Opening 1 / 6

Hi, everybody. I'm Desmond, Fiona's uncle, her mother's older brother. Her parents asked me to say a few words, so I'm here as a representative of everyone who has ever been tied up in one of her projects.

Part 2 2 / 6

I taught Fiona to tie a bowline when she was ten. It is a knot that makes a loop that will not slip, and sailors like it because it is easy to undo even after a lot of pulling. I explained it to her slowly. The rabbit comes out of the hole, goes around the tree, and back down the hole.

Part 3 3 / 6

She nodded and said, 'Got it.' Then she tied it on the porch rail, the picnic bench, her brother's backpack, and, I'm sorry to say, my shoelaces, which were still on my feet. She had every knot perfect. I could not get up for six minutes.

Part 4 4 / 6

Here is what I want Devon to know. A good knot is not about being tight. It's about holding when you need it and letting go when you ask. Fiona does both, and she does them at the right time. That is a rare talent, and most people spend years trying to learn it.

Part 5 5 / 6

Devon, welcome. You've joined a family that likes to hold on, and we are glad you let us. If you ever get stuck, you know who to call. I'll bring scissors, and I'll bring the rabbit.

Closing 6 / 6

Fiona, I'm proud of you, and I will never untie the knot at the porch rail. Everyone, lift your glasses to Fiona and Devon. May your loop always hold, and may it always give.

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