



Copy for: Best Man Speech  
Client:  
Draft one: 5.09.06

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*(If there are bridesmaids/maids of honour and they have been thanked and toasted by Ted, begin by saying...*

*..On the behalf of the maid(s) of honour OR bridesmaid(s) I would like to thank you for those kind words and I'd like to add how charming (names) are and how lovely they look today)*

Well, as Ted would say, making this speech has got me 'in a seem,' or put it another way, as Ted would also say, I find myself well and truly in 'Dickie's meadow'!

You know, I've known Ted for forty four years and I still don't understand what any of that means but, if you haven't already, try playing cards with Ted and you'll hear him come out with expressions like that all the time. I don't know where he gets these things from but I know that they've made me laugh for a long time and that's what I've enjoyed about his company over the years - the laughs and the fun we've had and the good times together. It's an honour to be your best man Ted, and I thank you for it.

So Mary, what are you taking on?



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Well, when I first met Ted, as you know, he was a farmer, a man of the land. He also worked for the Fylde water board. I got to know him through his late wife, Margery because I was married to her sister, Joan.

I liked Ted from the day I met him. I loved going up to the farm and giving Ted a hand with the lambing or carting bales about, and being Ted he always had a special job reserved just for me - loading manure by hand into the muck spreader! Yes, you could say I've done a lot for Ted - I've even shovelled...

..Anyway, Ted liked a game of cards, still does of course, and me and my wife Joan would go up to the farm every Sunday night for a game of (*poker?? Bridge?? Whist - whatever it was*) and we'd have a few drinks and a good time and a lot of laughs - especially when Ted had a bad hand, well, it made me laugh anyway! Mind you, to be honest it wasn't often Ted had bad cards - well, not often enough in my opinion. He's a canny card player, is Ted.

I'll say this for you Ted, there's not many who can play cards as well as you do, or do mental arithmetic as fast. It must be all the years you've been practising by watching Countdown.



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Now here's a word of advice, Mary. Don't ever get him onto the subject of Des Lynam. He's not as good as Richard Whiteley and that's that. You've told us Ted and we agree and as for that Carol Vorderman - she's getting too big for her boots and if she's goes on like that well, she'll be in 'Dickie's meadow' or in 'a seem' or in something else she richly deserves - possibly that muck spreader!

Another thing we used to do in the old days was go on holiday together. We had some great times. We've been as far afield as John O'Groats and Land's End - we've been to both and a few places in between.

Now Mary, if you're planning a holiday choose carefully. I don't want to imply anything, but put it this way, in the early days we used to go to B&Bs and I thought we got a pretty good deal but not Ted - on one occasion he thought this B&B was too expensive and he wanted us to move on - when I checked, it turned out to be £5 a night! So my advice, Mary, is hide the brochure!!

You know, nowadays when you buy a new suit, quite often they sew up the pockets to keep the line of the jacket hanging right. It's fashionable apparently - I'll tell you what Ted - you've been in fashion for a ruddy long time!

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Now, I've talked about Ted's farm. What a lovely place that was, what special memories it holds for me. Thank you, Ted, we had good times there. Now, you rented that farm from the Fylde Water Board and you did a bit of part time work for them. The Fylde Water Board supplies Blackpool with all its water, you know. I was reading in the paper about some of the trouble there's been with high spirited kids in Blackpool recently, and I thought what's up with them? - It must be something they put in the water. And then I thought of Ted courting and getting married again at the age of eighty five and I thought it's definitely something in the water - and I know who's put it there! Something you ought to be telling us is there Ted??

So, as you all know Ted retired from his farm and moved down out of the hills to Scorton to live near Joyce, and as luck would have it, he found himself near to a caravan park with a social club and a bar - so not surprisingly Ted decided to investigate the bar - just to see what it was like, you understand, because he doesn't drink as you know... and of course that's where he met Mary in 2002.

They got on famously from day one and they've just grown closer and closer to each other in the last four years and I know that Ted thinks the world of you Mary and that you make him a very happy man. And Ted, you are not only a happy man but you are a very lucky man to have met such

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a special and wonderful lady and I know she thinks the world of you too. I think everyone here today and friends and family past and present will be delighted for you both and be very happy for you both. So good luck to you Ted, and you Mary - and who knows, Mary, you may even have got him out of 'Dickie's meadow' once and for all.

So, Ladies and Gentleman would you raise your glasses and join me in a toast to wish Ted and Mary happiness, luck and long lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, the bride and groom.

Ends