Good afternoon everyone,

I’m David, Charlotte’s dad, and I’ll keep this brief, because I’m better at quiet chats than grand speeches.

When Charlotte told us she’d met someone at the university debate society who listened more than he argued, I thought, now that’s interesting.
Seven years later, here we are, and that first impression has only deepened.
Marcus, you’re thoughtful, generous, and calm when the rest of us are flapping.
I’ve learned as much about patience from you over tea and cricket highlights as I have from any Test match.
You never rush your words, or your kindness.

Charlotte, you’ve always had that blend of compassion and creativity that makes people feel seen.
As a child, you drew whole cities on scrap paper and then filled them with people and their stories.
Now you and Marcus build a life in the same spirit—layer by layer, with care.

I’ve watched you two cook curries together, sharing the chopping and the spice decisions like a well-practised dance.
I’ve seen you spend Saturday mornings volunteering, sleeves rolled up, no fuss, just getting on with it.
And those city breaks by train—maps in pockets, curiosity leading the way—have given you a rhythm that feels entirely yours.

There were tougher parts too.
Placements sent you to different cities, and you learned to make distance feel smaller with late-night calls, train tickets pinned to the fridge, and the quiet certainty that you were heading in the same direction.

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And then Lisbon—rooftop at sunset—where the view was lovely, but the promise you made each other was lovelier still.

What I admire most is the respect at the centre of your partnership.
You let the other be fully themselves, and somehow that gives you both more room to grow.
It’s steady, it’s warm, and it’s real.

So from a shy dad who couldn’t be prouder:
here’s to your partnership, your respect, and your lifelong friendship.
May your home be a place of laughter, good food, and the kind of calm that comes from being truly understood.

Charlotte and Marcus, my love goes with you both.
Congratulations.

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