WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DIANA DaROCHA

Hello everyone!!! I am so excited that Matt and I are finally married and I want to thank each and every one of you for being here to share our joy. Without a doubt, this is probably the best day of my life and I can’t imagine 450 other people with whom I would have preferred to experience this day!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And how blessed are both of us to have the privilege to have so many wonderful and supportive people here with us!! It’s absolutely amazing! Although I may have had my “moments” over the past several months, I want to take the time to acknowledge some very, **VERY** important people that I love and adore and who want only the best for Matt and me, no matter how I may have manifested the dreaded **CBS** since Matt and I got engaged. Oh. **CBS**, for those of you who may not have … the condition actually has its own acronym, is **Chronic Bridezilla Syndrome**. Fortunately, I escaped the worst parts of the curse…. at least I **THOUGHT** I did….just a little “heads up” to my maid of honor and bridesmaids, I am about to say some really nice things about all of you so don’t bust me now!! (**Wait for the laugh**) .Now, for most of the guests here tonight, I would hope that you see before you a poised, radiant, ethereal, elated, and elegant bride….welllllll…. let’s just say that those on the inside of the preparations may have gotten little glimpses of pre-ceremony jitters…. but that’s all behind us now and I am back!!! The curse of Bridezilla has lifted!!

(**Take a deep breath and say**) I want to stop for a moment and just take in all of the love and happiness that is in this room right now. In years to come the memories of the conversations may fade, the menu will be an afterthought, the flowers will remain alive in our videos and instagram posts and photo albums, but the feelings…. how do we preserve the emotion and joy that fills us right now? That, to me is the most important part of what this wedding is all about. I am thrilled to be Mrs. Matt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I know that every day we will work to constantly renew and maintain the magic that exists between the two of us, but with all of you… this is really a once in a lifetime opportunity for me to give thanks. Every single moment in life is precious and this one is no exception, so if you don’t want Bridezilla rearing her head just one more time, indulge me a little more!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

John Lennon said, “We’ve got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant. You can’t just accept it and leave it in a cupboard or just think it’s going to get on by itself. You’ve got to keep watering it. You’ve got to really look at it and nurture it.” I’ll dare to go one step further than Lennon. There are all kinds of love and all kinds of friendship and all relationships have to be watered and fed and nurtured. The friendship and love I have for the beautiful women who stood by me in my wedding party are no exception. They are true friends and kindred spirits and this experience has brought us even closer to one another. To Amanda Amato, my Maid of Honor, you have been my best friend and confidante for seven years. Let’s face it- we have to stay friends… you know where the bodies are buried!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside…In those seven years we’ve both had our ups and downs (**If there is one particularly embarrassing moment or adventure you two have shared you can say**) and don’t worry, I wasn’t going to mention that time when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... (**stop just short of the punchline**) Woopsie!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… but through it all we truly nurtured our friendship equally from both sides and we’ve been partners through thick and thin. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being there when I needed you, even if sometimes I may have had to get a dose of “tough love” if things were really headed for peak Bridezilla moment… I may not have been blessed with a biological sister, but I’ve been more blessed to have you by my side for all of those years. As our lives evolve, I look forward to sharing a lifetime’s worth of moments of our sisterly bond. I love you!

Lately, and maybe it’s because I have been so immersed in all things to do with weddings, I’ve heard some interesting quotes that have been said about bridesmaids. (**If your bridesmaids are from high school, you can say this-if they are from college, change as needed**) I’ve heard high school (or college) isn’t about learning lessons or looking for your husband, It’s about finding your bridesmaids! (**Wait for the laugh**) I also came across a little poem that has some lines that go something like this: “Will you help me pick out the perfect dress? Will you be there when my mom starts driving me crazy? (**Say… Sorry Mom…)** Will you help me see the difference between ivory, eggshell, cream and vanilla? …I may have found my man, but I will **ALWAYS** need my girls!!” And MY girls are spectacular!! I want to tell all of you, my gorgeous, fun and funny, caring and cool bridesmaids how much I love, respect and thank each and every one of you. To Krista, Jackie, Monica, Stephanie and Alessia, how did I get so lucky to have you guys in my life??? You all did a great job standing up for me today, making sure I had my “stuff” together and getting me through all of the crises and particulars that make up planning a wedding, but you’re ALWAYS there for me… or let’s say, we’re there for each other. You fill my life with joy, friendship and more than a little mischief and I wouldn’t have it any other way!! Here’s to another fifty years of sharing the good times and **all** of the times with each other!!

The next people I want to acknowledge and thank are my wonderful in-laws, Cathy and Val. How can I begin to acknowledge all that you’ve done for me? From the minute I stepped into your house eight years ago, you welcomed me and accepted me like a daughter. The courtesy and love you have given to me is one of the great blessings of life, and our bond has only gotten stronger. And now we are finally and officially a family!! Your love and support are amazing and treasured more than you know, but the fact that you created and raised my soul mate, is a gift I will never be able to repay, but I’m willing to have a try at it for the rest of our lives!! Thank you for the gift of Matt-for raising such a respectful and loving son who is also a respectful, smart, caring and loving husband.

The comedian Rodney Dangerfield once said, “My parents moved around a lot but I always found them” (**Wait for the laugh**). Well…. I am **SURE** there were times over the past several months when my parents wanted to move far, **FAR** away, but they didn’t. They stayed by my side and they did what they do best-they loved me and supported me and gave me strength to battle the stress and details and negotiations to make this day possible. They have been my rock and my strength for my entire life and I cannot even believe that I am so blessed to have these two saints as my parents. I especially want to applaud you, Dad, for your generosity and understanding… yes… I mean about **THE DRESS**…. I will never forget how you just paid for my dream wedding dress… before you even knew the price…. If **THAT’S** not fatherly love and devotion… then I don’t know what is!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And of course we know behind every great man is a woman, probably saying (**name your father**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Pay for the damn (**If you don’t feel comfortable saying damn you can say darn**) dress!! It’s our only daughter!! It’s her only wedding!! So we’ll skip the world cruise this year and the African safari next year!!! We have to make our daughter happy!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, Mom, you are my angel, my life, my backbone and my muse. You taught me how to be a woman and you have been my strength, my love and my peace. And thank you for teaching me how to negotiate with Daddy!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

And last but not least, Matt. Matt. What can I say? You’re stuck with me! (**Wait for the laugh**). In all my life when I was a kid, dreaming of what it would be like to find my Prince Charming, riding in on his noble steed…. somehow I didn’t get the memo that the horse would black and rearing on his hind legs…. on the hood of a Ferrari!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). But hey!! Hot car… Hot, smart, loving funny guy… I’m in!! Where do I sign?? Oh!! I already did!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Matt, we’ve been together for almost a decade. The first ten years have gone by so quickly, but I am always blown away how we grow together and love each other more and more every day. You are the smartest person I know and I learn more from being with you for five minutes than I would in a lifetime at school… especially about Ferraris…(**Wait for the laugh**) and every morning when I wake up, I say my silent prayers of thanks for the lessons and closeness we share each day. Your passion for art, science, and yes-automotive details is apparent and inspirational. You constantly teach me with patience and a smile on your face… that by the way, melts my heart…and I am honored to be your wife, your student and your best friend. I love you.

Thank you all for sharing the most wonderful day of our lives and we look forward to sharing **YOURS** as well! We love you!