**14483, Bina Patel**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to thank you all for coming to this birthday party for my very close friend. Sonal is a very special person. She is a little shy but she is a very caring, loving and warm person. She is also very kind and giving in every way possible. We have known each other for almost 30 years and we have shared so many experiences. We grew up together and our kids grew up together so I think we are building and passing along a legacy of sorts, dear friend. Our kids have grown up together. We have been through ups and downs of marriage, parenting, growing older, and many family issues, and we have come out of it stronger for it. I think we have taken turns who leaned upon whom throughout life.

She is a person who gives a lot but expects a lot in return and is very sensitive to that. She absolutely adores her three boys who are all very successful and is very protective of them. I have known her for more than 30 years and I know her well. She is a very committed person who will stand by you always and will drop everything to be by your side when the need arises. She is a great cook, she loves to read, and she enjoys art and theater. She loves having friends over for dinner and throws great parties. It was quite a challenge to surprise her today with this party. Since we have raised our families together, we’ve been through the ups and downs of life. Our families have done couple of trips together. Sonal and I share a closeness that truly makes me feel like she is more like a sister than a friend.

This is a very special birthday, a life marker if you will. It is one of the times of life when we look back upon what you have experienced and measure it against what you had hoped to experience by this time in life. Sonal, I can say that I believe we have both lived a good life up to this point and that we have many good things to look forward to. Now that our children our successfully grown and on their own, we can both look to what we want to do in the future. I know there are still dreams you’d like to see happen. I know you look forward to your children’s marriages and of course to grandchildren. I look forward to sharing those experiences with you just as we have shared our children’s lives over the years.

It is my wish for you that you be able to see your dreams for your future come to fruition. I know that you have some unfulfilled ones, as have I, because mothers always put their children first. But, now is the time to pull those dreams out of storage, shake off the dust and let them see new light.

Would everyone please join in a birthday toast for my best friend?

Sonal, may all your tomorrows be bright, may all your sorrows be light and may the rest of your life continue to soar above the clouds in delight.

Happy Birthday my good friend.