MATRON OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

MARY POWERS

Hello everyone!!! I know I speak for all of us when I say that I am thrilled to be here in these beautiful surroundings… and I am even more thrilled that we are celebrating the marriage of these two beautiful, joyous, gorgeous people, my sister Kelly and the handsome, funny, debonair, Christopher (**or select adjectives that best describe him**). Kelly, I have to say that I am proud of you and appreciative of this moment for many, many reasons. I am so happy for you and Christopher and for the love you share. I am so proud of the beautiful, strong, confident woman you have become. I am so, **SO** grateful for all of this beauty and bounty around us. But most of all, I am so deeply thankful…. that you didn’t make us climb any trees or use a zip line or need any carabiners or belaying equipment to get us down the aisle to witness this moment. (**Wait for the laugh**). For anyone that thinks they **REALLY** know Kelly, you **KNOW** her very being **oozes** adventure. It may seem that I used the word “THRILL” quite a bit, but in Kelly’s case, it’s not possible to overuse the word. Her “Thrill Quotient” is an inspiration… as long as we have a flat surface to stand on as we marvel at her free spirit and where that spirit leads her.

Helen Keller said, “Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing…” Apparently Kelly got the memo (**Do you want to say “in utero” or is that too extreme? I think it could be funny- you know the crowd…If not you can say…**) at a very early age… and she has been stickin’ to it for her entire life. We are just thirteen months apart and all I can remember is that as soon as she was able to crawl, she was climbing…. and as soon as she was climbing, I then learned to wring my hands and root for her… on **terra firma**. I will never forget the time she climbed that tree… she must have gone up about twenty feet in the air… just to feel the wind blow in her hair…. (**Turn to Kelly and say**)… Kel…. didn’t you know that’s why God invented **hair dryers**? (**And wait for the laugh**). I have vivid memories of being there, by Kelly’s side, as her adventures in PRE-SCHOOL landed her in TIME-OUT…. IN PRE-SCHOOL!!! … And YES… we still hold a grudge, Mr. Jack!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I’ve taken the rap for her, defended her, taught her…. show of hands… how many of you know how much Kelly **LOVES** shoes??? Well, who do you think taught her how to tie her laces???...behind the washing machine??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Kelly, we’ve had each other’s backs through so many of life’s situations… even when you broke my toys… even when I had to play “school” with you throughout the summer… **UGH**… don’t remind me… even through all of the MIS-adventures we faced, we faced them together… You’re the best sister a girl could wish for… and here we are, and now you’re a beautiful, bright, sophisticated, savvy, married woman!!! Wow, how time flies… and I’m sure you would too, if only you could…

There are those who may have tried but….**HAH**!!! No was ever able to dampen Kelly’s incredible spirit, nor was anyone ever able to dull that gleam in her eye…. You KNOW that gleam… one of undeniable and delicious satisfaction…but one day, that gleam met its match.

I knew the first time that I saw Kelly and Christopher together that this was **IT**. I could tell because that special gleam shone brighter than ever and it hasn’t diminished… in fact I think it glows even more intensely when I see her look at him. They are now officially each other’s beacons of light and spirit and we couldn’t be happier. Christopher, I want to welcome you to our family and we all look forward to many, **MANY** years of exciting, loving, fun adventures the two of you will continue to share.

I would like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast… in honor of our colorful, soulful Irish heritage:

To Kelly and Christopher:

“**May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings, slow to make enemies and quick to make friends. And may you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.”**

Congratulations!! We love you!