BEST WOMAN SPEECH

FOR

PAULA MACPHEE

Hello everyone! Isn’t this a beautiful setting and an even more beautiful event? I am so happy to be here to witness the marriage of 2 great guys…Ross and Adrian, I am thrilled for the both of you, proud to be Ross’ “Best Woman”…more about that later, because there are even **better** women here tonight (today?) …. and if I must admit, to the both of you I say… (**Say this with an exaggerated accent like Fernando Billy Crystal as Fernando on Saturday Night Live”)** “You …. Look….Mah-velous!!! Really!! The atmosphere is filled with the joy overflowing from the two of you and Ross; I have to say that I have been waiting to dance at your wedding for a long time!!

For those of you who may not know, Ross and I have been friends for many years. (**If you want to make a joke, you can say**) …yes, I know. I don’t look old enough to know **ANYONE** for many years, but hey! I was barely out of high school and Ross was an established professional when we met-just kidding… (**Wait for the laugh**). I’ll never forget our first encounter. Ross and I worked at the same company in different locations but we didn’t know each other, and I was assigned to fill in for some one who was away on maturity leave. Although I was working for the same company as before, my new assignment was located in a different building, yes, Ross’ location, and of course, I was a little nervous and apprehensive-new surroundings, new people, new circumstances, yet through the strangeness of the new surroundings, there was one beam of light. It was Ross. He spontaneously gave me the biggest hug and the most sincere welcome, and with that gesture, I knew everything would be all right… and I got a best friend out of the deal!!!

Ross and I have spent many hours together, mostly at our favorite “Bistro/café” and for those of you in the know, you’ll know I am referring to that little nook in Ross’ old apartment. Ahhh…if those walls could talk!! Those sessions got deep and meaningful as we let it all out, discussing, life and love and everything in between. Although Ross frequently refers to me as his “Priest,” our friendship goes way beyond those café confessionals. We make quite a wrecking crew…so much so, that we both agree that it’s probably better that we met a little later in life, because had we been there to egg each other on as teenagers, well…it probably would have inspired **A LOT** more stories!! Let’s just say, to give an example, Ross and I created a secret signal to use when either one of us might have had one too many cocktails…. the only problem is, neither of us was ever able to remember the signal, let alone give it!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I think you can tell how much I love Ross and how blessed I am to have him as my best friend. From the minute we met and got that first hug of assurance, I knew how special he was and is. He’s not only a great friend, but he is devoted to his family and now to his new family, Adrian and his kids, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I would also like to acknowledge how happy and proud Ross’ sister Gerry would be right now, and I know, and so does Ross and Adrian, that she’s not missing a beat and is looking down on these festivities with a heart that is full of joy, pride, and love for our very happy couple.

And speaking of Adrian…. when they met, it was…**magic**. Ross and met Adrian and **BOOM**! He fell deeply in love and knew very quickly that Adrian was “The one,” and here we are, celebrating this wonderful union. I have to say, though, that no celebration or acknowledgement of this happy couple would be complete if I didn’t mention 2 people without whom there would be no festivities or wedding…and I mean NONE of us would be here, and neither would Ross or Adrian. Of course I’m referring to the love and support and labor pains of their wonderful mothers, Ross’ mother Eleanor and Adrian’s mother, Francis. There was a line in the old TV show, “Golden Girls,” that went like this, “It’s not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it.” (**Wait for the laugh**) These two women have been wonderful mothers to our grooms and vice versa. I believe that you can tell so much about a man by the way he treats his mother, and I think you’d all agree that particular litmus test really proves how great these two men are, both as individuals and as a married couple who both love and respect the most important women in their lives.

I’d like to congratulate the new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family (**use their new combined last name for the first time**) and I’d like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

Knowing how much the two of you love music and really love to “**shake what your mama’s gave ya,**”

Here’s to Ross and Adrian, and to paraphrase the words of the song by Lee Ann Womack,

“I hope you never lose your sense of wonder…

May you never take one single breath for granted,

…God bless this love and never leave you empty-handed.

…And most of all, **I hope you dance**…. together forever in happiness, health, love and joy!

Congratulations! I love you both!