WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

TANYA CHUIPPI

Hello everyone. I want to thank each one of you for being here to share this very special moment in our lives. Most if not all of you have been there for us, either separately or together and we couldn't imagine what this day might have been like if you weren't here to share it with us... Hey... Let's face it... Each person's life is a journey....unique and filled with good times, challenging times, and those in between times.... So speaking of journeys, we thought that with all we've been through together, we might as well make this part a wonderful, glamorous, love filled pit stop.... And give you all great opportunities for photo ops, postcard sending, and maybe even a tee shirt or two!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, we love you all for sharing our dream with us.

There is an expression that teaches us, "I am part of all that I have met," and today is a day that really demonstrates the truth in that saying. This is a time filled emotions for all of us and I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge some very special people for whom I am deeply grateful and blessed to be a part of me. For starters, there are two spectacular, sweet and beautiful children who are more than a part of me. They are my heart, my soul, and the reason I get up in he morning..... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) ...... Even **THAT** early..... To my children James and Makhayla, thank you for doing such a great job walking me down he aisle. You both look adorable today… even more so than every other day… call me biased, but you guys look great to me EVERY day!! James, I want to express a special thank you for being so good and caring and protective. I will always love you for stepping up to the plate and being such a great bodyguard, even though you're just a boy. Your sense of caring and responsibility shows us what a fine young man and grown up you will be and I know the future has a chance with wonderful young people like you to share your goodness. Makhayla, it was a joy having you by my side planning this wedding and although I may not have said yes to all of the purple and teddy bears (**Name 2 or 3 outrageous suggestions she made**), plotting and arranging this very special trip was even more special than I could have imagined because we shared it.

To Mom, I cannot even express how much it means to have you here today. I know that things haven’t been so great lately with your health, but I am counting on all of the adrenalin and joy that is being shared throughout this room to give you the strength to celebrate with us. It’s been said that love heels and laughter is the best medicine, and if that’s the case, and I believe it is, then I am confident that being here is very good medicine. If anyone wants to know from where I get my determination… take a look at that beautiful woman… right over there (**Point to your mother and say**) I love you!

Well, I think we all realize from what we’ve been reading and hearing lately that those “in the know” do their best to “roll with a sizeable posse.” In the good old days they were called “bridesmaids” and who’s luckier than me to have a “crew” like this? Lindsey, we’ve known each other for over fifteen years. We met in Kelowna and even though we seem to be total opposites-me being a little on the “wild” side and you being the tame one… until, that is, a little alcohol has been served and then…. well for those who know, we don’t have to repeat!! You’re sweet and caring and an amazing listener and although you’re a wonderful friend, you’re an even BETTER wife and mommie. Jessica, I don’t know how to explain you!! You’re like my daughter and my sister and without sounding like a Faye Dunaway in the movie Chinatown (**Will your guests get that reference? If not, maybe leave it out**), I mean it in the best way possible. You’re with me so much that my kids joke that you’re the evil mother and I’m the nice one, so… thanks for making me look good to my family!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I will never forget that we took our first road trip together to Banff with James and Makhayla… in fact I’m pretty sure NONE of us will ever forget THAT experience!! This trip is your first “International voyage” and I’m honored that you are here with us as my bridesmaid and so proud of the way you have blossomed into a wonderful young woman, who, by the way, is always there for me to laugh and to cry, to give great backrubs and to play with my hair…. ahhhh so relaxing…. If I had to give an image to the perfect wife and mom, someone who is wild and crazy, successful and beautiful inside and out, all at the same time, it would have to be Lianna. We met at the Miss Italia pageant in 2000, and she made it to runner up!! (**Check your nails and sort of buff them on your wedding gown or fake groom your eyebrows and say**). Oh!! Wait … did I mention who WON??? (**Point to yourself and wait for the laugh**). I LOVE to bug her about that. It just doesn’t get old!! (**Blow Lianna a kiss** **or wink at her**) Jen, you’d be a great sister-in-law even if you weren’t the funniest person I know! You really are a sister to me and so much so that I think I’m getting pretty funny here myself!! How am I doing? I’ll never forget that trip to Calgary with you and Zoie… I mean who is better to take to a stampede than Jen? Thank you for always being YOU. Corrie, where do I start? You’re loving, sincere, caring, and always there when needed… even when wine isn’t involved!! That’s TRUE friendship!!! Of course the explorations into “wine country” are always highlights. When Corrie found out I was getting married, there she was with a box of goodies!! She made the beautiful flower girl dresses and having her as a close friend is truly a gift. And Zoie. Then there’s Zoie… candidate for the “Maid of Honor” hall of fame!! Even WITH the snorting!!! (**As an aside say**) … once you get to know her, it can even be cute!! Zoie IS the party!! She’s outgoing and fun loving and sometimes it feels like she is just EVERYWHERE… that girl LOVES to travel and before I knew her I hadn’t been anywhere… Can’t say that now! From Mexico to Italy, from Toronto to Calgary to Hawaiii and beyond, this girl gets around… She was even there when Matt proposed and yes, she kept the snorting under control THAT time… She lives large and loves life. She’s animated and fun and her joy for life knows no bounds and apparently neither does her dancing… just ask the girl she socked in the head at the Bon Jovi concert… EEEK!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) and yes… she is also our Cupid. If it weren’t for Zoie’s incredible intuition and moxie… and way with a shot, I never would have had the nerve to speak to Matt. Zoie…. I have to say, that was the best drink I NEVER bought… Thank you!! You handled it all that night… you bought Matt the shot and said it was from me, you passed him my number….and then huddled in the corner and laughed your head off with Jen….. and look what happened… I got a husband and you got another trip to Mexico!! Smart girl!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Of course there’s one person who is here tonight in much more than spirit, and that’s my Dad. I miss his heart and his soul and his love of life every day. He will always be a part of everything I do and I feel that of anyone I can possibly think of, I truly am a part of him and he’s a huge part of me. As you look around the room enjoying the view and the feeling the warmth of the candles as they glint, and as you smell the flowers placed around the room, know that those lights represent the light of his soul, those flowers show us the beauty and fragility of life, and let them remind you to love and respect and appreciate everything and everyone around you. Flowers and candles help us remember the beauty in life and my father was a beautiful, caring, loving person, and as destiny would have it, even though I was terrified to speak to him at first, fate brought me a man to love me-one who reminds me in so many ways of all of the good that was my father. They are so much alike- from chewing their candy to sniffing all the time, from being devoted, hard workers to respecting and finishing a good home made meal, both my father, may he rest in peace, and Matt, wrote the book on what it means to be loveable. Daddy, I know you watch over me. Thank you for sending me such a wonderful man. I know you would have loved him. I really am blessed.

To my New Mom and Dad, Reni and Nelson, thank you for accepting US… James and Makhayla love and appreciate the both of you as much as I do and we look forward to sharing many memories with our new family. And thank you for raising such an amazing man who is now my husband. I really am the luckiest girl in the world.

To all of the groomsmen, you all look so handsome!! Thank you for standing up for Matt (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) and thank you for helping Matt to stand up on his own! To my brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that was some great speech!!! Thank you!! To our flower girls Lyla, January and Adele, you all look so beautiful and you did an amazing job walking down the aisle!! And how lucky were we to have not one but FIVE terrific and handsome ring bearers… Joseph, Adriano, Anthony, Christian and Declan… great job!!! Matt… does this mean I’m going to get FIVE wedding rings??? YAY!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Jason, you’ve been a wonderful MC and you really brought the fun to this party!! Thank you to the hotel staff and to my cake lady Nelly, thank you for everything!! To Auntie and Uncle Matt, I love the both of you, and to all of you, after this, I guess you might say I’m speeched out!!! Except for one thing. To Matt, you are the love and the light of my life. Thank you for being just who you are, for accepting my children and me, and for understanding what I have been through for the past few years. Words cannot express what you mean to me and I am astounded by the depth of your caring and empathy. The way you honor my father, care about my kids, and watch out for my mother is so precious to me and every day I thank G-d for having you in my life. Ten lifetimes would not be enough time for me to express what you mean to me, but all I can say is I honor you, I love you, and to have the privilege to spend the rest of my life with you is the greatest gift I could ever wish for. Thank you. I love you all!