

Firstly, on behalf of my wife and I... or to be more inclusive, on behalf of Doree and her new husband, I would like to thank all of you for coming today. It means so much to us to be surrounded by those we love and care about here to share in our special day. And a special thank you for those who have come from lands abroad to be here. I can honestly say it wouldn't have been the same without you all.

I'd like to also thank John and Sue, for your kind words, your acceptance of me into your family and for having raised a wonderful, caring and beautiful daughter. You have been kind and welcoming since we first met, and I hope that I live up to the high standard that you must surely hold for the husband of your daughter.

Now, for my own parents, John and Jean. They both undoubtedly deserve a medal for endurance. I've never been one to take the easy, or standard path through life, and at times it must have been frustrating. Despite this, they have loved and supported me throughout. And although I don't say this enough, I'm sure you both know exactly how much I love both of you.

Now, I turn to my best man, Pete. I'd like to thank him for agreeing to take on this task. However, while writing this speech, I realised that it is entirely his fault that I started running, and for those that saw the look on face at the end of my first half marathon, the blame lies firmly on his doorstep. Despite that, I am very grateful for all the support both you and Liz have given me.

Now, on to the bridesmaids. It is traditional to say how beautiful they look, and indeed they do. In particular, Baz – you look like a very pretty princess. Thank you all for the support you have given Dorée, and for fulfilling your main job – making sure Dorée turned up here today!

Far beyond all that, there is one person I owe the most thanks to, and that is Dorée.

Firstly, thank you for all the time and effort you have put into organising this party. For those that know her, I'm sure you understand how now detail was left untracked, or unplanned. We have spreadsheets to prove it. I first met Dorée when I moved to Cambridge about ten years ago. At the time, she had very short, very bleached, blonde hair. Although I'm sure she will deny it, I thought she was incredibly beautiful. However, nothing could have prepared me for what I saw when you walked down the aisle today, and I'm sure you will all agree how radiant she looks.

Thank you for marrying me, and for the journey of the last 9 years. This isn't the start of something new, but just one step in the wonderful life I know we will have, together.

Ladies and gentlemen, please be upstanding for a toast.

To my bride, my wife, my pride and joy – Doree.

Now, please be seated, I believe there is some more food to eat, and drinks to consume!