WEDDING SPEECH FOR

JOHN GORTAT

Hello everyone!!!! Haley and I want to thank all of you for being here and celebrating the most important day of our lives with us. We know that you’ve traveled from parts all over the world and we are honored that you’ve chosen to be with us on our special day. We want to give special thanks and welcome to Roise (**Rosie??**) and Luke for travelling all the way from England to be here with us. Having all of you here and sharing the lifelong memories we’re creating make this even MORE special and we love you for it. Of course, some of you got MAJOR bonus miles and rewards points for the effort, so it’s a win/win situation!! Welcome and enjoy!!

I wanted to share a few quick and impromptu words that I jotted down on this napkin… oh, about 10 months ago…fortunately for all of you, I was at a bar at the time, so it’s a cocktail napkin and not a full size DINNER napkin (**Take a REALLY BIG piece of paper out of your pocket and make them all nervous and wait for the laugh!!**)…. and before all of you roll your eyeballs wondering what’s coming next, let me remind you that I am very aware that, as the saying goes, a good speech should be like a mini skirt….short enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover the essentials. (**Wait for the laugh**).

First of all, I’d like to thank Haley for marrying me. She’s the most beautiful, intelligent, caring person I know. She does everything for me!!! She even wrote this speech! ….No really….I’m so glad Haley’s married to me. Caring, talented, modest, good looking…and Haley’s not bad either! There’s little things I love so much about Haley. She’s never wrong, she’s an easy going girl…(probably because I always tell her she’s right!), nothing seems to bother her…we’ll see about that after I finish this speech… she’s a great drinking partner, a terrific cook-if only she’d stop using the smoke alarm as a timer…. my best friend and the love of my life. From the minute I met Haley at the Windsor Pub, even though we both got a little “messy,” I knew I had met my match…Thanks, E-Harmony!!! This stuff really works!!

I’ll never forget how I plotted and planned my proposal to Haley. I told her we were going somewhere for the weekend and asked her to pack 3 suitcases-2 for travel within Australia and one for the possibility of an overseas trip. Upon our arrival at our “secret” destination, Kuala Lumpur, a Mercedes waited to pick us up from the airport and take us to our 5-star hotel. Just picture the precision timing required to have someone get us tickets to the Petronas Tower, get changed and ready for hmmmmmm….. within 30 minutes, and lo and behold, as things seemed to be moving like clockwork, just as we arrived at the Towers, I got stopped at the X-ray machine. Wasn’t I nervous enough? How would I get the ring through the search? Let’s just say I’m thankful to have creative problem solving skills and off we went to experience the panoramic view. As we joined the tour group going to the 41st and 42nd floor and sky bridge, I asked the tour guide to snap some pictures, and upon arriving at the viewing deck, yes, I gave a nervous proposal speech-nowhere NEAR as good as this one…. the tour guide clicked away as the group witnessed our life changing moment. Wow!!! As all of the tourists congratulated us, I thought, “That group got their money’s worth!!!” Haley said, “Yes,” and the rest is history!

And here we are. (**Turn to Haley and say**) Haley, I want to thank you for marrying me. I realize how lucky I am that you said, “Yes,” during the ceremony, because sometimes all you seem to say is, “No John, **NO**!!” I have to say, I really couldn’t ask for a better woman…because I know that if I did, you’d **KILL ME**!! But really, I love you. You’re my best friend, my wife, my **bride** and joy. Thank you for your beauty, your grace and your patience. I cannot think of anyone more loving and caring and you are the one I want to spend the rest of my life with. I suppose every groom thinks his bride is the most beautiful in the world, and that’s exactly how I feel today. Haley, I’m overwhelmed at how beautiful you are and I am so privileged that you’ve chosen to be my wife. Thank you for making this the best day of my life and I hope that every day will be as wonderful as today-just a little less expensive!!

As I wrap up this speech…(**As an aside, say to yourself**)…”Remember John…**mini skirt**…short enough to be interesting….” I’d like to thank some more people who have made this day so special for Haley and me. I’d like to give a big “Thank You” to our beautiful bridesmaids, Michele and Rosie. You performed your roles gracefully and both of you look fantastic. I also want to commend both of you for making sure Haley didn’t change her mind!!

I want to thank my dad, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for passing to me every bad joke that was ever told…I forgive you!! And thanks for being such a great sounding board and mentor. Thanks to my mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for always being there when I needed someone to talk to…mostly about my father’s bad jokes…. I want to thank Tim and Jenny for looking after Haley while she’s been in Australia. It’s not easy for someone to leave their family and all that’s familiar. You’ve made her feel like family and we both thank you. I’d also like to thank my best man, Mat. Matty, you’ve done a superb job as best man. I’m married, I was on time and I’m sober…wellll…at least I was 2 hours ago. Mat, you’ve been a great friend for such a long time, and hopefully, depending on how incriminating YOUR speech is, we might even stay friends! No really!!! Mat, it’s been great to see you let your hair down, because lately your hair has been letting YOU down!!! I’m kidding!!! I’m kidding!!!! I remember he used to have a crew cut, but the crew bailed out!!! (**Say as an aside again**) …Mini skirt, John, MINI skirt!!!

Thanks again everyone, for making this the best day of our lives and sharing our joy with us!! We love you!!