MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

CHRISTIN KIM

Hello everyone!!! I’m Christin and I am so proud to be “standing up” as Cassie’s Maid of Honor. Cassie and I have been friends for over fifteen years and I suppose one might say our meeting was almost like an **initiation by fire**…. well, not **THAT** bad… but it was **PRETTY** bad… more like initiation by **RIDICULOUSLY** **extreme heat**…. (**Wait for the laugh**). Somehow…. and I don’t know if it was because of her incredible spirit and good nature or that considerable streak of “**CALIENTE**” in her soul, but lucky me, through a mutual friend, Cassie volunteered to help me, a virtual **STRANGER**, move on what was considered to be the **hottest day recorded in TEN YEARS**…. in a U Haul…. with **broken air conditioning**. It’s been said “That which doesn’t kill you makes you stronger,” and if those umpteen trips back and forth didn’t **KILL** us… hey!! That was a good sign!! Some people speak of becoming “blood brothers” but I promise you, on that day in that van, going from Glendale to Thousand Oaks, we were destined to melt into “**SWEAT SISTERS**.” (**Wait for the laugh**). Over the years our friendship has “cooled,” but only in the best possible ways, and it’s been **SO** great that we can’t even discuss most of our adventures and escapades in mixed company!!! Kidding!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s been said that best friends are the ones who are there: **whenever, wherever; however** and hopefully **forever**. Cassie really paid it forward with me on that steaming hot moving day and I am so privileged to call her my best friend for **LIFE**.

So after that **BRUTALLY HOT** day as we systematically melted between Glendale and Thousand Oaks, I realized that I was **REALLY MOVED**. I mean really. In more ways than one…. Thanks to the generosity of good friends, I settled into my new home and began what was to be one of the most precious and special friendships of my life. That might have been the hottest day on record for the past ten years, but it was also the luckiest. Can you imagine what kind of person would be so generous and caring to help little old me…. an unknown factor… on a day like **THAT**??? … But she did… and it’s clear… as all of you who know her and love her… (**Turn to the groom, give him a little side-eye and say**)… I’m looking at **YOU** Ray…. that Cassie is a beautiful, unique, one-of-a-kind treasure. She’s a **KEEPER**. Other friends may have come and gone… but that day I learned… If you can’t stand **the HEAT** … of **the MOVE**… **get out of the U HAUL**… (**Wait for the laugh**). While others bailed, Cassie stayed true. That says **A LOT** about a person and her character.

Cassie is warm and caring and her beautiful smile can light up a room…. and you thought it was the chandeliers!! This room is filled with love and warmth radiating from the joy and sparks that flow freely between our stunning bride and handsome groom. But that’s just **ONE** aspect of Cassie’s electric charm. She is a special combination of so many diverse and interesting characteristics… from her elegant Korean heritage to her “spicy” Paraguayan flair don’t let that angelic beauty fool you for one minute… She can access her superior “**resting bitch face**” (**Do you feel comfortable saying this? Would you prefer to say “resting BEE-OTCH face?**) and stare down and scare away any unworthy guy that **DARES** to try to creep on one of her friends!! Now **THAT’s** devotion!! (**Wait for the laugh**). She’s a dedicated nurse with a heart of gold. Her many humanitarian missions to help needy children in Africa show us that she is truly an inspiration. She’s had her share of challenges and struggles but her determination to recover from her surfing and car accidents shows us just what an incredible and strong young woman she is. She’s refined the art of hip-hop dancing and she’s even taught my 84-year-old father that his **HIPS DON’T LIE**…who knew they could still move like that? But Cassie taught him some really slick dance moves!!!

So what do you say to a woman this radiant and intelligent, resilient and caring, loving and funny and rhythmically blessed? All I can think of is, Cassie, I’m so happy you’re in my life and I am even more happy that you’ve found your soul mate in Ray. May the two of you live a life filled with ten times more happiness than you might ever wish for, and may you know only love and happiness, friendship and patience, health, good fortune, and a million laughs. May the two of you dance through life just as you dream it to be!! We love you!! Congratulations!