WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

RICKI FRIEDLAND

Hello everyone. I’m Jamie’s Aunt Ricki. Jamie’s mother was my sister, and I am honored to be able to say a few words today about Jamie and Shaun. From the day she was born, Jamie was the light in her parents’ eyes. Her older brothers, Alan and Michael, were adorable, but my sister Cheryl and Jamie’s father Murray also really wanted a daughter, and boy, did they get a daughter! Legend has it that from the moment she was born, Jamie came out singing … okay-maybe some of the other people in the maternity ward didn’t actually think it was singing-technically, but to us, her coos and cries were music to our ears. She hasn’t stopped since, and it has been a real gift to watch her grow and blossom into the beautiful bride we see today. She was an adorable baby, a joy be around as a little girl, and I could not have asked for a better or more loving and caring niece.

As Jamie’s aunt, I have had the privilege to be there for her as she conquers the entertainment world and pursues her acting career. She’s always on the go, and she’s the epitome of communication-whether she’s making new friends or checking on her old and close connections; whether she’s on the way to some kind of test, or go see, or interview, her life is kinetic and frenetic, and she manages all of it with a smile and a genuine appreciation for life. I love the way that, no matter how busy she is, Jamie always manages to keep me filled in with the latest information. She’s always in perpetual motion-from someplace to someplace else, yet she always manages to check in and keep me up to date with the latest ”Tales of Jamie.” And as a master of the art of modern communication, she also manages to be close with her cousins, Cara and Lenny, my children, and their kids as well, and we all eagerly await those status updates!

There’s an old expression that tells us “there’s a cover for every pot,” and Jamie found hers when she met Shaun at the University of Texas. Although Shaun received his Masters in accounting and Jamie was a drama major, these 2 young people met and meshed. The French actress, Simone Signoret said, “Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads that sew people together through the years. That is what makes a marriage last….” Jamie and Shaun have been spinning and weaving those threads since their college days, and through all of their joys and sorrows, they have been building their tapestry together. It reaffirms one’s faith in life to see Jamie’s and Shaun’s characteristics complement each other. Jamie’s outgoing while Shaun can be a little shy; Jamie’s a spender and Shaun … has a **Master’s in accounting** (**Wait for the laugh**) ….Shaun has been Jamie’s leading man in **all** phases of life-especially when he has to help her rehearse and run some lines with her… it’s great to watch their balancing act. (**Turn to Shaun and say**) Shaun, I want to thank you for being so good to Jamie. We all really appreciate how you’ll do anything to make her happy… yes, we know “Happy wife, Happy life,” but I also have to say that your devotion really pays off-we all know how much Jamie LOVES Halloween, and her ingenuity with making costumes is unparalleled, but I have to say, you made a really cute Raggedy Andy!! (**Wait for the laugh**). There have been so many memories worth sharing about the two of you, but most of all, I appreciate the joy you bring to each other and in turn to those around you. I just smile when I think of the dinners we’ve had in New York with you two and your brother Mike and his fiancée, Carly. Those are precious memories filled with lots of laughter, and I’m sure we all cherish those times.

Jamie, I want you to know how much you and Mike mean to me and your Uncle Alan and your cousins Cara and Lenny. Although we can never replace your parents, Uncle Alan and I will always be there for you. Your parents, Murray and Cheryl were amazing people and you meant everything to them. Your brother Alan met with tragedy way too young, at 18 years old, but please remember that your parents and your brother Alan live on in you and Mike. (**If you feel this way, then say**) Nothing can bring them back, but I know that they would be so proud of you and so happy for you and Shaun, and knowing Shaun, he would have been a wonderful son-in-law to them.

(**Turn to the guests and say**), I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom:

To Jamie and Shaun. May the threads you spin and weave around each other envelope you in love, health, happiness and prosperity forever. Congratulations! We love you!