MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

DANIELLE GOLDBERG

Hello everyone!!! This is such an exciting day for our family and we are all so thrilled for Carmella, Jeremy and Angela. What a beautiful setting for a rustic, joyous, “down home” wedding!! I was so honored when Carmella asked me to be her maid of honor…. and to say a few words at the wedding. I have to tell you all that I love my sister. She’s my best friend, the godmother of my child, the sweetest most beautiful person I know…. but get up and speak???? Uh…. I have to admit, I was a little concerned at the thought… I mean, I would have to figure out something to say that’s fun and touching and from the heart… standing in front of all of **YOU**…. wondering if I would be able to get my message across without flubbing my lines…. It’s a lot to handle… and then I remembered… **WAIT!**! I have a five month old!!! Speaking in front of all of you is a walk in the park compared to **THAT**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… So here I am… (**If you want you can add**)… and please laugh on cue… Thanks! (**Wait for the laugh**)

I have been so blessed in my life and one of my greatest blessings is to have Carmella as my sister. To say that I am proud of her would be an understatement. She is as beautiful as she is kind, as adventurous as she is compassionate, as joyful about life as she is about…. fishing…. and hunting… Jeremy… and her beautiful daughter, my goddaughter, Angela. If a person’s eyes are the windows to her soul, I would also have to say that Carmella’s smile is the reflection of her heart. She’s a wonderful registered nurse, giving confident and compassionate care to her elderly patients. Their well-being is so important to her and she will go to great lengths to put a smile on their faces. She’s known to endorse the adage “Laughter is the best medicine” and I hear she is “famous” for the jokes she tells to her patients. (**If you want you can add- “Of course I hear that from HER” and wait for the laugh**). Her compassion is only outpaced by her stellar skills at Irish step dancing (**If you want you can add… “and maybe we’ll get a demo later!!”... And wait for the laugh**). It has always been a privilege to be her sister… even though in so many ways we are completely opposite. I guess we really complement each other. I remember growing up… and keep in mind, I am the **BIG SISTER**... if we ever did something wrong…. like **THAT** would ever happen!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) and our father would come in to yell at us, before he even opened his mouth I would be blubbering and crying… Carmella on the other hand… oh… she would be as cool as a cucumber… she didn’t let anything get to her back then and she’s the same way now. You should have seen us as teenagers… who doesn’t want to go into the city on a Saturday night? Carmella and I used to love to go in together. Who do you think was the spontaneous and carefree one and **WHO** do you think spent her time dissecting the forensics of the LIRR train schedules to make sure we didn’t get shut out of the last train home… like we had to make curfew returning to a gulag in Siberia??? (**Shyly raise your hand and wait for the laugh**). Life has always been an adventure with Carmella, and now a new chapter in her life begins… as a married woman…

Someone once said, “The true adventurer goes forth aimless and uncalculating to meet and greet unknown fate…” Okay… Tell **THAT** to a thirteen year old!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Some of you may not understand why I mention that, so I will explain. Carmella and I first met Jeremy when we were kids. Carmella was 9 and Jeremy and I were 12. That was when we moved to Rocky Point. We quickly became friends with the neighborhood kids and guess who the sweet boy was that lived a couple of blocks away??? (**Coyly point to Jeremy and smile**). Would we ever have imagined that #$@!\* years later we’d be witnessing this beautiful union? Life is full of mysteries and thankfully sometimes magic like this happens. I remember as kids Jeremy would come around often and tease Carmella and make her laugh… we all know what **THAT** means!! We grew up and we all went our separate ways, but fate… ahhhh… that’s got a strong pull. Carmella and Jeremy met again about five years ago and here we are. I have to confess that even in the beginning of their reconnection I saw sparks and I mentioned something because I thought they looked so cute together. Of course I got the line … from that “**cool cucumber**”… remember her?... “We’re just **friends**”… uh **HUH**….

(**Turn to Jeremy and say**) Jeremy, we’ve known each other for over twenty years and I have no doubt that you are the perfect man for my sister. You were making her laugh back then and the two of you are just adorable together. I love seeing how happy Carmella and Angela are every time I am with you guys, and we know how happy you are with Carmella. You two definitely complete each other and I am so thrilled to officially welcome you to our “slightly crazy” family.

In honor of the fact that Jeremy found a woman like Carmella… one who is “outdoorsy,” spirited and “focused”… especially with a bow or a gun or a fishing rod in her hands, I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast….

To our bride and groom… to quote the touching lyrics of a “love song” by Craig Campbell…

“And I love how she looks

With that rod in her hand

If they ain’t bitin’ she don’t give up

Turns out my baby loves to…. **fish**!!“

It is clear to all of us that you are each other’s… **Best. Catch. Ever**!! May the both of you and Angela have a happy, healthy, joyful and fun life filled with all you might ever wish for. We all love you!! Congratulations!