MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

SUSANA TOTINO

Hello everyone! I’m Susana and I am so happy to be here to share this wonderful moment with our beautiful bride, Stephanie, and her husband Andrew. This wedding is so important to me on many levels. As Stephanie’s Maid of Honor I am honored and proud. As Stephanie’s aunt I am in awe of the beautiful young woman that we see today. Of course we **ALL** know what “they” say about incredible and fabulous nieces and who they take after… (**You can make a gesture and pretend to take a little self acknowledgement like buffing your nails on your shoulder or patting your hair-whatever would be funny and comfortable for you**)…Stephanie thanks to you I proudly have an “**Auntourage**” (**like “entourage”**)… not just today but for all of our lives, and I am thrilled to celebrate “**Otherhood”** because of you as well, but the truth is, our love and friendship goes so much deeper than clever words and beautiful gowns.

I will never forget that day back in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name Stephanie’s birth year**) when you came into this world kicking and screaming…. it really was love at first sight… Of course that’s easy for me to say because even though you are truly like a daughter to me, one of the perks of being the head of that “**Auntourage**” is that your parents ,,, not me…were and are on the “front line”…. while they got to do damage control cleaning, consoling, and quieting their treasure of a baby… I would get a beautiful, gorgeous baby girl to cuddle and snuggle and love!! **YESSSSS**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It has been a real joy watching you grow up and blossom from baby to toddler, child to teen, conscientious student to compassionate nurse and loving wife. If anyone ever questions the true miracle of life, I suggest that you be there for your nieces and nephews… Stephanie, I’ve learned so much from you and because of you- and not the least of which was how devoted you became to your grandma and visiting her **so often**…. like around the time you turned about thirteen…. **hmmmmm**….

Yes!! What a coincidence!! Your affinity for Grandma was touching and it so coincidentally happened at around the same time you met that “older boy”… and his name was Andrew…We can all look at our beautiful and happy couple on the dais right now and see that what was meant to be was meant to be, but back then, I must admit, I was a skeptic. Some people might agree with the thought that a worried aunt has better suspicions than the FBI (**Wait for the laugh**) and let me tell you, I was no exception. We all only wanted the best for you and at such a young age we did the math and thought the age gap between the two of you might be an issue, but here we are, ten years later and thank goodness… love wins. Some songwriters might pen lyrics to describe the magic of true love and I would just bet that they would have had you two in mind when dreaming up the words to “Our Love is Here to Stay.” As I have watched the two of you get to know each other, respect each other, grow together and really “complete” each other, It’s clear that love really does “conquer all,” and it’s so obvious how much you love each other and belong together.

Stephanie, from tiny baby to beautiful compassionate, loving wife and Andrew, from “mysterious older” boy to brave, responsible, caring policeman and devoted husband, I am so honored to celebrate your happiness. Andrew, thank you for loving my niece as you do and welcome to our family!! I look forward to many years and new generations of joy as you become a member of my squad…. I mean… “**Auntourage!**!”

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say this- if not you can just say the words**):

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom:

It may be an old song and you may not know the lyrics, so here they are:

**“It's very clear**

**Our love is here to stay**

**Not for a year, but forever and a day”**

To Stephanie and Andrew, here’s to health, happiness, love and family for you…FOR EVER and a day! Congratulations!! We love you!!