One of the first things that just about anyone learns growing up is that friends come and go. Sooner or later, you also learn that romantic relationships are even more evanescent. Your parents will comfort you through breakups, tell you how to help maintain your bonds, or, in my parents’ case, make jokes at the backstabbing SOB’s expense to help you get over it.

However, there is one thing that, if done right, never goes away. It never fades, never betrays you, and is about as constant as a golden retriever’s brainless loyalty.

Say hello to the bromance.

The dictionary defines this as (and, yes, I can’t believe this is in the dictionary) “a close but nonsexual relationship between two men.”

Yeah. That’s right, except that those two men are about as close as two protons in an atom.

The bromance is semi-divine. It transcends time and space, overcomes all adversities including a nuclear holocaust, and each time trumps the obviously inferior, plain vanilla
romantic relationships.

Yeah. Nothing stops the bromance.

You want to know how to get a proper bromance? Well, guess what? IT’S IMPOSSIBLE TO TRY!! Bromances spring from seemingly nothing like Athena from the mind of Zeus or a particularly persistent mushroom. You find a guy you get along with? You better pray that you develop the all powerful bromance with him!

How do you know when you’ve got a bromance? Well, here are some of the symptoms:

- You hang out at nearly every opportunity. You’re as inseparable as you were with that super clingy boy/girlfriend except without the psychopathic undertones.
- You pretend to be sexually attracted to each other while girls or pretty much anyone else is around because it’s hilarious. If it’s more believable than when your girlfriend makes moves on you in public, then that’s a good sign you’ve got the bromance.
- You tackle each other once you’re reunited after more than three weeks apart. I don’t mean just running up and hugging each other. I mean a full on body slam. WWE style.

The difference between friends and best friends

- You finish each other’s sentences. No, not each other’s sandwiches! This isn’t some Disney “Frozen” knock off! This is the real deal!
- You act like eight year olds around each other. That includes breaking out the lightsabers and cutting through legions of invisible stormtroopers.
- You talk about your feelings. I mean, who DOES that?!

But, like that persistent mushroom, the bromance must be maintained. Now, that doesn’t mean treating your bro in the bromance like a mushroom. If you want to keep someone in the dark and feed them bulls**t, save it for your actual relationships. It’s what Shakespeare would do.

No, seriously. Read Sonnet 138. I kid you not, he says relationships are maintained by lies.

But a bromance has no secrets! There’s is nothing you can’t talk about short of... Yeah there’s nothing!

Here’s a few proven methods for perpetuating perfection:

- Tackle each other when you’re reunited after a three week+ separation. Yes, the symptom is also the treatment.
- Sing/scream to your favorite music. They won’t care if you can’t sing, if you’re too
loud, or if you’re listening to Katy Perry. Just do it!

- Send each other excessive numbers of emojis. That means whole strings of hearts, confetti canons, beer, swords, bombs, pizza, and random flags from God knows what countries. If your bro is sending you that orange and red flag with the freakin’ dragon on it, you know it’s real.
- Send each other pictures of kittens, puppies, or arctic foxes covered in the blood of their last kill and say “Aww, this is adorable! I want to cuddle it!”
- Talk about your feelings. I mean, you clearly can’t do that with anyone else, so you might as well do it with brosky.

People will tell you to hold onto your romantic love and make sure it lasts. Well, guess what? When you’ve got the bromance, you don’t even need to try. There are no concessions to be made, no punches to be pulled. You probably couldn’t even get rid of it if you wanted to, but the only reason why you’d ever want to get rid of the bromance would be if you’ve been huffing arsenic for the last five years and have lost your marbles.

Keep the bromance. It’ll get you through college, bad breakups, and even Noah’s flood. For you ladies out there, I hope there’s a female equivalent to this. If not, well... sorry.

Song of the Week: “Duel of the Fates” from Star Wars. This is what a true bromance will make you feel like. Bask in its glory!

**Blog Column:**
**Love, The Old Man**

**Source URL (retrieved on 04/08/2016 - 11:17am):**
https://www.honors.umass.edu/blog/mhlady/love-old-man-how-have-successful-bromance