MATRON OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

JAN STIDHAM

Hello everyone!!! Wow!! It’s really so great to see so many of you here tonight to celebrate our wonderful couple, Renee and Kevin. Renee, I have to say, and I am sure you’ll understand… in many ways, I’ve waited all of my life for this moment!! (**Address the best man and say**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I’ve heard you’re “**quite the talker**”… (**If many people in the audience know that the best man is the “silent type,” maybe wink make a gesture like you’re about to poke him in the ribs with your elbow**) but don’t worry… I have to say… I have got this **covered**!!! Nope!! Don’t even try to stop me!!!! Besides, most of the people here are my family too and they know what a crowd and a microphone can do to me!! (**Maybe have a prop like a big umbrella drink like a pina colada and drop a wedge of lime into it and start threatening to sing, “Lime in the Coconut”**) …They put the lime in the coconut… **UH Oh**… I think (**name your husband**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is about to get up and leave!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Okay… back to business…. I truly am so thrilled for you Renee. We are all so happy that you have found your destiny in the eyes and soul of Kevin and your joy is really contagious! We’ve all caught that “love bug” and I don’t think any of us wants to be cured… at least not tonight, so let’s celebrate!!

Anyone who knows both Renee and yours truly know that we are best friends, closer than sisters, and co-conspirators in life. Who would have ever thought that when my sister (**?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brought home that bundle of joy on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that one of the lights of my life was wrapped in that blanket? (**Turn to your sister … I assume that Is Renee’s mother… and say**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (**If it was near your birthday or near Christmas you can say**) **BEST. GIFT. EVER**!! And at the time I thought the world began and ended with my Easy Bake Oven (**or name you favorite toy of the time**)!!! Of course, as Renee got older, I began to question my good fortune. Renee, remember the first time I babysat for you? It was…how many years ago??? I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for finally stopping that **SCREAMING**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Oh, yes, you were a handful when you were younger, but **BABY**, just look at you now!!! You’re a beautiful elegant young woman about to begin the most important phase of your adult life as you enter into marriage. (**Name your husband**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thrilled and honored that you are our daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s godmother, and the family legacy and circle of life continue as you mentor her in similar ways that I hope I inspired and guided you. (**Hopefully your daughter is young enough that you can say this-maybe you can even get her to pretend to throw a tantrum**) And by the way, since payback is a you-know-what, I just want you to know that we’ve been sending \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for voice projection and acting lessons and we’ve encouraged her to practice as loudly as possible the next time you so kindly watch her!! No need to thank me!! We’re even!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

All jokes aside, Renee. I count all of my blessings every day and you are definitely one of the most important ones in my life. As my friend you know how to listen and laugh, guide me and challenge me and as the younger sister I never had, I love observing life through your point of view. I am filled with emotion as I recall how I’ve watched you blossom into the beautiful woman who’s now a wife. I love how you distinguish yourself in your own unique way, and even as you show the world how to party like a champ, you manage to do it with elegance and class. Of course **AT** the party you’re as beautiful and captivating as Holly Go Lightly in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”… but let’s not discuss the “**day after…”** coincidentally, that was the name of a horror movie… and Kevin-if you want to avoid living through your **OWN** disaster film…don’t wake her up too early!!! Perhaps you two can begin a new trend… **Cocktail hour** fishing … in pearls and hip boots?? Early morning fishing is sooooooo 20th century!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And Natalie and Sarah… if Renee **DOES** choose to wear pearls while hunting or fishing, it doesn’t mean she’s snooty… It probably means the lock got stuck!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Kevin, I want to congratulate your parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**if they are both there**) and (**any brothers and/or sisters? If so, name them**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and welcome you and your family to our family. I look forward to getting to know you better and I’m excited at the thought of all of the experiences and moments we will all share. I can’t wait to see how our families will grow. Kevin, I also look forward to watching your mutual influence on each other. You seem to me to be down to earth and appreciative of the simple and traditional things in life and like I said, fishing in pearls and country karaoke can make for a fascinating blending of cultures and interests.

Renee, I know that probably today, more than ever, you miss your dad. Your father Dick was a wonderful man and we all miss him, but I promise you, he’s watching over you and he’s more proud of you than you would ever have imagined…. and he knows that Kevin will love you and partner you and see to it that you have a long, healthy, prosperous and happy life.

(**If the best man is doing the toast, then conclude with below. If you need a toast, let me know and I will work the ending into a toast**).

It’s time for us to invite all of you to raise a glass as we toast the bride and groom, but I want to say again, as I am sure Kevin will agree about my revelation when I was just six years old and first laid eyes on you… **BEST. GIFT. EVER**. May your life together be long and happy and may your love and respect for each other only grow with each day…. and may it shine like a rare pearl.

We love you!