

Bride Speech 1

So, I know that a bride's speech isn't exactly traditional... but if you know me at all, you'll know that today of all days, I wasn't about to let the guys have all the limelight!

First, on behalf of MY HUSBAND and myself (pause for applause) I want to say a massive thank you to all of you for being here today. We were fully ready for today to be amazing, but I don't think anything can really prepare you for how surreal & overwhelming it is to have all your friends and family, from all the different parts of your life, together in one room. The sheer volume of love here today has blown us away & we are SO grateful.

I know that my wonderful husband (LOVE saying that!) is doing all the proper thank yous in his speech, so I'll leave those to him. But I do just want to thank my amazing team of bridesmaids... you ladies have made this whole process so much fun - getting me hyped when I needed to be hyped & keeping me calm when I needed to be calm. The impromptu dance party this morning was EXACTLY what I needed to burn off the pre-ceremony nerves!

So, since there are no real rules for a Bride's speech, I thought it might be nice to tell you the story of how we met. There's an old saying that a man decides to marry when he feels it's the right time, while a woman chooses to marry when she feels it's the right man. Well, I'd argue that the same could be said for online dating.

I had been stuck in an endless cycle of swiping, matching, texting, meeting & (I'm ashamed to say...) ghosting a parade of Mr Wrongs... for YEARS. This guy on the other hand... decides one day to join a dating app, matches with me on his first afternoon of swiping, sets up a date for the next day, meets me. Falls head over heels & the rest is history! ... I mean, what can I say... He's a lucky guy!

Seriously though, I'm the lucky one. This man is, without a shadow of a doubt, the best person I've ever met. I mean, sorry guys - you're all fantastic & I love you... But I love him the most.

My love, I love your big laugh & your even bigger heart. I love the life we've built together - our beautiful home & our gorgeous fur babies. I love the way you can always make me laugh, even when I'm upset & crying... especially when I'm upset & crying! And most of all, I love that even from that very first date, being with you felt like home.

So, everyone, can I ask you please to raise a glass... to love, home & happily ever after!

Bride Speech 2

Ok, so I know it's not strictly traditional for the bride to give a speech, but I couldn't let the guys have all the fun now, could I?!

I think between them, they've already taken care of all the formal thank yous and shout outs... excellent work guys - smashed it! So, I won't bore you with more of those.

But, if you're all sitting comfortably, I thought I'd tell you a little story.

Once upon a time, not too far from here, there was a little girl. She didn't dream about handsome princes & big white weddings. She was too busy playing with her dinosaurs and splashing in muddy puddles to think about boys, thank you very much!

Around the same time, in a kingdom far away, across the water, there was a little boy. Playing with his dinosaurs & splashing in muddy puddles.

Over the years, these two little people grew up into slightly bigger people, but they kept their love of dinosaurs & muddy puddles. So, when the time came to choose a uni course... Earth Sciences (with a healthy dose of palaeontology) was the only option.

And so it was that come September, the girl from London & the boy from Amsterdam rocked up at Bristol University, young, fresh-faced & single... but not for long.

Their eyes met across the lecture theatre, there was a moment, a little spark. A friend request was sent (hey, it was 2008!) and the rest, as they say... is history.

I will be forever grateful that those two crazy, outdoorsy, dinosaur-loving kids, grew up & followed their dreams. Because if they hadn't, they would never have met. Never have fallen in love. And they wouldn't now be spending their days together, splashing in muddy puddles with their dinosaur-replacement dogs - and by the way, can I get a cheer for the world's greatest ring bearers, Dino & T-rex!

My love, you are the best thing that's ever happened to me. I love you. And I can't wait to keep on loving you, every day for the rest of my life.

So, lovely people, will you please join me in raising a glass, to following your dreams & falling in love!

Bride Speech 3

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” Wise words indeed, written by a very wise woman.

But what, I wonder, about a single WOMAN, in possession of an equally respectable fortune?... It’s an entirely different kettle of fish if you ask me.

In fact, as many of you will know, If you’d have asked this particular woman about her views on marriage, not even 2 years ago... well... she’d have chewed your ear off.

“I’ll never get married. Are you joking? I love my life! I can go where I like, I’m free to travel, financially independent. I don’t need no man. I’m happy by myself!”

And I was. I really, truly was.

BUT. You never know what the universe has in store for you. And for me, it had the most amazing surprise.

Enter stage left... this guy... the actual man of my dreams.

Tall, dark & handsome, kind, funny, adventurous, spontaneous.

It takes a special kind of crazy person to agree to a tandem skydive as a 2nd date... but that just about sums it up really, doesn’t it? I’ve found my person. My adventure buddy, my partner in crime, a match for my particular kind of crazy. And I’m not gonna lie, it feels f***ing amazing.

I get to wake up next to this phenomenal human every day, for the rest of my life. And wherever in the world we are, I know I’ll be home, as long as you’re there with me.

That’s what I believe marriage is all about – and honestly, I can’t f***ing wait.

So please, join me in a toast – to getting married!

NOW LET’S GET MESSY!

