

The Groom's Speech

Eivind, to Jeanette · Østgård, 5 September 2026



There is a lot to get through on a day like this. Giving a speech is one of those things.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who has come from near and far to celebrate this day with us.

This is a day that proves more than one old saying. I will mention two: that you should never say never, and that people from Trøndelag take their time.

Neither of us was ever going to get married. But after ten years of thinking it over, I gradually changed my mind — and thankfully, Jeanette said yes when I asked.

We agreed fairly quickly that we did not want a small, private wedding, but that we wanted to celebrate this day together with everyone we love.

So again: thank you, all of you. It means a great deal to us to see you all here today.

I will try to keep this short. That is probably not what I am best known for — especially not once I start talking about something close to my heart.

And there is nothing that takes up as much room in my heart as Jeanette, Thea and Tiril.



Thea. Tiril.

Trying to describe what you two mean to me makes every word feel a little too small.

You welcomed me from day one. I have always felt welcome here. Thank you for trusting me.

You have always been kind, independent, and unafraid to hold your own opinions. And children must be pretty kind when the biggest disagreement we have ever had is over whether tickling is acceptable or not.

And to be honest: now that you have both moved out and made homes of your own, I miss it a little.

I love you both very much.

Today's yes to Jeanette is just as much a yes to always being here for you two as well.

**Jeanette.**

Let us take the most important part first, and see how far I get.

Once I understood that you were real, and the suspicion of a scam had been cleared out of the way, we found our own place in each other's hearts quite quickly. There was a rare kind of openness and trust between us — and it was out of that trust and honesty that love grew.

You have stayed by my side through the good days and the difficult days of these years.

Anything that feels heavy on my own, you make light. Whether it is quitting smoking, having a little patience, exercising, or taking on the challenges, small and large, that life has handed us.

Your optimism, and your ability to see solutions where others see problems, gives me an enormous amount of motivation — and a confidence that everything will work out in the end.

I think I could count on one hand the days we have not made each other smile. I love your good humour, your creativity and your curiosity.

You still make me feel the honest kind of joy I had as a child — the joy in the small, everyday things. Like the fact that snapdragons are flowers you can make sing. Or the way you make an advent calendar and wrap up an entire box of heart-shaped Christmas crisps before I have even noticed they are in the shops.

I also understand that this means a life with flower bulbs, soil, and paint stains in places where, strictly speaking, they should not be. So I apologise in advance for all the future telling-off you are going to get for it.

It all turns out well in the end.



Since I am better with numbers than with poetry, I would like to round things off with some statistics.

I found a backup of every message we have written to each other from 2017 to 2025. And in these AI times, I thought it might be fun to see what it made of our conversation.

It turned out to be 470,000 words, spread across 70,000 messages. That is as many words as the entire Lord of the Rings trilogy.

It summed us up like this: Jeanette keeps the conversation alive, with 43 per cent more messages than me. I reply with explanations, dissertations, and probably a few unnecessary details.

But what it found most of was not unnecessary details. Nor what we were having for dinner.

It was care, and missing each other. Making sure the other one is all right when one of us is away. And looking forward to being together again.



Jeanette.

You are warm, patient, steady and kind.

You make everyday life feel better. And you make me feel that I am good enough exactly as I am.

Today I stand here feeling like the luckiest man in the world.

For the first and only time in my life, I am getting married.

Jeanette, I love you.

I am looking forward to the rest of my life with you.

