WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

MALCOLM BURN

Hello everyone!!! It’s such a thrill to be here and to celebrate the wedding of my best friend, Angela, to Robert…. and although Angela and I actually bonded while commiserating over our love of solitude and privacy… good luck with **THAT** for two people in such a social “people oriented” business… who could possibly resist all of the fun and good times to be experienced at the wedding of someone you know so well? In spite of all of the chaos and revelry we would find in our lives, we searched for a safe haven- some quiet time, and wound up becoming great friends. We got lost in adventure and conversation… lost in translation… and then **REALLY LOST** in Brazil… more about that later!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Let’s just say, one never really knows a person until they attempt to **FREAK OUT** in broken **PORTUGUESE**…. that was just one incident but most of all we learned so much in our times together at sea. We learned valuable lessons about human nature and choreography, playing games and indulging in “mini” parties… We learned about each other and what it means to really, **REALLY** have **FUN**… But if any cruise executives are here… just remember… it was all in the name of professional research!! (**Wait for the** **laugh)**. Some people think life is a “journey….” Let me tell you something… life is a **VOYAGE**…

The writer Kenneth Grahame once said, “There is nothing-absolutely **NOTHING**-half so much worth doing as simply **messing about in boats**.” (**Wait for the** **laugh**). That statement basically sums up my friendship with Angela and how we all wound up here… (**If there are any managers or other staff from your company present you can say)** But **Shhhhh**…. don’t tell but we’ve had some pretty fun times…. With Angela as my dance captain, you can imagine there weren’t very many “dull moments” at sea… maybe we needed to occasionally escape from the crowd just to get a chance to breathe and energize ourselves for the next round of festivities, but whether with a huge group of guests or alone and trying to regenerate, as a close friend Angela has always been a real backbone, a source of valued support, and… pardon the pun, a genuine “port in a storm… “

There would almost never be a dull moment if the two of us were around and as Helen Keller once said, “ Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing.” Well, All I can say is it was never “nothing” with Angela!! Boy! We had some great times!! And when needed we cherished solitude… or so we thought… until we got to Brazil. Has Angela ever told any of you the story of **THAT** voyage? We were in the middle of one of our typical crazy adventures around South America… sounds **exotic**… doesn’t it?? (**Wait for the laugh**). Well, we got to know each other really well on that trip and she really was a great source of friendship and moral support at that time, and believe me, there were times during that voyage when we **REALLY** needed each other. **REALLY**. Who can forget the sightseeing tour we took while we were in Brazil… The lush scenery!!! The local color!!! The rest of the tour group… Wait a minute… where **WAS** the rest of the tour group? Yes indeedie, we got separated from our group in a foreign land… no Portuguese spoken here!!! But I promise you, there is a universal language for “I’m gonna have a panic attack!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). Thanks to our friendship and trust in each other, I coaxed Angela into being calm and I assured her that we would meet up… and we did… I don’t know **HOW** that happened, but we got each other through that crisis. That which doesn’t kill you or find you with an ancient tribe living deep inside the Amazon rain forest will make you stronger!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I guess you had to be there, and believe me when I say that was one of those special and unforgettable moments in life; it was amazing and awesome but I would rather be here… in civilization… amongst family and great friends, celebrating the marriage of this wonderful couple.

Angela and I both love crazy adventures and spontaneity and nothing was nuttier than when we joked about going to South Africa… and then I surprised her with a ticket!! Look at her… She still looks stunned!! (**Point to the bride and wait for the laugh**).

I suppose one might imagine that life on a cruise ship is a hopefully… well-contained community… like a traveling city, a microcosm at sea where every day is a party and one never knows just what one might see or whom one might meet… after all, there lots of places to get lost on a ship and there’s also a casino on board… And sure enough, Angela may have been in the entertainment department, but over in the other section was the casino…. to some it’s a place where you may win or you may lose… To Angela, it turned out that her future was to be found in that stack of chips (**or name whatever Robert did in the casino**). Whatever fate had planned for both Robert and Angela, apparently they were both dealt really good hands!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

While it was so much fun to hang out and be friends with Angela, having Robert in the mix took friendship to entirely new levels. Oh those wine and cheese parties!! Oh those intense chess games!! A bit of advice for evening activities like that… if you have enough wine, you don’t even care if you lose! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I will also never forget, as long as I live, when Robert invited me on a trip to Africa. In general it’s pretty safe to say that the world is our oyster, we tend to have somewhat nomadic tendencies, and we’ve been to a lot of places in our life and times… Oh dear. Please don’t let me break out into a song!! **(Wait for the** **laugh**). Okay back to the Africa trip. Talk about a great adventure!! Robert was the perfect host and from the safaris to the Balloon Safari, sleeping with the lions, playing with the cubs, eating and drinking so much, we had a ball!! We might have had more than plenty to drink on some of those nights but I will always remember how great Robert’s family was and is as they played hosts to us on that holiday. (**Acknowledge Robert’s parents**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to wish you both hearty congratulations!!! I am sure that for your newly blended family this is just the beginning of many**, MANY** more great times. (If you also want to acknowledge Angela’s family, do that here as well). Of course I would also like to congratulate Angela’s family, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. By now you probably realize the next step for me is to be named as President of the Angela \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fan Club! (**Wait for the laugh**)

To Angela and Robert, it’s a true gift to see two dear friends so happy on this occasion, but there is one thing we haven’t mentioned yet, and that’s the best thing to happen in your lives. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months ago, your world changed forever when you welcomed your beautiful baby daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into your family. Angela, you are known for your talent, compassion, huge heart and crazy sense of fun. You’re strong and caring, helpful, outgoing, fun and adventurous. Robert, you’re pretty great too!! (**Wait for the** **laugh**). Talk about the “**Lucky Genes Club**!!! “ With a blend of personalities from this great set of parents, this baby is set for life!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) .

Marcel Proust, the French author said, “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.” Angela and Robert, you are both seasoned and professional travelers with many, **MANY** knots logged on your charts, but today you really begin the voyage of a lifetime. Today you both begin to see with new eyes. All of the adventures, all of the mishaps, all of the lessons and all of the steps taken and cards dealt lead to marriage and parenthood, the ULTIMATE adventure and eye opener. I know I speak for everyone here when I say we are so happy for the both of you!! Remember what you’ve learned from all of your time at sea… be there for others and remember to take some time for yourselves. Make sure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ learns all the right moves and knows how to shuffle on an as needed basis… in every meaning of the word and know how to whether the storms that may hit, and never, ever forget that the both of you have found your best first mate!! Congratulations!! We love you!