MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

RITA GUTMAN

Hello everyone!! I’m so happy to be here and so **honored** to be Julie’s Maid of Honor. Everyone present tonight has a special connection and affection for our beautiful bride and her handsome groom and I am certainly no exception! We’ve known each other for most of our lives and if anyone had ever told me that shopping at the Gap would make me a maid of honor, I probably would not have believed them!! Julie, as I think of our friendship and how much it means to me, it becomes clear that magical, wonderful moments happen throughout life if only we are willing to be very observant, place one foot in front of the other, and trust that destiny is on our side….I **know** that happened when you met Tim and I am **CERTAIN** it happened when our paths… I mean **wardrobes** crossed….

Years ago Dr. Seuss said something pretty brilliant. It wasn’t about “Green Eggs and Ham” and it wasn’t about cats in hats. And it wasn’t about the places you might go… it was about something so much simpler and so much deeper. He said, “We’re all a little weird, and life’s a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it **LOVE**.” Julie… and everyone… Tell me… How much more weird can it get beyond attending **Russian** math class and finding your best friend who just so happens to be wearing the **SAME** winter coat from the GAP? I mean, we **WERE** in math class… we could have tried to figure out the mathematical probability, but give us a break… it was only 5th grade!! We were **ELEVEN** years old!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I knew from the minute I saw you in OUR coat that I liked you and we would hit it off. That was signed in stone the first time you came over to hang out. You brought me a 98 Degrees CD and the rest is history.

Over the years we’ve remained good friends and we have our history together. I am sure it puts a similar smile on your face when you think of the great times we’ve shared… that vacation to the Dominican Republic… those dances we made up… our parents cheering us on so enthusiastically as we performed…. your mother finally revealing the secret she kept for so many years…. we were **AWFUL** in those dances!! (**If you want you can say the following and wait for the laugh**)… Thanks Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!!!

But let’s flash forward to that trip you took to Italy in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Destiny conspired then too. Some go for the gelato or a great pair of boots… you found your soul mate!!! Yes. You met Tim on that trip and here we are today. The two of you are a great match and we all eagerly anticipate what lies ahead. **(If you want to add a little more you can say**) I clearly approve of your taste in clothing and of course you know I think Tim is a great guy…. Best… Italian… souvenir… ever!! (**And wait for the laugh**)

Through the years I have watched you grow and blossom into an every greater friend, respected professional, now loving wife, and fortunately, a **much better** dancer (**Wait for the laugh**). Your thoughtfulness and consideration of others have marked you as a very special person indeed and although we may not see each other as often as when we were practicing our dance moves, I have a feeling our connection will last for a long, long time….

It’s a privilege to dance at your wedding and to be your friend. I am sure I echo the sentiments of everyone in this room… and beyond… when I say that we wish you a lifetime of love, health, happiness and discovery…. and may the love you share with Tim keep you **MUCH** warmer than that Gap coat!! (**Wait for the laugh**) Congratulations!! We love you!!