BRIDESMAID SPEECH

FOR

ASHLEY ODONOVAN

Hello everyone!!! It is so wonderful to be here for so many reasons, not the least of which of course, is to celebrate the wedding of my brother Robby, to his beautiful bride, Bri, who also happens to be my very close, dear friend. … That’s right; before I even get started I’ve noted two of the best reasons possible to be so happy tonight!! The atmosphere here is filled with love and beauty and it’s a privilege to recognize the two people in my life who mean so much to me. It’s a thrill to honor Robby and Bri and to acknowledge the love they have for each other. It’s also been great to participate in all of the festivities and rituals that come with bringing together two families as one.

This would be as good a time as any for thanking my parents for making sure I had an instant best friend from the moment I was born. Robby was three years old at that time and from the minute I was able to comprehend what this life was going to be like, I realized that I had a built in friend, protector and guide through it all. Robby and I have always been close… He was my first friend and has always had my back… and I have had his. (**Name 2 or 3 examples of things Robby has done for you in your life when you were younger**). When we were growing up I will never forget the time Robby \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for me. And then when I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he really showed his stuff when he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**if you want to make a little joke you can say**) Even his mis-steps are endearing… like what about the time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and instead he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**think of something embarrassing but funny and wait for the laugh**). Robby has always been my “go to” person for just about everything. I value his opinion and I have endless trust in his judgment and guidance…. even if he makes a little slip now and then!

But probably the **BEST** thing he has ever done happened about six years ago… and that was to bring home a young woman. Her name was Bri and apparently, like the glass slipper and Cinderella, she fit perfectly. Over the past six years the relationship between Bri and Robby has blossomed and matured into true and lasting love and my friendship with Bri grew stronger and closer as well. We quickly became best friends and took many trips together…. but don’t ask for details… that’s between us girls!! (**Say that with a little wink and wait for the laugh**). Bri and Robby are a great fit-they are both so kind and trusting, smart and loyal… to each other and to us. As these two got to know each other, I also got to know and appreciate Bri. Clearly his ability to be smart, dependable and thoughtful, insightful and loving extended to his “life partner radar.” Because he **REALLY** knocked it out of the park when he met Bri. I am so glad that my brother found someone who fit so perfectly into our family. I already have three great sisters, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and today I can officially declare that I have a fourth sister and her name is Bri.

It has been such a joy to get to know and grow close to my newest sister; every day provides an opportunity for us to know each other better and better as we talk and learn together and strengthen our bond as friends and family. The highlight of my day is when we talk on the phone as I drive to work… don’t worry… I use a hands free device!! (**Wait for the laugh**). No subject is off limits… and I am really sure this wedding will be a **MAJOR** topic of conversation for several weeks!!! Don’t worry- it’s all good!!

(**If you want to acknowledge Bri’s family you can name her parents and siblings and say**) I would like to take a moment to congratulate Bri’s (**mother and father?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (**and her sisters/brothers?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and welcome all of you to our newly blended “family.” It is so exciting to see the future of the ODonovan clan as we merge with the Malones!

Through all of the thrills and triumphs and challenges we face in life, the one thing that endures as the most important element is **FAMILY**. I have been so blessed to have mine by my side (**name your parents, siblings, spouse and children if any**). From Mom and Dad to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Robby, I have gifts more precious than the rarest treasure. To have the privilege to call Bri my sister makes all of those blessings shine even brighter. Congratulations Bri and Robby!! We love you!!