



Everything Except Choosing Your Groom

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Concierge to the Bride

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www.conciergetothebride.com.au

(03) 9696 7835

ABN 26 856 224 428

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- **Maid of Honor Speech 1 - Sisters (Close)**

Two peas in a pod. Thick as thieves. Tight knit. Close as close can be. Of all the terms and clichés that describe our relationships, I think the word “sister” says it best. If Dad tickled me, you would laugh. If Mom feed you chili, I would throw it up. When I scraped my knee, you needed a bandage too. When you felt happy, it made me smile. And when you got married today I cried tears of joy with you. Because that is what it means to be a sister.

How wonderful it is to see that you found the perfect man for you. I was proud to stand by your side when you said “I do.” You took a big step towards your future today, and, in turn, gave me the gift of a new brother. The fun times we shared during your engagement and the happiness of this day bring us even closer together. So now when Dad tickles me, you will still laugh and (groom) may wonder what you are up to. If you eat Mom’s chili, I may get heartburn too. And if either one of us is in pain, we will always be there to comfort each other.

Congratulations to my playmate, my confidant, my sister, my friend.

- **Maid of Honor Speech 2 - To Big Sister**

To my big sister (bride); you were always there to lead the way for me. When we were little girls, you taught me how to make mud pies and kept me from eating them. You stuck up for me when I was bullied on the playground. You showed my around on my first day of school and helped me with my homework.

You taught me how to put on makeup and paint my nails. You showed me how to dance and kiss boys and all the other cool things you learned from your teen magazines. You covered for me when I came in late from a date and counseled me through my first crush.

Even when you went away to school, you were still looking out for me; forsaking sleep or class or parties to take my calls and traveling many miles to be home for my birthday. And today you are still leading the way; shining a light on the path of love and marriage, showing me how its done and, sometimes, what not to do.

As you begin this new chapter in your life, I will still look to you for guidance because you helped me get this far. How blessed I am to have a big sister like you!

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- **Maid of Honor Speech 3 - To Little Sister**

When you were first born, Mom told me I adored you. She said I wanted to hold you and feed you and kiss you every chance I got. Mom said I couldn't take my eyes off you. Then we got a little older and you started to annoy me. I couldn't go anywhere without taking you along. If you cried, I got the blame. If we were fighting, I had to give in first. Sometimes I wondered why we couldn't just get rid of you. Mom and Dad laughed when I suggested we just leave you at church or in a restaurant.

Then we got a little older and I was grateful we didn't leave you behind. You started to come in handy and didn't annoy me as much. You were good for playing Barbies and board games. You would eat almost anything to impress my friends during a sleepover. I could practice putting my makeup on you. I even liked it when you would come into my room and sit with me when I was sad, even though I told you to go away.

Then we got a little older and I missed you while I was in college. I was actually excited to see you on holidays and during the summer. I liked talking about classes and boyfriends and politics and how to get more spending money out of Mom and Dad.

Yes, I'm glad we kept you. Otherwise I wouldn't have been able to share in the excitement of your engagement, the silly games we played at your bridal shower, and all the laughter during your bachelorette party. I would not have been able to watch you marry (groom) today and celebrate with both of you at this wonderful party. Congratulations little sis, and thank you Mom and Dad for not listening to me all those years ago.

- **Maid of Honor Speech 4 - Sister (Not So Close)**

How beautiful you are in that gorgeous white gown. How happy you looked walking down the aisle. How tender your first kiss during the ceremony. How sweet your first dance will be as husband and wife. As I watch you drink champagne and eat your wedding cake, I see the joy in your eyes. If I reach out, I can almost physically touch between you and (groom) and all of your family and friends gathered here today. I wish I could bottle that love, wrap it up with pretty paper and a bow, and give it to you as a wedding gift.

Then you could take it out on a rainy Saturday and be right back here, in this place, eating and laughing and dancing with everyone. But I don't think you'll need such a bottle. The reminders of this special day will be all around you: in the photo album on your coffee table, in the picture frame hanging over your fireplace, and in the shining band you wear on your finger every day. Use these reminders as a source of comfort and strength during the hard times. And let them bring a brighter smile to your faces in times

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of happiness.

Congratulations to you and (groom)!

Maid of Honor Speech 5 - Cousin/Family Member

I have some words of advice for my cousin (bride) and my new cousin (groom). Just a few tips to get the most out of your wedding gifts:

Every time you light a candle in those silver candlesticks from our grandparents, close your eyes and feel the spark that ignited during your first kiss.

When you take your rings to the family jeweller for a polish, remember the butterflies that fluttered in your stomach during the proposal.

As you are hand washing the lingerie you received at your bridal shower, think of all the fun we had that afternoon.

Take out those martini glasses you'll get from Aunt (name) and Uncle (name) and take your time to savour the cocktail instead of slamming it like we during all the bachelorette party hoopla.

When (groom) brings you flowers on your first anniversary, put them in the vase you'll receive from cousin (name) and picture the beautiful bouquet you carried with you down the aisle.

When you prepare a special meal in the fancy cookware from your Mom and Dad, or even just brown a piece of bread in the toaster they bought for you, let it take you back to the delicious meal we are sharing today.

And several years from now, when you are dancing to your wedding song on the CD player you got from your brother (or sister), relish the feeling that man you love is still holding you in his arms, just like he did during your first dance as husband and wife.

It is these little pearls of wisdom that have sustained the marriages in our family for generations. I hope one day you will pass this small legacy to your own children on their wedding day. Congratulations and (groom), welcome to the family!

Maid of Honor Speech 6 - Childhood Friend

When (bride) and I were little girls, we dreamed about our wedding day. We discussed centre pieces and honeymoons and where to hold the reception. We dressed up in my mom's gown, veil, and gloves and practiced walking down the aisle. Sometimes we even stole our bouquet from the dining room table, sitting in a vase my parents received as a wedding gift.

We even knew who the groom would be: David Cassidy or Tom Cruise or Leif Garrett, depending who was on the cover of our teen magazines. It was all so easy back then because our imaginations had no limits. And a twelve-year age difference between you and the celebrity groom you'd never met could never stand in the way of true love.

As we grew up, the style of the gown changed as did the color of the bridesmaid dresses. The perfect man switched from a TV heartthrob to the (name), cutest guy in 7th grade. The details differed from year to year but the dream always remained the same: to find the who was perfect for you and declare your love in front of family and friends. Followed by a wedding reception that would have made Martha (Stewart) drool, of course. How wonderful that your dream has come true. Congratulations to you both and may you spend the rest of your lives fulfilling each other's dreams.

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Maid of Honor Speeches 7 - Good Friend who is Finally Getting Married

Finally! Remember the times we sat through another friend's wedding, filled with the hope that someday, it would be one of us up there. Gone are the lonely nights we talked until the early hours, crying over the fear that it might never be one of us up there.

Say goodbye to bad blind dates and relentless pestering by that co-worker who was always trying to fix you up with the wrong guy. Say goodbye to scanning all those sad profiles on the Internet dating sites, looking for someone to peak your interest.

How happy are you that you will never again have to fight with the other single girls to catch the bouquet? Can you believe you actually get to be the one tossing the bouquet this time?

Well, I sure can. I always could. I knew during those awkward introductions at happy hour, when one of our friends invited a single guy and didn't tell you. I knew when you were secretly picking out your own wedding gown on all those shopping trips for the other girls who were engaged. I confess I got a little worried when you started dating Mr. Wrong. What was his name? The guy we called "please don't let her marry him." I knew there were better things in store for you. And, thankfully, you did too.

And then there was (groom). The guy we called "the dude we like." I remember when you first told me he could be "the one." I could just picture it. (Groom) down on one knee, asking you to make him the happiest man in the world, offering you that beautiful diamond ring, you in that gorgeous gown, me making this speech.

It may have been many years in the making, but (groom) was certainly worth waiting for. It is so great to finally see you so happy!

Maid of Honor Speech 8 - College Friend or Sorority Sister

Old friends are great but I say college friends are even better. (Bride) and I became friends in college. We were both very proud members of (sorority, club, or sport team). We've seen each other through term papers and finals, light night parties followed by early morning classes, bad boyfriend break-ups and good boyfriend make-ups, ski trips during winter break and beach trips for spring break, first day of freshman year all the way through to graduation. It would not have been the same without you. In fact, it was better because we did it all together.

As I watch you graduate from your single life and enroll in your new term as (groom)'s wife, I see a bright future ahead. From changing your name on your social security card to joint tax returns, late night cravings to early morning feeding, silly arguments and romantic apologies, more ski trips in winter and beach vacations in summer, from this special day through the best graduation of all: retirement. It wouldn't be the same without you so I'm glad we'll keep doing it together.

So I propose a toast to (alma matter) for developing such fine alumnae and (sorority, club, or sport team) for making us such good friends.

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- **Maid of Honor Speech 9 - Sister-In-Law**

Let me be the first to officially say “welcome to the family.” We couldn't be happier that (groom) has chosen such an amazing woman to add to the (groom's last name) clan.

We welcome you as sister-in-law, [step mother (if appropriate)] cousin, daughter-in-law, niece, and aunt. We take you into our homes for the holidays and in our hearts forever. Some of those holiday will be fun while others will be trying. The seasons will change but our love for you will stay the same.

We ask that you take us as we are: chipper, melancholy, optimistic, realistic, zany, stoic, open, guarded, early bird, night owl, loud, soft spoken, gentle, firm, sweet, and reserved because it takes all these different types of people to make a family.

Now, if any of this scares you, I remind you that it's too late. Your one of us now! But the good news is that we're all in it together; bound by blood and marriage and strengthened through love and friendship. As our family continues to grow and change through joyful additions like this one and sorrowful departures, we hope that you will truly feel like one of us. Because, as of today, you are a (groom's last name). Welcome, sister, and congratulations!

- **Maid of Honor Speech 10 - General**

I've heard that when two people get married, their nuptials have a positive effect on their community. Like someone dropping a pebble into still water, your love sends out ripples of happiness to everyone around you. It brings joy to those who have already said, “I do” as they fondly remember their wedding day. It brings hope to those who are still looking for that special someone. And it shows young children what they have to look forward to when they grow up.

Two people brought together by the bonds of love and united in marriage are a powerful force. You bring happiness to those who are here to bear witness and those who couldn't attend, but carry you in their hearts.

May your love remain strong to sustain you during times of struggle and enrich the good times you will share together. May it continue to send those ripples of happiness to all of us. Congratulations!

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