WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

CHERI MILLER

Hi everyone! It is always such a joy to attend a wedding, and today (**tonight?**) is certainly no exception. Occasions like these are an opportunity to come together, celebrate love, and take a few moments to remember and acknowledge the good in people and the optimism and spirit inspired by love. I am particularly thrilled to witness and share the happiness of our bride and groom, Shannon and Dan. I want to congratulate Shannon’s mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and her sons, Stephen and Geoffrie, and Dan’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Dan’s lovely daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Today marks the beginning of a new family, and all of us wish all of you much love and happiness.

(**Turn to Shannon and say**) Shannon, today you’ve become a married woman!! I am so happy for you. You are a beautiful bride and I know you are going to be a wonderful wife for Dan. Who would have thought, all those years ago, when you were parking your car waaaay too close to mine, that we would be such close friends-I guess “better close friends than close cars,” right? Of course at the time, I had to retaliate using highly sophisticated “**A.W.**” …. After all, you were my boss, and I had to think of something clever yet crafty to handle the situation. Some of you may think that “**A.W**.” is highly sophisticated “army speak,” and in some ways it is. For those of you who may not know the story of how Shannon and I became friends, I will briefly explain. Apparently, Shannon was not fully aware of her surroundings when she would park her car so close to mine that I couldn’t even open the driver’s side door. I always wondered, “Did she have issues with depth perception, or was she trying to get my attention?” In any event, it worked, and as I said, I had to plot revenge with the technique I had invented, known as… “**A.W**.” Those of us who know Shannon know two things about her. She has the best poker face of anyone I know, and … as tough and resolute as she may seem, she’s terribly afraid of spiders. Well, I for one, have a dread of not being able to get into my car, so I hatched **the plan..** And finally, it paid off. You see, “**A.W**.” stands for “**ARACHNID WARFARE**.” Yes. Shannon got my attention, and apparently, I got hers, because when she found that **HUGE** spider I planted in her file drawer, she screamed loud enough for the entire building to hear her!!! Shannon, with that scream, you got everyone’s attention and you won me over for life!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Shannon, you know I kid when I tell this story, but I know you also know how much you mean to me. You are my dearest friend and it is a privilege to be here with you and for you, not only for the major moments of your life like today, but for the smaller ones too. You are a fine person and I know how much your family and Dan mean to you. I also know that you literally hold your father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, close to you, especially today, and I am sure he is watching over you and beaming with pride and love at his beautiful daughter and her new husband.

Dan, I know that we are just beginning to know each other, but, like I said, I also know how much you mean to Shannon. I mean, just one small example of how the two of you belong together is obvious…. we all know how much Shannon loves working with tools and building things, and you have your construction business!! It’s perfect!! That’s just one small way in which the two of you mesh, and as you go through life together, I am sure more and more synergies will reveal themselves. I once heard an expression that I feel really fits the two of you. It goes like this, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a progress; working together is success." I can’t wait to witness the successes you will achieve together in life. I also want to say that, as I said earlier, the celebration of a wedding is a time for everyone to reaffirm his or her faith in life and the human spirit. That the two of you found each other when you are both “grown up” enough to really appreciate and respect each other is really an inspiration to all of us.

(**If you want to propose a toast, you can say this**) I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to Shannon and Dan.

(**If you don’t want to make a toast, just say this**)

To Shannon and Dan, to quote the lyrics of Jon Bon Jovi, may you both have this from, and for, each other:

“I'll be there for you

These five words I swear to you

When you breathe I want to be the air for you

I'll be there for you

I'd live and I'd die for you

Steal the sun from the sky for you

Words can't say what a love can do

I'll be there for you”

Congratulations and may you be there for each other and have a lifetime of happiness!!