be happier today [BRIDE], unless of course this was my wedding day! You look incredible, your hair has stayed in place and your dress is just to die for. I love you, you are my best friend and there is nothing better in the world than seeing you so happy.

I'd like to wrap things up here by making a toast to this incredible couple, the bride and groom.

If you would all please raise your glasses, to [BRIDE] and [GROOM] may your love and happiness forever shine bright and laughter always fill your home... Congratulations!

### SPEECH TEMPLATE 3

Well, [BEST MAN] that was quite a speech. Thank you for all the kind words about how great the bridesmaids look, I hate to disappoint you by telling you that each and every one of us are engaged... but we do promise to spread the word around that you are looking for a suitable girl! I'm sure there are plenty here, or down at the park that might be interested!

Good evening to you all! Well, what a beautiful day it has been and what a delicious meal we all just shared. My name is [NAME] and I am absolutely in awe of this beautiful bride and her handsome groom.

I have never been so moved or so excited than I was today seeing my best friend and sister marry the man of her dreams in the most beautiful location in the world.

[BRIDE], you are my older beautiful sister and you have always been there for me, I'd just like to start by thanking you personally, in front of all of your beautiful guests, for asking me to be your maid of honor.

It really means so much to me, I am so honored that you put so much trust and love on to me and that you let me really help you make your day the best it could be. I love you so much [BRIDE], you have always been a wonderful sister, and I'm going to keep the embarrassing stories to a minimum as my gift to you!

When I was a little girl [BRIDE] was often left to entertain me by our loving parents, much to her dismay. I'm not sure if I was a really annoying kid, or if she really just wanted to be somewhere else, but we used to play games which at the time I thought would be fun, but looking back I realize that she was perhaps trying to avoid me.

Hide and seek was a big one. [BRIDE] would always tell me to go and hide and that I was the best 'hider' in the world... because she never found me for at least an hour... There were many other games like this, she'd paint my face and make me stand on a corner, if I wanted to hang out with her and her friends I had to wear a blind fold or hold the TV antennae very still... But things got much better when we got older.

When I was a teenage, [BRIDE] was already off at college. She used to take my calls in the middle of the night and a few times she even came back into town to fight my battles for me. We still fought over who got the wishbone at thanksgiving, but we had a lot more in common, and I think we even started to get along.

I love my sister very much, she's an incredible woman. She has taught me everything I know and I think she has a lot to do with the person I've become. I know one day [BRIDE] is going to make a wonderful mother and that today she has committed herself to a man who she loves so much.

I am glad that she found such a good humored, intelligent and easy-going guy to be her companion for the rest of her life. It makes me even happier that the [GROOM] and I get along so well. Up until today [BRIDE] and I have always been tightly woven together in the fabric of our lives. But today she starts her adventure sharing her life with someone new. [GROOM], you better take care of her, or you will have me to answer to!

I wish nothing but happiness and joy for you both, and again, I'd like to thank you both for your love and your support and for giving me the opportunity to repay just a little bit of that today.

If you would all please raise your glasses in toast to my sister, the bride.

[BRIDE], you are beautiful, you are intelligent and you are a wonderful sister. Here is to our friendship and to your happily ever after! Congratulations!

### **SPEECH TEMPLATE 4**

Family, friends and especially [BRIDE] and [GROOM], today has been the most wonderful day.

When I watched my best friend [BRIDE] and her handsome new husband exchange vows this morning I was brought to tears by the love and the emotion and the excitement that surrounded us all. As I stood there watching my childhood friend marry her prince charming, I couldn't help but think about that day in grade 5 when [BRIDE] married an invisible man in her backyard and had me as a bridesmaid. Trust me [GROOM], you are much better looking, and much better suited to [BRIDE]!

[BRIDE] and I met when we were in grade four at another kid's birthday party. We used to argue about things and made terrible jokes of our younger brothers who we used to dress like girls. I'm so proud to be standing here still, at the real wedding, fifteen years later, as the maid of honor.

Nothing makes me happier to see how happy this couple is today, after all the roller coaster of the wedding preparations. But we got here didn't we! We had a few dramas over the past month or two, but alls well that ends well, and I can honestly say today has turned out more perfect and more beautiful that I think any of us could ever have imagined.

Now, I do say that [BRIDE] is my best friend, and she is, but [GROOM] is also a very good friend who I have known for a very long time. He is actually my cousin, so he's

been around a lot since I was a kid. It's great to have my family and my friends join together in such happiness.

I remember the first time [GROOM] and [BRIDE] met, it was long before they started dating, it was at my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday party. It was a superhero themed party and [BRIDE] had a tantrum because someone stepped on her cape and [GROOM] threw a piece of cake at her. It was love at first meeting... not quite!

When [BRIDE] told me that she had run into [GROOM] four years ago and that she really liked him, I had to scrape my jaw up off the floor. But seeing them together, I couldn't have been happier, they are disgustingly in love and are so doting and adoring towards each other. It's really something to be jealous of, and trust me, I am!

[BRIDE] you are such a smart and beautiful woman, you have a great job and a beautiful future ahead of you, I am so grateful that you asked me to be your maid of honor so that I could support you fully in starting your married life.

I love you so very much, you are an incredible person with a great sense of humor and I am so very proud and blessed to be your friend. Thank you so much for bringing so much happiness and joy into my life and into the lives of everyone around you.

[GROOM] is kind and generous and a good man and he is just the man to take care of and love [BRIDE]. They are a match made in heaven and I can say honestly to you that nothing makes me happier than seeing these two fantastic people join together to spend the rest of their lives together.

I'd like to take this moment to say thank you to everyone who helped us get today organized, the caterers, the ushers and the vicar for their constant support.

To the families and the friends for their patience with us all and their hard earned cash. To the dress makers for dealing with tantrums and tears, to the cake maker for the most delicious looking cake I've ever seen, and to everyone else who has taken the time to make this day the most special day for [GROOM] and [BRIDE] – we just couldn't have done it without you!

On that note, I'll let someone else get up and do a speech, but first I'd like you all to raise your glasses and toast to [BRIDE] - a friend for a lifetime, a wonderful woman, and a beautiful bride. Congratulations darling, we love you so much!

### **SPEECH TEMPLATE 5**

What a beautiful day it has been!

I have been to a lot of different weddings, but this one is certainly something special. I am so absolutely filled with pride to stand up here in front of you all as the maid of honor.

There is no greater honor in the world that could have been bestowed upon me, not only is my wonderful friend [BRIDE] the beautiful bride, but I'm lucky enough to have my brother [GROOM] as the groom.

I could go on and on about [GROOM], but I think that [BEST MAN] did enough naming and shaming for one day, and besides, I'm here for [BRIDE] - my beautiful new sister.

[BRIDE], I know you have been waiting for this day all your life. Your mum told me all about your backyard weddings and your dreams of white dresses as a little girl. I just hope that the day that we have created has lived up to all of your expectations, if not surpassed it.

Today truly was the stuff that dreams are made of, and I am so proud to have been a part of it and to witness such love in such a wonderful union today at the church.

[BRIDE], you're married! Lucky you! You can officially say goodbye to going to your friend's weddings and watching in hope that someday it would be you, today is your day! Gone are the blind dates and the horrendous fix ups from friends and family.

You are not destined for a life of speed dating or internet dating and you will never have to fear being alone. You might actually be wishing for some time alone!

You don't have to fight with anyone for that bouquet today, it's yours to throw, and if you don't mind, I'd really appreciate it if you threw it in my direction!

It's your day [BRIDE], this is the beginning of a beautiful life and an adventure that you are going on with your new husband. You will create together a lifetime of memories and you will always have so many friends and family by your side for support. It is your day, and you should take it all in, everyone in this room is here for you and [GROOM] to support your love and your union!

This marriage might have been many years in the making for you [BRIDE], but for the rest of us, [GROOM] in particular, we have all been waiting for you to come into his life so that our life with you can start!

Now, I know that [GROOM] has some annoying habits that you have vowed to take in your stride and learn to love. I'm here to tell you that you don't have to, that you can change him! [GROOM] used to wear nothing but striped leggings when he was a child, and mom changed him out of that! He is moldable, you can do it, and you have his sister's full support!

We are a big, loud and interfering family, and I know you know that. But I'm not sure if you know that we are all, every one of us, so excited to have you as a part of our lives and our family. You have brought so much light and happiness to us all and we are so glad to have you.

Now, if any of this scares you, I'll remind you now that it's too late, you can't get out of it, you signed that piece of paper, you're one of us now! We are all in this together you and me and that sea of faces you see in front of you. We are bound by love and blood and marriage and we will stay strong with friendship.

Our family will grow with new additions, with weddings and babies and happiness, and you have brought so much joy to us all today. Because on this beautiful day you became one of us, you became a [GROOMS LAST NAME].

Please, will you all raise your glasses to [BRIDE] - welcome to the family sister! Congratulations!

### SPEECH TEMPLATE 6

I'd like to welcome you all to the wedding of my dear friend [BRIDE] and her handsome husband [GROOM].

You know, many girls dream about their wedding day. And though this isn't exactly my wedding day, this is nonetheless a day of dreams for me.

Today I fulfilled my dream of seeing my best friend get married. [BRIDE] looks gorgeous in her wedding dress, the picture of elegant refinement. (Pause) Last night at the bachelorette party, by contrast... (Pause) oh no, we won't go there. (Pause for laughter)

And, if I may say so, [BRIDE] is marrying a dream of a man. [GROOM] is handsome, intelligent, kind, successful; the kind of man I always dreamed of seeing [BRIDE] marrying. (Pause) Heck, he is the type of man I've always dreamed of marrying. I am so jealous! (Pause for laughter)

Before [BRIDE] conks me upside the head for my untimely impertinence (pause for laughter), let me hasten to add that she and [GROOM] make the ideal couple. She, like he, is attractive, successful, wise, sweet, and fun-loving. She is a great friend, and I am honored that she chose me to be her maid of honor today. We have stood by each other through the good and the bad, and this day is definitely the best of the good. (Smiles)

I am particularly flattered when I consider all of the other prime options that [BRIDE] had when selecting her maid of honor. I smile as I look around and see all of her friends and relatives, the people who fill and define her life. I know she appreciates your presence here, and so do I.

I also smile when I see [BRIDE]'s parents, [BRIDE'S MOTHER] and [BRIDE'S FATHER]. They are fantastic people who have always treated me like a daughter. I know they also have adopted [GROOM] as part of their family, and they sure know how to put on a good wedding. I love those two!

[GROOM'S] parents, [GROOM'S FATHER] and [GROOM'S MOTHER], also seem like wonderful people and I am very pleased to see them here today.

Before I get too mushy and gushy, though, (pause for laughter) I have some words of gentle advice for [GROOM]; some little pointers, gently suggested, that may help you get your married life off to a good start.

(Points to groom, glares savagely in his direction) You'd better treat her right, Buster, or you're goin' down. (Pause for laughter) That's my best friend beside you there, and she deserves the best. Better give it to her, or else! (Pause for laughter)

(Face and tone soften) Actually, [GROOM], I have every confidence that you will make a great husband for [BRIDE]. You are everything that she has ever dreamed of in a man, and as I mentioned earlier it is my dream to see her so happy.

[BRIDE], I have some words of advice for you as well. And they are, as follows:

Please stay just as happy as you are today. It does my heart good to see my friend so joyous. And, as I subtly alluded to earlier, if he ever does anything to make you unhappy, he will have me to deal with! (Pause for laughter)

Seriously, though, if you two ever face a problem, I know that you'll use your combined wit and intellect to overcome your obstacle. Don't ever let anyone or anything get in your way; together you two are unbeatable.

Indeed, I predict that the two of you will have a dream of a future; one filled with love, romance, fun and camaraderie; as well as beautiful homes, fun adventures, and of course wonderful children. I can't wait to baby-sit; (pause) that is, if you actually trust me to be a positive influence on your children. (Pause for laughter) Here's hoping. (Pause for laughter)

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], you two together make a dream of a couple. Stay young, have fun, stay madly and passionately in love. And never forget about the strong, solid friendship that started it all. Speaking as [BRIDE]'s other best friend—that's right, [GROOM], I was here first (pause for laughter)—I want to wish you nothing but the best. Have a dreamy wedding day, you two, and here's to the future.

#### SPEECH TEMPLATE 7

I want to welcome you to the wedding of my lovely friend [BRIDE] and her dashing husband [GROOM]. Hey, nobody uses the word dashing anymore, so I thought I'd

revive it today (Pause for laughter). It's my speech and I'll say what I want to! (Pause for laughter)

It may be my speech but it's my best friend's wedding. And doesn't she look magnificent in that dress? I'm jealous! (Pause for laughter) If I wasn't her maid of honor, duty bound to stand beside her with caring and respect, I'd be scratching her eyes out right about now! (Pause for laughter)

Furthermore she chose an enviable mate. [GROOM] is handsome, bright, successful and kind. (Sighs) Geesh, [BRIDE], couldn't you have done the decent thing and cloned him before you married him? (Pause for laughter)

Now before she scratches my eyes out (pause for laughter), and deservedly so I might add (pause for laughter), let me hasten to say that [BRIDE] is the ideal mate for [GROOM]. She is a beautiful, elegant, intelligent, sweet, and successful woman in her own right. (Pause, sheepish) And she puts up with me, which says a great deal about her character. (Pause for laughter) If not guarantees her a place in Heaven. (Pause for laughter)

(More seriously) Of course, I do believe she has already found Heaven in [GROOM'S] arms. These two are passionate lovers (I bet they just love the fact that I mentioned that part of their relationship in front of their parents—sorry, you two! Pause for laughter), great friends, and solid partners. And I know that their future will be filled with love, romance, tenderness and camaraderie; beautiful homes, fun vacations, inspiring business ventures, and of course amazing children.

And as great as their future is sure to be, I believe that their present is also pretty remarkable. They are young, beautiful, annoyingly, perkily happy (pause for laughter), madly in love, and surrounded today by the people they love: [GROOMSMAN], who stood by [GROOM]'s side today, as he always has in the past, [GROOM]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE GROOM] and [FATHER OF THE GROOM], who are wonderful and loving people, [BRIDE]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE BRIDE] and [FATHER OF THE BRIDE], who are fantastic people, like second parents to me, as well as all the other friends and family members who define the life of [BRIDE] and [GROOM].

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], know that, just as these people surround you today with love and reverence, so we will surround you the rest of your lives. If you ever face a problem or obstacle of any kind, please know that we will be here for you, today, tomorrow and forever.

Not that I foresee you having all that many problems. You two fit together like a hand in glove, and I predict that your days together will be smooth and harmonious. You two together are simply unbeatable, and don't ever let anyone or anything stand in the way of your ultimate, destined happiness.

You truly were meant to be together, [BRIDE] and [GROOM], and my only advice to you would be to always act and feel just as you did today, your wedding day. Always kiss, talk, dance, hold hands; (pause) you can also keep on feeding each other cake periodically, if you want—then again, that might seem kind of odd and not all that sanitary. (Pause for laughter)

What I'm really trying to say is, don't just be man and wife. Be lovers. Be partners in adventure. And perhaps most importantly, be the best of friends.

And through it all, don't forget your other friends. [BRIDE], don't forget to give me a call once in awhile, both to gab about old memories and to fill me in on your new life and your adventures with [GROOM]. I'll always be here for you, and for [GROOM] as well; any friend of yours is a friend of mine. (Smiles)

In closing, [BRIDE] and [GROOM], I wish you a life filled with laughter and love. I wish you the best of everything, in every way you ever imagined. And for starters, dance, eat, kiss, and enjoy your wedding today. We love you two, [BRIDE] and [GROOM]! Enjoy your wedding day.

#### SPEECH TEMPLATE 8

I want to welcome you all to the wedding of my dear, lovely friend [BRIDE] and her handsome, wonderful husband [GROOM]. This day is mostly about them, it's true; (grins slyly) but it's also a little bit about me as well. (Pause for laughter)

After all, I get to wear this really cool dress today. (Gestures toward gown). For one day I get to eat all the rich, fatty cake I want to; though I assure you, I am so not

getting on the scales for a week. (Pause for laughter) And I get to do dances I haven't done since my high school prom, and in the presence of all my family and friends. Bonus! (Pause, sheepish) OK, maybe this 'maid of honor' business isn't such a sweet deal, after all. (Pause for laughter)

No, seriously, I truly am honored that [BRIDE] selected me to stand beside her today; to present her to her new husband, who is a truly special man.

[GROOM] is a handsome, accomplished, kind man who I'm sure will make a perfect husband. And, though I'm not exactly an impartial observer, I believe that my friend [BRIDE] deserves nothing short of perfection.

I never cease to admire [BRIDE], a lovely, sweet, successful woman who is both a good buddy and a stunning role model. A soul sister and confidente, she is an important part of my life. That's why I'm so pleased to help her start this new, exciting phase of her life; one shared with a wonderful man.

In the future, I foresee these two having a life filled with love, romance, passion, friendship and adventure. I can just see them taking fun trips, owning beautiful homes, sharing ambitious business ventures, and of course having many, many beautiful children. They are fun friends, passionate lovers, and solid partners, so naturally they'll make perfect parents as well. I can't wait to see those cute kids! (Grins)

Now before their heads get altogether too big, I have some practical, earthy advice to offer these two; so they'd better listen up! Mama's talkin' now, and boy has she got somethin' to say. (Pause for laughter)

(Pause, sheepish) OK, OK, all I really want to say is that these two should stay exactly as they are. (Sighs in frustration) It is so hard to criticize perfect people, blast them! (Pause for laughter) Keep hugging, keep talking, keep kissing, keep loving. And if you do happen to encounter a problem or obstacle, always remember to talk it out, compromise, and never forget how much in love you are. Together you two are truly unbeatable.

Also never forget the friends and family who gathered here today to help you start your new life. Like myself, I know that [GROOMSMAN] is proud to stand beside you

today; plus he looks smokin' in a suit. Woohoo! (Pause for laughter) [BRIDE]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE BRIDE] and [FATHER OF THE BRIDE] are truly wonderful people who have always treated me as one of their own. [GROOM], you are super lucky to have these two as your in-laws, believe you me! (Pause for laughter)

Of course, [GROOM]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE GROOM] and [FATHER OF THE GROOM] also seem like great people, and I look forward to getting to know them better.

Thanks indeed to all of the wonderful friends and family who gathered here today, to honor and celebrate this blessed union between two wonderful people. [BRIDE] and [GROOM], you two are truly destined to be together, and I hope that you never forget the special, magic bond you share.

I hope that you take the sweet, loving feeling that brought you here today and bottle it up; hang on to that feeling and never let it go. Grow that feeling, nurture it, until it becomes something larger and greater than the two of you.

(Pauses, continues in soft reflection) On second thought, though, I don't think that anything or anyone is greater than the two of you. So with that in mind, the only other piece of advice I have to give is to relax and enjoy your wedding day. Congratulations, [BRIDE] and [GROOM]; we love you!

#### SPEECH TEMPLATE 9

We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of my dear friend [BRIDE] and her wonderful husband [GROOM].

For the bride, her wedding day is typically a time of joy, bliss and happiness, of dreams come true. For her maid of honor, a wedding day is a time of joy, happiness...and outright panic. (Pause for laughter)

She worries about the bride's dress, about the decorations, about the cake, about the reception hall, about the makeup, about the hair; much more importantly, she worries about the bride's long-term happiness. She hopes fervently that she has chosen the right man to spend the rest of her life with, and that her married life will be a joyful and fulfilling one.

As [BRIDE]'s maid of honor today, I have indeed worried about the dress, the ceremony, the hair and makeup, the reception, the music, the food, etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc... (Pause for laughter) One thing I don't worry about, thankfully, is my friend's choice of a groom.

[GROOM] is truly a kind, wonderful, smart, successful gentleman. And, if my friend [BRIDE] won't mind my saying so, he is pretty darned easy on the eyes as well. (Pause for laughter) My friend could not have chosen a better husband, and I predict that her future with him will be a bright, gleeful and happy one.

[BRIDE], after all, is an ideal match for [GROOM]. She, too, is bright, attractive, kind, and successful; an enviable woman in every respect, and definitely the perfect bride. I'm downright jealous of her sheer, annoyingly unmitigated perfection; if she wasn't such a good friend I'd be about ready to scratch her pretty eyes out right now! (Pause for laughter)

Ah, but she is a great friend, in every respect; and just as she has stood by me all these many years, I am more than pleased to stand by her; to help set her on the road to this beautiful new life.

I predict that [BRIDE] and [GROOM] will have an enjoyable, joyful marriage; one filled with love, romance, passion, friendship, and adventure. They are sure to have a warm, happy home, filled with love and tenderness. In the future I hope they have many children, along with joint business ventures, fun vacations, and quiet, romantic evenings at home.

Of course, things won't always be quiet and romantic in this marriage. Even the best of relationships face obstacles and dilemmas, arguments and roadblocks. Ah, but don't worry [BRIDE] and [GROOM]; as you can see here today, you have so many friends and family members ready to help you out with love, advice, or maybe just a listening ear.

[BRIDE], you know you can always depend on me for friendship and support. Similarly, I know that [GROOMSMAN] will always stand beside his good buddy [GROOM], just as he did today.

[GROOM] and [BRIDE] can also turn to their parents for love and support during tough times. As well as I know [BRIDE]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE BRIDE] and [FATHER OF THE BRIDE], I know that they love their daughter beyond the point of reason, and have the knowledge and experience to help her through any tough situation.

[GROOM]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE BRIDE] and [FATHER OF THE BRIDE], also seem like great, supportive people. I am so glad to see them here today, to show him their love and support.

I indeed want to thank all of the friends and family members who gathered here today to pay tribute to this wonderful couple. I know that they join me in wishing this couple the best of love and luck. They are truly special people, and they belong together.

In the future I wish them so much happiness; I hope that all their dreams are fulfilled, and that they never know a moment of sadness or turmoil. And for those few problems that they do encounter, I have every confidence that they have the reason and patience to work things out; more importantly, they have the love.

It is obvious, [BRIDE] and [GROOM], that you do love one another beyond the point of reason. And we love you too; (smiles) congratulations, you two. Please enjoy our wedding day.

### SPEECH TEMPLATE 10

I want to welcome you all today to the wedding of my dear, lovely friend [BRIDE] and her handsome husband [GROOM]. (Waving a dismissive hand) Ah, but enough about him. (Pause for laughter) A wedding day is custom-designed for a woman's enjoyment; it's a day of lace, dresses, flowers and beautiful decorations.

This day, in short, is all about [BRIDE]. And you all must admit that she makes a gorgeous bride. Yes, my friend is a beautiful woman who is also bright, sweet and successful. If I didn't love her so much I'd hate her! (Pause for laughter)

And, OK, OK, although this is her day I will throw a bone to her new husband. [GROOM] is bright, kind, ambitious, and as I mentioned earlier pretty darned easy on the eyes. (Pause for laughter)

I predict that these two will have a wonderful life together; one filled with love, romance, passion, adventure and good times. Some of these good times will inevitably lead to lots of children (pause for laughter), raised in a loving, happy home filled with joy and promise. They will enjoy fun family vacations and challenging professional ventures; and at the end of the day they'll always have each other.

Aside from those beautiful children, [BRIDE] and [GROOM] also will share their lives with the same great people who gathered here today.

[BRIDE]'s parents, [MOTHER OF THE BRIDE] and [FATHER OF THE BRIDE], are amazing people who love their daughter beyond the point of reason. I thank them sincerely for being here for their daughter, today and through all days.

[GROOM]'s parents, [FATHER OF THE GROOM] and [MOTHER OF THE GROOM], also seem like great people and I look forward to getting to know them better. I thank them for being here today, along with all the other family members and friends who have gathered here to honor this very special couple.

I truly believe that [BRIDE] and [GROOM] are meant to be together. They are ideally matched; the best of friends, the most ardent of lovers, and the most solid of partners. Their life together is sure to be smooth and jubilant; and for those rare times when they do face an encounter or an obstacle, a temptation or a dilemma, I have every confidence that their wit, their intellect, and most importantly their incredible mutual affection will carry them through. They are so great together, and I'm sure they'll never let anyone or anything stand in their way. Together these two are unbeatable.

Ah, but enough mush. (Pause for laughter) As I said earlier, this is [BRIDE]'s day. And girl, speaking as your friend and maid of honor, I have to say I am so proud of you. You have accomplished so much in your young life, and this marriage ranks among your greatest accomplishments.

You picked a great guy, and it's obvious that he loves you so much. I foresee such a beautiful life for the two of you, a bright future filled with nothing but the best for both of you.

In the meantime, let's enjoy your wedding day. Let's do all the 'girl stuff,' enjoy all the lace and the gowns, the fatty cake we usually can't eat along with the whipped cream, mints and rich cupcakes that go with it—um, think I'll cut short my speech and head for the refreshment table now. (Pause for laughter)

Focus, Maid of Honor, focus. (Pause for laughter) What I really mean to say, [BRIDE], is that we need to enjoy this time together as friends. Let us dance and enjoy the music, enjoy the food (oops, think I already mentioned that part—pause for laughter), enjoy all of the elegance and pageantry of your wedding day. This is your day.

And at the end of this day, dear [BRIDE], you go home with the man of your dreams. He belongs to you, and you belong to him; forever and always. That's a pretty sweet deal, in my opinion. (Smiles) Here's to you [BRIDE], my dear friend; enjoy your day. Your wedding day. (Casually, as an afterthought) And, [GROOM], if you would like to enjoy the day too, I guess that's fine by me. (Smiles and winks) Congratulations, you two. We love you.

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