Hi everybody. I'm Alex. Rob and I met in the year 2000 at a job we both hated, which is the strongest foundation a friendship can have.

Twenty five years later, here we are in his backyard.

Most of you know the softball story, but I'm telling it anyway because it explains him. Company game, summer of 2011, Rob takes a bad hop off the finger in the second inning. Plays the rest of the game. Bats twice. Drives home. Tells Jenna the next morning, casually, that he might want to get his hand looked at. It was broken in two places.

He didn't want to end the game early. That's it. That's the whole reason.

I have known a lot of people who talk about showing up. Rob is the only one I know who does it so quietly that you have to catch him at it.

In the winter of 2016 I was going through chemo. Thursdays. And somewhere in the first week Rob decided, without discussing it with me, that he was driving. Every Thursday for four months. He never once made it into a thing. He would show up, hand me a coffee, put on the worst movie he could find on his phone for the waiting room, and take me home.

I asked him about it years later and he said, and I quote, "I had Thursdays free."

Jenna, you married the most stubborn generous man in this county.

There's a table in his living room he built by hand. There's a bike in the garage with more miles on it than my car. There's a shelf of action movies that no reasonable adult should own.

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And there are two teenagers standing over there who are turning out steady and funny and kind, which is not luck.

Pete, you're fifty. You've spent twenty five years being the person other people call, and you've never once made the call yourself.

So here's my wish, and I want everyone here to hold you to it. This year, let somebody do something for you. Let it be awkward. Let it happen anyway.

Everyone, please raise a glass.

To Rob. Fifty years old and still the first one there. Happy birthday, my friend.

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