

First off, I'd like to say that it's a huge honor to be here tonight. Not only am I grateful that I was named a groomsman in this wedding, I'm mostly grateful that I've gotten to know both Jacqui and Andy so well over the past ten years.

I first met Andy in 6th grade and we hit it off almost immediately. What struck me about Andy right away was just how interesting he was. He always had a unique take on a certain subject, a way of looking at things that I had never considered before. We both shared a love for the strange - whether he was introducing me to profane, singing sock puppets, or showing me a short film about a killer kitchen sink, hanging out with Andy was never boring.

I can also honestly say that Andy is one of the nicest, most generous people I have ever met. From day one, he and his parents were always incredibly gracious in opening up their house, the Chateau, to his friends, giving us a safe place to hang out most weekends. That we had this special place to go and be ourselves is a huge reason why we became close in the first place and stayed friends after all this time.

Jacqui shares a lot of the same generosity. We've gone to our fair shares of parties and events over the years, and when it's appropriate to come with a gift, most guests will bring a snack, or six pack of beer, if anything. But Jacqui always puts time and effort into baking something special for the occasion. I'm sure almost everyone around this table knows how amazing of a cook Jacqui is, so you can imagine the typical reaction to one of her homemade creations. But even more important than that thoughtfulness - Jacqui makes Andy incredibly happy.

Jacqui and Andy, you are starting out on a wonderful adventure tomorrow and I couldn't be more thrilled for you. I wish you the best that life and marriage have to offer as you continue your special journey.
Congratulations!

Unless someone here has secretly snuck into this dinner, I think it is probably a fair assumption that you all know who Andy and Jacqui are. Beyond just knowing Andy and Jacqui, you perhaps know them quite well, considering that you are here, tonight, with them before their big day at the Botanic Garden tomorrow. And the fact that you know something already is honestly a great relief to me, because as I stand here to talk to you about Andy, I realize that I have absolutely no idea how to describe him.

I've known Andy for over fifteen years. We met in middle school and became close friends in high school. When we both were accepted at Penn, (or as Andy put on the day we found out: "We got into college — the same one"), we decided to live together. And then for the next four years, we did live together: first as roommates, then as apartment mates, and then as housemates. Even over this past year, he's only been a few blocks north of me on the Upper West Side.

You would think that after all that time, I would be able to give you the 15 second elevator pitch about who Andy is. But I can't. It's too hard and I truly don't think that I would do him justice. I could recount some anecdotes that demonstrate his generosity or kindness, but that too would not adequately capture his essence. He is more than the sum of his parts.

Andy is fundamentally a special person. I recognize that maybe that is a cop-out, but it is the best I can come up with right now. Special. And that's not a euphemism for a variety of other arguably less charitable words—strange, different, weird—that I'm sure other people have used to describe him over the years. I mean it in its purest, most simple form. Andy is special. It's something that I believe all of us here know to be true; perhaps chief among us, Jacqui.

It's a privilege to know this very special person, who has been such an important part of my life and who continues to be special in new ways all of the time. As he begins this next part of his life with Jacqui, I know that the road ahead will be incredibly fulfilling. I raise my glass and make a toast to Andy and Jacqui, and wish them many, many special years to come.

I want to begin by echoing everything Sam said — especially about what an honor it is to be with you all tonight.

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You would think that after all that time, I would be able to give you the twenty second elevator pitch about who Andy is. But I can't. It's too hard and I truly don't think that I would do him justice. I could recount some anecdotes that demonstrate his generosity or kindness, but that too would not adequately capture his essence. He is more than the sum of his parts.

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