MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

CHARLOTTE YIN

Hello everyone!! It is a real privilege to be here to celebrate the marriage of these two wonderful people and I am especially honored to serve as the Maid of Honour for our beautiful bride, Louisa as she marries her wonderful partner in crime… **(Wait for the laugh**) I mean life… Chris. Weddings serve many purposes. They give us a time and a reason to take a break from our “all too busy” lives to remember and acknowledge the importance love and commitment, friendship, family and connection. They give us a chance to acknowledge and celebrate with old, dear friends, meet new ones, and of course they give us a chance to take one day to set aside our routines, get all dressed up, and spend a few hours recognizing the age old traditions of sealing the marriage vows with a lavish celebration while honoring the cultural rites of expressive and inspired dancing, feasting with abandon, and partaking of the customs that serve to welcome the happy couple to the institution of marriage. It’s also a great and happy reason to reconnect and renew friendships and it really is an “Honour” for me to be able to share this day with my dear friend on such a special occasion.

Loui and I met way back… Well maybe not **THAT** waaaaaayyyy back… after all, a real lady doesn’t give away her age (**Wait for the laugh**)… Let’s just say it was a while ago… we were twelve years old and it was her first year of high school… Glendowie College is proud of their mission to encourage their students and challenge them to reach their full potential… to be prepared for living in a world that is interconnected, diverse, and continually changing. I have to say… and I am sure that those of you that know Louisa as well as me, know that at the very least, with regard to her, **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**!! Ever since she was a child she was a high achiever… she may be quietly attaining her goals but she has always been dedicated to her studies, hard working, and multi linguistic. Ask her any question… but make sure you specify the language of choice for the response. At any given moment she can express herself in English, Mandarin, German, Spanish or Taiwanese… That I **KNOW** of **(Wait for the laugh**). Come to think of it, I haven’t seen her for a while… she could have easily picked up another language to speak in that time!! Hey Loui, Parlez-vous français? What that tells us about our bride is that she’s smart, interested, cultured, and able to get herself out of predicaments on at least three continents!! (**Wait for the laugh**). In all sincerity though, Louisa and I have been great friends for many years and it is a real testimony to the strength of out bond that even though we may not have seen each other for a long time- after all each person follows different paths in life, the connection between true friends doesn’t weaken.

When we were younger we had so much fun and as we got older and found our way in the world, we just grew to appreciate each other more and more. I know that today, even though we are separated by distance and time, I can pick up the phone and call at some ungodly hour (**Turn to the bride and say**) … don’t worry Loui… I’ll give you a break for the next two weeks or so and I **WON’T** call at some ungodly hour… let’s call it the **newlywed concession**… she will be there for me, offering great advice and precious friendship and just listen to the most absurd stories... as I go on for **HOURS** and **HOURS** about some eccentric co-worker who thinks its funny for me to put in a central line by myself in a patient who needed 5 burly men (2 police officers, 3 ambos) to hold her down and still managed to punch one in the face and bite another one whilst the idiotic registrar needs to leave the hospital by 4.30 sharp so he doesn't break his own rule of never leaving the hospital later than 4.30… (**Take an exaggerated deep breath** **and say**) … but I digress…. Louisa is always there for me with great advice… like the way she taught me the 8:2 law… save 80% of what you earn and spend 20%... so far we’re working on inverted parallels of this theory where I am spending 80% and saving considerably less, but I always picture Loui in the back of my mind… like a little financial angel, gently encouraging me to coax the format to the other direction… someday… someday… (**Wait for the laugh**). Her financial prowess is just a small example of the great habits she … and I… learned from her dad… As teenagers I will never forget her father teaching us honorable work ethics … we had jobs that required us to work until 10 pm and if we left even 10 minutes early, he would send us back to work… if we were getting paid until 10 pm… then we had to work until 10 pm…As I look back on those times I have to say that it was lessons like those that really help to serve me now as I find myself in my medical career practicing the disciplines learned in those early years.

Louisa and I have known each other for more than half our lives. We’ve watched each other grow and blossom into powerful, smart, productive young women. I am particularly proud of how talented, caring and wise Louisa is and I am thrilled that she has found such a worthy life partner as Chris. Chris, thank you for being so great to Loui and for taking such good care of her. We may have been on different continents for the past several years but I know how much Loui loves and cares for you and I look forward to reconnecting with you too on some of those ungodly middle of the night phone calls!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I would like to congratulate your families (**mention Louisa’s and Chris’ parents if you think it’s appropriate-I would at least congratulate Louisa’s and acknowledge Chris’**) and offer my congratulations to Louisa’s parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and wish all of you the best as your newly extended family enjoys many years of happy celebrations.

To Louisa and Chris, I would like to encourage a variation of the 8:2 plan for the two of you in your marriage: May you both find health and happiness, togetherness and respect 80% of the… no!!! Wait a minute!!! **100% of the time!!!** Congratulations!! We love you!