MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

TRACI BUONANNO

Hello everyone!! It’s such a joy for me to be here and to witness this great day for Laura and John. What a privilege it is to be Laura’s maid of honor and to have the wonderful vantage point of witnessing this romance from so close!! And it’s an even bigger thrill to stand by you today, Laura, as you’re poised at the beginning of the most rewarding and fulfilling part of your life. You’re my closest friend and what some of you may or may not know is that Laura and I are cousins so I have been a part of “The Adventures of Laura” since she was born. Although there’s a fifteen-year age difference between us, we’ve always been close. We’ve all heard the adages about how we can pick our friends but we can’t pick our family. It didn’t matter with us. We both count our blessings!

Laura’s always been an important part of my life. In fact I remember as a kid that I would take the bus to our grandmother’s house (**If you want to make a joke you** **can say**) … Hmmm this is beginning to sound like a fairy tale… but **NO**. I don’t **THINK** I was wearing a little red riding hood and I don’t recall meeting any wolves along the way-at least not until I was older… but wouldn’t **THAT** spice up this story!! (**And wait for the laugh**) Anyway… back to Grandma’s house… I would go to visit Laura. Even though she was just an infant at the time, I told her everything. Our conversations tended to be one sided- I talked and she gurgled, and I laid out my heart to her. Boy was she a good listener!! No opinions!! Few rebuttals!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I spoke of life and love and boyfriends and school; of dream vacations and of someday finding and growing old with the perfect loving husband. I think maybe she got those romance talks on a deeper level because those dreams I shared with Laura and for Laura have come true and today we are all witnesses.

I met John about three years ago and although it might take a little time for him to warm up to someone or for others to understand his personality…. after all he **IS** an accountant and they **DO** know how to “keep their numbers to themselves”… (**Wait for the** **laugh**) I have rarely met someone as easy to be with, as educated or as loving. I suppose we might say that John is like a buried treasure…. the best is yet to be discovered. I am thrilled that Laura and John met four years ago… first it was just calculators winking at an accountants’ training session **no less**… yet another testament to the power of love!! And **numbers!!** (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) And even though the official meeting didn’t take place until that corporate bowling event, I just know there’s a priceless line someplace in here involving “**spreadsheets”** and getting “**bowled over**” but this is a mixed crowd and kids and grandparents are present, so use your imagination!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Laura and John, as I gathered my thoughts to organize what I wanted to say today, naturally I searched for marriage wisdom from the experts. And then I found Henny Youngman. If you young people don’t know who he is, you will after I finish this…known for his wit and wisdom about life and marriage, Henny once said, “ My wife and I have found the secret to a lasting marriage. Two times each week we go out to dinner for a wonderful meal-great food, a nice bottle of wine, terrific atmosphere. She goes on Tuesdays and I go on Fridays (**Wait for the** **laugh**).

Laura and John, I know the two of you will be sharing those great dinners **WITH** each other for a long, LONG time. I’m proud to say that I know how much family means to the both of you and I know all of those Sunday dinners with lots of food and sports and great family bonding are building a wonderful and lifelong foundation for the future.

All of you in this room feel the love that is radiating from this terrific couple and I’d like to invite all of you to raise your glasses as I propose a toast to Laura and John. I once heard that Dr. Seuss finally busted the mystery of how to know if you’re in love. It’s simple. He said, “You know you’re in love when you can’t fall asleep because the reality is finally better than your dreams.”

To Laura and John, May every waking minute of your lives be better than you could ever imagine, but honestly, please try to get some sleep!!! (**Wait for the** **laugh**) Congratulations!! We love you!!