WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

MARLO POLONSKY

Hello everyone!!! It’s such an honor to get up in front of all you people and ……. AAAARRRRGGGGHHHH…. **WHO** am I kidding??? I’m **FREAKING OUT**!!! (**Say this all with exaggeration and wait for the laugh**) I **HATE** speaking in front of such a distinguished crowd… eh… forget distinguished!! I **can’t handle** public speaking period!!!! Especially when compared to “the Pros” who will also regale you with heartwarming, funny, and probably REALLY RELAXED anecdotes about our bride and groom, but you know what? When one is blessed to have the kind of friendship I have been honored to have with Sherri, one discovers limitless resources to go the extra mile….. one braves the circumstances… like knocking knees ….. No…. that wasn’t a jackhammer down the street…. to flop sweat… noooo … we’re not in a sauna… and most of all, one selflessly gives up enduring the crappy (**choice-disgusting?)** weather up north …. like **THAT** was a hard decision to make!! (**Wait for the laugh**) to travel to Palm Beach… tough gig… to celebrate such a joyous moment for one of the best friends anyone could ever wish for….. Truth be told, I’m haunted by visions of small horses…. galloping around Icelandic volcanos…. Sherri, I knew payback time would eventually come…. and I could sure use a mane and a rein to hold onto for dear life right about now!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) More about this later…

It all began back in 1998…. apparently Sherri was in a dead cell zone when Horace Greeley re-released the memo to “**Go West**,” because she went **east**, wound up at grad school in Philadelphia, our paths collided, and I found my dearest friend. Sherri’s cool and classic movie star beauty betrayed the magic we all know that lies within her, radiates around her, and charms everyone. To know Sherri is to be touched be her California warmth and light. Her thoughtfulness knows no bounds and her devotion to her friends is legendary. Her contribution to my life and her commitment to our friendship inspire me to **NOT FAINT** while standing before you. (**Wait for the laugh**). In fact we’ve had so many great and meaningful experiences together that I would just **LOVE** to talk and talk… wait… no I wouldn’t. (**Wait for the laugh**). From college friends to neighbors to traveling companions to confidantes, Sherri has always been there to share our lives. There are so many unforgettable moments… our trips to Alexandria, VA, Italy, our expedition to the searing heat in the Gobi Desert… oh wait… that was my birthday weekend in Charleston…. (**Wait for the laugh**)… I can’t imagine life without Sherri’s good natured and supportive inspiration… Her selflessness knows no bounds… but I think even **SHE** would have liked to have found some while in Iceland…. Being the sport she is, and knowing how much I love riding, she supported my dream of exploring Iceland’s volcanic landscape on horseback…The pictures were just idyllic…lush greenery, volcanoes, gorgeous horses…. imagine Sherri in all her majesty with her regal demeanor and outfit to match… her Jackie O sunglasses and her posture so natural, like she was born in the saddle….. and then her horse decided to charge and take the lead. I looked around, remembered that faint but nervous giggle, and realized the horse was gone… with Sherri on it!!! I finally managed to catch up with the dynamic duo and our bride was **DEFINITELY NOT** the one in charge. Sherri, if it means anything, as a true friend, I have honored your devotion to our friendship by reliving the terror you felt that day, and here we are- we continue to laugh and share these special times and honor a connection that means so much to both of us.

And then you met Michael and I was so privileged to meet him early on in the relationship. We bonded over our love of Bourbon and our passion for Jewish geography. The two of you are a dynamic, unstoppable, loving duo. I’m so happy that you found each other, which reminds me… what could possibly make the story of Sherri and Michael more wonderful and charming than to acknowledge that they were brought together by someone who has a way with securing a connection. As fate would have it, their cupid arrived in the form of a petite Albanian seamstress… someone who for years has left people in stitches… (**Turn to Satnik and say**) Satnik, on behalf of all of us here today to celebrate our bride and groom, (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) we thank you for this great trip to Palm Beach! (**Wait for the laugh**) (**Alternative**) we thank you for making the pieces fit in the growing patchwork that is the life and marriage of Sherri and Michael.

Sherri and Michael, I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we wish you both a lifetime of love and respect, health and happiness, and everything you could ever dream of… except for maybe another Icelandic tour on horseback!! Congratulations! We love you!