

BEST MAN SPEECH

Friendship is a quite difficult word to define, it requires some thought and reflection on my part. A real friend, I believe is resolute yet flexible, sincere yet suspicious, trustworthy and skeptical, comforting yet critical, but maybe most importantly, friendship requires the ability to listen and analyze. Bryan has always listened, to me. He heard so many crazy things, some many insane thoughts and temperamental ravings. He's listened to my suffering and my mistakes, my triumphs and disappointments, as well as my opinions and ridiculousness. And he has never ever judged me. Oh now don't get me wrong, when I need to get checked, he will wax me, verbally, intellectually, personally sometimes . But never ever judged me. He has always been a forgiving man. He has always been an honest man. His wisdom is unprecedented, in my eyes, his insights are keen and well thought out. And after whatever,

he is there to love me, support me and truly be my friend. He is one of the best humans I've known. He a great father, an exceptional employee and worker. Well read and an amazing dancer. Most importantly, he is my friend, my best friend and I love and appreciate him.

Period . It is often said that black men don't say "I love you" to each other. This does not hold true for me and B. It has been our part of our farewell coda for almost 45 years. This friendship thing I drone on about segues into my simple and brief thoughts about marriage. It two is a relationship based on friendship IMHO. At almost 60 years of age, I have been married most of my adult life. After all the celebration and sex, vacations and fun, children and grandchildren, parents and families, illnesses and despair, achievements and rewards, you will need this friend to hold you in the coldest of nights, smile with you on those special occasions, cry with you after every tragedy, laugh with you at the stupidest shit. Friends. Be great friends. Loving, forgiving, helping,

understanding, protective, sensitive, gentle friend. All that other shit will work itself off.