THE DUDE NEWSPAPER

ISSUE NO. 1 · MALLORCA · JUNE 2027 · PRICE: PRICELESS



SHE SAID YES.
SO DID HE.

DEAR LENA, DEAR JONAS.

This is your speech. Not the short version and not the minutes. These are the sentences spoken that afternoon under the olive trees. With the detour via platform 7, with the rope and with the knot that held in the end.

A speech is written for a moment. A newspaper is for the years after. Put it on the kitchen table. Pass it on. And one day read it to your kids when they ask what it was actually like back then.



YOUR DUDE
MARKUS RECKNAGEL · WEDDINGDUDE

FACTS OF THE DAY

- PLACE: MALLORCA, UNDER OLIVE TREES
- GUESTS: 64
- CEREMONY: ONE HOUR
- WEATHER: 27 °C, WIND FROM THE WEST
- TEARS IN ROW 1: PLENTY
- STATUS: MARRIED

IN THIS ISSUE

3 THE SPEECH · PLATFORM 7 AND THE ROPE
4 THE SPEECH · THE DIRECTION
5 THE MOMENT
6 THE RITUAL
7 LINES THAT STAYED
8 UNTIL THE NEXT YES

THE SPEECH.

Rope team. A speech for Lena and Jonas.

1 PLATFORM 7

Munich Central Station, a Friday in November. The express train to Berlin is forty minutes late. Jonas has a reservation. Car 9, seat 74. When he boards, a woman is sitting there with wet hair, a book and a cup of tea. She looks as if she has lived in that seat for years.

Jonas says nothing. He stands in the aisle. For three hours. Somewhere past Nuremberg, Lena looks up from her book and asks: "Is this actually your seat?" Jonas answers: "Not for the last three hours."

Dear guests, if you have ever wondered why Jonas is so patient: it started in car 9. And if you have ever wondered why Lena arrives so naturally wherever she goes: that started there too.

2 THE ROPE

Jonas climbs. Lena is afraid of heights. Not a great starting point for a shared hobby. Still, one Saturday in spring she stood at the foot of a rock face in the Franconian Jura and held his rope for the first time.

In climbing there are two roles. One climbs. One belays. The one climbing sees the wall and the next hold. The one belaying looks up and never takes their eyes off the other.

Jonas told me that on that day, for the first time, he did not pay attention to the next hold. He looked down. Someone was standing there holding the rope, even though her own knees were shaking.

That may be the most honest description of love I know. One dares something. The other holds.

“One dares something. The other holds.”

3 THE DIRECTION

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was a pilot. He knew about heights and about fear. He wrote: “Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.”

On a rope team that is meant quite literally. Whoever hangs on the same rope has to want to go in the same direction. Otherwise things get tight.

In six years the two of you have tried out many directions. Berlin and Munich. A dog, or maybe no dog after all. A sofa in green and then in grey after all. But when it mattered, you looked up. In the same direction.

And now look around. Sixty-four people are sitting here, all looking in your direction today. That is your rope team.



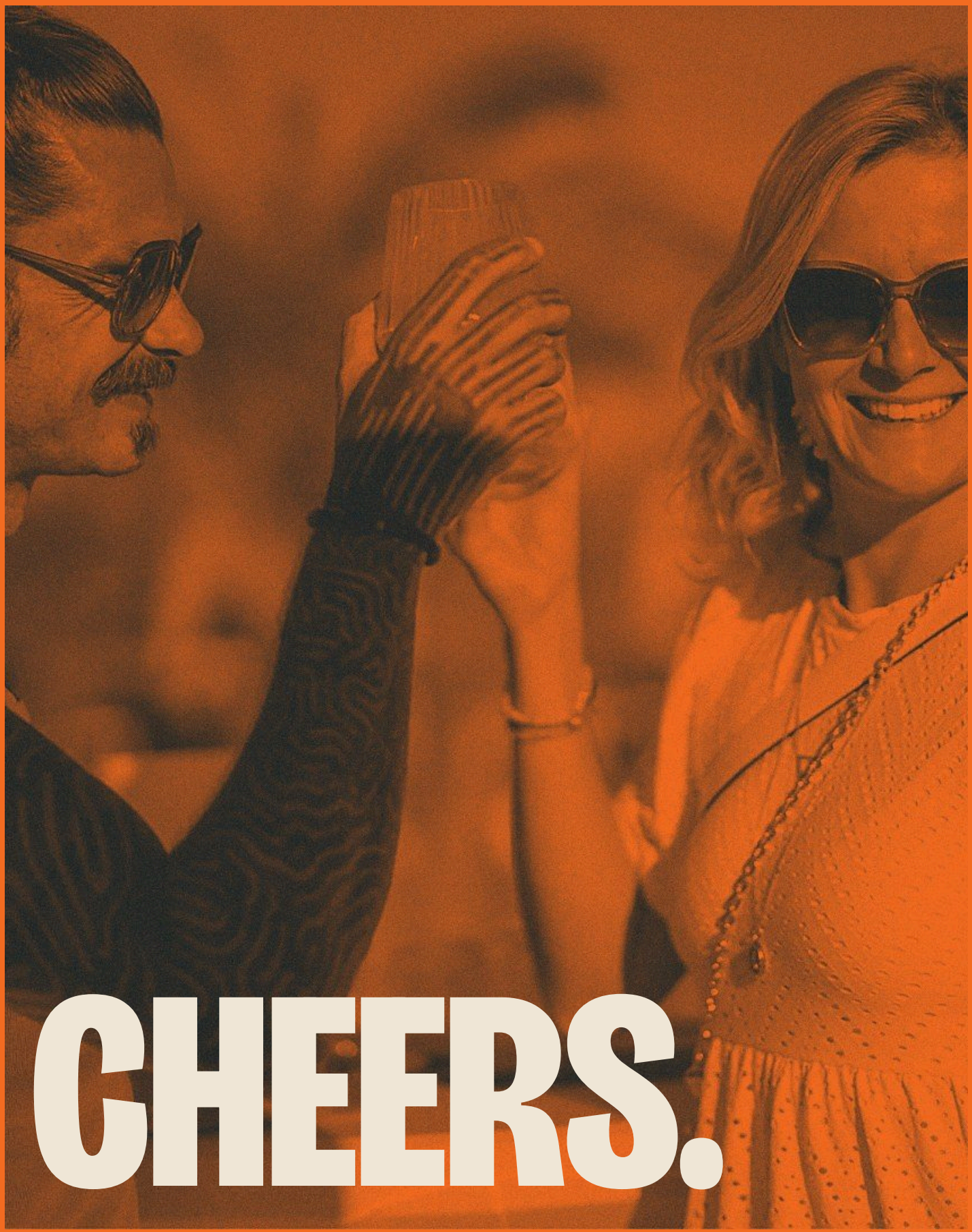
THE DUDE AT WORK

4 THE FABLE OF THE TWO STRANDS

Once upon a time there were two strands. One was red, the other grey. On its own, neither could take much. A climber tied them into a knot called the figure-eight.

The two strands started arguing at once. The red one wanted to be on top. The grey one would not give in. Then came the first load. And the strands noticed something strange: the harder they were pulled, the tighter they held each other.

Lena and Jonas. You are a knot now. There will be pulling. And you will hold.


CHEERS.

THE KNOT.



JONAS BROUGHT HIS OLD CLIMBING ROPE. LENA BROUGHT A RED ROPE SHE HAD BOUGHT IN THE VILLAGE THAT MORNING. IN FRONT OF ALL THE GUESTS THE TWO TIED THEM INTO A FIGURE-EIGHT KNOT. THEN THEIR WITNESSES PULLED ON BOTH ENDS. THE KNOT HELD. IT NOW HANGS ABOVE THEIR FRONT DOOR.

4	2	1	HOLDS
MINUTES	ROPES	KNOT	RESULT

ROPE TEAM



ROPE TEAM

LINES THAT STAYED

"Not for the last three hours."
JONAS IN CAR 9

"One dares something. The other holds."
CHAPTER 2

"A sofa in green and then in grey after all."
CHAPTER 3

"There will be pulling. And you will hold."
ENDING

END OF ISSUE

UNTIL THE NEXT YES.





YOUR QR CODE GOES HERE.
LISTEN TO THE SPEECH.

NEXT ISSUE

YOUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

A LINE FROM YOUR SPEECH ARRIVES BY MAIL.

PUBLISHER: WEDDINGDUDE · TEXT AND SPEECH: MARKUS RECKNAGEL
SAMPLE ISSUE · NAMES, PLACES AND STORY ARE FICTIONAL
WEDDING-DUDE.COM · @WEDDING_DUDE