MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

CLAIRE TORRELLA

Hi everyone!! I am Claire and I am so happy and proud to be here at Karla and Brian’s wedding. I’m even happier to be here as Karla’s maid of honor and it’s a testament to her ability to bring out the best in people that has inspired me to stand up here before all of you and share a little bit about just how thrilled I am for these two great friends. Karla, on an **ordinary** day you can easily fill entire rooms with laughter and fun. Today your joy is so contagious and off the charts that all of us completely taken with your spirit. You and Brian are so blessed to have found each other and we’re all so thankful to have you in our lives.

It’s hard to believe that fifteen years have passed since I joined the Capitol Steps Synchronized Skating Team. I had my hesitations when I first joined, I mean, after all there were twenty girls that had been skating together and already had established friendships and let’s face it, the group **HAD** to be really tight in order to do what they did so well. I was “**the new kid on the block… of ice**” and the team that was already there were so “**in sync**”… Okay… I better stop with the 90’s boy band puns… (**Wait for the** **laugh**). Karla had already been with the group for a few years but being Karla, she welcomed me instantly and completely. We became close friends and traveled to events together, supported each other through those 4 am practice sessions and united our goals in visions of the snacks at the end of those ice rainbows. We became so close in fact, that we went to Ohio State together where we were roommates all four years. Come to think of it, I probably know **WAY** too much about her!! (**Wait for the laugh**). There are so many great memories that I have of Karla throughout the years, and even though we now live in different states (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) ….she lives in Florida and most of the time I’m in a state of confusion (**and wait for the laugh-if confusion doesn’t work for you maybe you can say frustration or overwhelm-depending on how you usually feel**) as soon as we get together it’s like no time has passed and that is the test of true, genuine, and enduring friendship. Our bond is timeless. Don’t get me wrong… there were moments that we were on thin ice… with sharp blades…. like in Cape Cod, but Karla managed to make her mark… literally… as she sliced my hand with her blade. It was all very dramatic… blood on the ice, the emergency room visit, lots of stitches and the team cheering us on… crisis averted… Karla style!!! It’s one of the legends about Karla I hold dear… in my **OTHER** hand!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

With a magnetic personality like Karla’s, everyone wants to be her friend but one special guy got to win her heart. Although Brian met Karla in our freshman year they didn’t “officially” start dating until junior year and… remember when I said I knew too much? Well most of us didn’t even know about this match made in Heaven until they had a pretty good idea of where “it was going.” Well folks, it wound up right here and we couldn’t be happier!!!

Karla, we haven’t lived in the same city since college, but our bond stays as strong as it was when we were roommates. It is such a joy to see you and Brian begin your lives together. You two make a great team… (**If you want to make** **another crack you can say**) … just keep your hands away from her blades!! (**And wait for the laugh**). My wish for the two of you is that you find as much love, health, and happiness in each other as you bring to others. Karla, your generosity of spirit and dedication to your career, your passions, and to others inspires all of us. You and Brian are very lucky people to have found each other. May you continue to find that joy, devotion, and laughter together every day of your lives. Congratulations!! We love you!!