Hello all.

I hope you all can hear me but for those at the back the stony silence from the front should tell you that you are not missing much. I wanted to speak last so that I could answer some of the slander that has been directed my way.

It is a daunting task sitting down to write a wedding speech. So I did what most men do when presented with a problem, I googled it. After thoroughly checking bbc sport and finding no help in either the football or formula one sections I cast the net wider and found that the advice given could be distilled into 3 key points. 1) Say Thanks to everyone involved. Ok, that is great advice many many people have helped us get here today. 2) Be humorous, ok it would be good if at least one of the speeches was humorous. David I apologise unreservedly for being caught in the crossfire ther. 3) Show glowing affection to your new bride. This is where things ground to a halt. So after some chin scratching I composed my key points. 1) Say thank you. 2) Be humorous. 3) Tread the fine line between insulting your new bride and spending the night on the sofa. And 4), and this one is crucially important, back pedal furiously in the final few minutes and pray that all is forgotten.

Now before, I tread that tightrope let me do one of the most important jobs of the night and say thank you to a number of people. Firstly, on behalf of Kat and myself I would like to thank our parents. The list of things they have done is endless but to us one thing stands out. Katherine and I had Isla when we were quite young and the support our parents gave to us was incredible and so thank you. I know that Katherine in particular would like to thank her mum for all her help while I was away in St. Andrews. Personally I look back very fondly on those St. Andrews days but that is probably because I was getting 8 hours sleep a night- the importance of which cannot be overstated.   
  
Now two people who know about the joy of broken sleep are Katherine’s two bridesmaids Faye and Laura who both have young children at the moment. I know that finding a dress that was nice and practical was a real challenge but I think you both look lovely tonight and a big thank you for your help and support for Kat not only for today but over the years. A big thank you also to our flowergirls and our page boy Nicholas who kept the baddies away from our rings. To our chief bridesmaid Isla thank you for all your help and for putting up with endless dinner talk of ‘wedding this, wedding that’. Our speech givers, Katherine’s dad and brother David and Richard and my brother Ed I know that writing a speech is a pretty harrowing experience but you all did a great job so thank you. Thank you also to my ushers and so far only 4 people have been reported missing so great job.   
  
I would like to thank everyone who helped make the hall so look so great today. It is exactly what Katherine and I were hoping for have when we visited this hall for the first time last year. The only thing that made this possible was the small army of workers here yesterday helping us set up for today. So an enormous thank you to Diana and Richard, my brothers Ed and Pat, Richard and Jamie, Claire and baby Emily-who lets face it masterminded the whole operation. A particular thank you to Rhona who helped us with so much over the last few months from chalkboard drawing to table decorations and everything in between. So if you are planning a wedding in the next few months I definitely recommend moving into 182 Currievale Drive and making friends with your new next door neighbour. Thank you also to all our bakers for all their cakes-the cake table looks amazing and of course the unspoken rule   
  
On a more serious note on any special day in your live it is natural to think of the people who cannot be here to celebrate with you. There are several people who both Katherine and I wish could be here with us today. In particular I know that Katherine’s grandma Jean would have loved to be here today but the distance was understandably just too great. To me Grandma Jean and Bob’s marriage was a truly great example of what a marriage should be. They had a loving family, saw the world and had a great time doing it. If we manage half of what they managed we will have a great life. So can we all be upstanding and raise a glass to absent friends.   
  
  
Before moving onto the bride I would just like to quickly thank all of Katherine’s family for always being so welcoming to me. Now I am officially part of the family I am looking forward to really stirring it up by spreading some really controversial gossip. Oh and on a unrelated noted No Laura I don’t think Richard looks fat tonight. Or as your mum put it ‘Well no more than usual’.   
  
The first time Katherine and I agreed to meet was at Ythanwell’s graveyard- a beautiful place if you can beat the crowds. The graveyard became our regular meeting point for the next two years. We use to meet up there and walk back to Katherine’s house. It quickly became apparent that this girl was pretty cool. A great sense of fun and a lack of common sense meant that before long we had tried eating raw onion, got covered in vinegar while trying to fire a rocket and been chased by cows. Three things I had always been looking for in a girl.   
  
Now many of you will have noticed the same thing that I saw 11 years old-that this lady is made from hardy stock, just a quick look at her convinces you that if you could get a harness on her you could get a lot of work done. And believe me it is true-I have seen her hacking up frozen dog food with a spoon whilst 5 months pregnant. But I feel our camping experiences sum this up best. Our first camping trip together was in February with only a blanket each. That was actually for her birthday-lucky lady. Our second camping trip when we slept out without a tent, we have never seen or had so many ticks in our whole life. Or our third camping trip to the Cairngorms where there were clouds of midges outside and the tent leaked so bad we had to put our clothes into a bin bag to keep them dry. Or our fourth camping trip to lewis where the wind was so bad we had to get up in the night and run around the tent pushing the skewers back into the ground. Or our 5th camping trip where the campsite was covered in rocks and boggy. Throughout all this her humour and spirits never dropped though thinking back it was always pretty windy so she could have been screaming at me.   
  
 I believe at this point that Kat saw a pattern emerging and decided that having a child was the only way out of a sixth camping trip. A year later our first child Isla was born, Isla did not like to sleep and we tried anything. Eventually resorting to having the radio on whilst we slept. Katherine and I both remember rocking Isla back to sleep whilst listening to the shipping forecast. An experience we will never forget. A few years later Isla was joined by her brother Nicholas. By now nothing could faze katherine and she quickly had him trained. My defining memory of this is the night that Katherine and I fell asleep whilst feeding Nico, the next moment we are awoken by an almighty bang as Nico falls out of the bed. Katherine doesn’t panic but simply picks him up, checks he has the same number of arms and heads as he did at the start of the night and goes back to feeding.   
  
  
So Katherine I know that looking after two children and me must be so difficult, there must be times when one of us crying, one of us hungry and the other one needs the bathroom-I will let you decide which of us is doing what. But you have made the past 11 years such good fun and Isla, Nico and I know how lucky we are. So as we look to the future I know that our looks will slide and your backside will get small