

"2 Best Men Comic Speech #1"

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Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to thank Dan for his kind words and have to agree that the bridesmaids have done a fabulous job today and look absolutely wonderful - only eclipsed by Anne herself. They say a problem shared is a problem halved, but I suspect Dan is now wondering if he has actually doubled the problems for himself by allowing us both to speak about him.

We were very nervous when Dan asked us to be his best men. Speaking to a few friends and colleagues who have already suffered this dubious honour I was informed that it requires a little creativity, a little patience, some hard work, and some ingenuity. Remarkably Dan asked us to do the job despite us not possessing a single one of these traits. We therefore decided to have a look on the internet where we found the following checklist of duties :

Help the groom dress - fortunately I let Andy take care of this. Now it may be traditional for the groom to wear a kilt at a wedding, but today will be the one and only time as a married man Dan gets to wear the trousers.

Make sure the groom uses the toilet - I wish I had now done the first one

Ensure the groom's face and hair are in order - Well, God didn't do it right the first time around so neither of us had any hope here.

Make sure his trousers are done up - at this point we thought about asking his mother to take our places - and finally :

Make a speech to the bride and groom - Now, we thought this meant JUST to the bride and groom, you know, maybe off in a little room for a chat and perhaps a couple of drinks. We were a bit upset to find that we've actually got to do it in front of all of you as well. Still, I know you will all be getting hungry so we will get on with it :

Before we get to the stories, I should really point out what a fantastic, good looking and funny person Dan is - I should point this out, but I don't feel comfortable telling blatant lies in front of the Minister so I think we should move on :

We have both been friends with Dan since we were all about 16 years old so we had to turn to his father Mark for an insight into his formative years. Mark told us a story of coming home from a hard day at work back in 1979. It had been a long day, and by the time he got home Dan was already tucked up in his bed, Mark poured himself a large whisky and turned the TV on. Of course the sound of Daddy coming home had awoken young Dan, who sneaked down the stairs for a goodnight kiss. However, at this point Mark had left the front room to go into the kitchen. On returning he witnessed a 5-year-old Dan not only out of his bed but also picking up the whisky and taking a sizeable gulp. There was an immediate reaction from Dan - he spat all the whisky onto the floor, as you

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would expect a 5 year old to, and then slightly annoyed declared loudly "That's not lager!!" • This was obviously a sign of things to come.

At this point we'll jump forward to his university days because as far as we can determine nothing else funny happened to Dan until then. His student days reignited his love of a drink, but unfortunately his budget did not quite match his enthusiasm. Luckily his resourcefulness did. I still to this day have not met anyone who could go out with on a Thursday night and arrive home two days later having drunk enough booze to sink a battleship. Not only that, but come home with a newspaper and a Red Bull as Dan said this was vital to keep his energy up for university on Monday morning.

I think it was for this reason that Dan is the only student who decided that far from university being a hardship it was actually a comfortable way of life and rather than just one degree he would complete two instead. I think it's worthwhile mentioning at this point that myself Andy and the usher John are still paying off our student debts as a result of funding Dan's extended student life!!

Dan was however, forced to supplement our generosity as there were periods when all 3 of us were unavailable for 72 hour drinking sessions. He therefore took a part-time job in, you guessed it, a local pub. Further evidence of his upstanding character can be seen during these happy times. Obviously having to save all cash for socialising the poor boy would get hungry at work. But Dan refused to buckle to hunger pains by helping himself to the odd free bar of chocolate or bag of chips.

Moving forward to the day Dan met Anne. The 25th May 2003 was not just the happiest day of Dan's life. Myself, Andy and half of Southampton also shared tears of joy. It was clear to all that knew Dan that this relationship was different. True love blossomed, Dan's dress sense remarkably became not only impeccable, but fashionable also - clearly the result of the love of a good woman - and within a short period of time Dan was on the phone to both Andy and myself telling us he was planning a big surprise. At first we both thought he was might be taking us on a free night out for funding his university years but we should have known better, he was planning to ask the beautiful Anne for her hand in marriage. Fortunately she said yes, and that brings us nicely to the easiest of the best men duties, arranging the Stag Party -

Since there are 2 of us we felt it was only proper to arrange a Stag party each. I arranged a quiet 2 night break in Bath including 2 rounds of golf - all very civilised - at least it would have been had Dan played golf on the 2nd day with the rest of us instead of drinking all day with the only non golfer - John known to his friends as The Liability. Andy and I were on the 14th tee when we both received the same text message - get back here now and rescue me from this maniac -. On our arrival 1 hour later Dan was so drunk it was clear he couldn't make it out of the hotel and by the end of the night was heard to mutter that he was never again drinking.

However, inevitably 3 weeks later he was right up for his 2nd Stag Party which I was left to arrange in London. Now I should point out if Dan looks like he is shifting uncomfortably in his chair at the moment it's not because he is nervous about what we are going to say, it's because his rear end

