BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

ALAN AUBELE

Hello everyone!!! We are here to celebrate the marriage of Russell and Davita and all I can say is…. in the words of Crosby Stills and Nash…. “And it appears to be a long time coming….” I know I speak for everyone when I continue those words…. “…And it’s gonna be a long time gone.” We’ve all waited and watched the dance between head and heart, we’ve seen time test and time heal, and most of all we now know, thanks to these two, that **Love Wins**!!

Just about everyone in this room is a **friend** or **family** member and because of who Russell and Davita are deep down inside, we all know there is really no separation between the two. In this crowd, friends are family and both… apparently, are for life. Believe me, I know that **WE** know that. Most of us grew up together. We’ve seen the good and the (**take a little pause**) **interesting**…. we’ve laughed together, we’ve cried… (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) and we know where the “treasure” is buried. Hopefully what’s locked away is a little more interesting than what was found in Al Capone’s vault… but hey… it’s the friendships that are the real treasures.

To me, when I think of Russell I wonder, “How did I get so lucky to have a friend like this?” I know I’m probably “preaching to the choir” when I say this, but he is literally the nicest guy anyone would want to meet. That is proven by the closeness and magnitude of the bond he shares his friends. To some he may seem like a real character… and he is, but he also has **substance**. His warmth and generosity are infectious (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) … and I mean in a **GOOD** way… no need to check in at the CDC (Center for Disease Control). (**Wait for the laugh**), his personality is …well, **YOU** know… magnetic… he’s done a fantastic job professionally as he’s grown and nurtured the family business. Everyone in this room is proud to call Russell “friend.” I am doubly proud and humbled to stand up for him tonight.

There are so many stories about Russell and of course Russell and Davita, and each one that we can exchange brings their relationship to light in different ways but a couple of my favorite stories has to do with the time they went to Las Vegas and met Doc McGhee (**will he be there at the wedding?**). That meeting is a great example of the magnetism that is Russell. The two became fast and best friends and have shared some amazing experiences in the world of rock. Or what about **THAT** trip to Jamaica? (**The instruction wasn’t’ clear if you’re referring to Russell and Davita who went to Sandals so I kept the wording a little vague- you can adjust and add Davita if it is her that you mean**). No one seemed to give one little fact… it was a **couples** trip… at a Sandal’s resort hotel. Everyone may have thought they were together but uh… let’s just say that the only human Russell became intimately involved with because of that trip was his **chiropractor**…. yes. Russell slept in the **bathtub** because they would not sleep in the same bed! Like I said… he’s a gentleman AND a scholar!

There’s been a lot of water under the bridge. Time has passed. And what appears to be a “long time coming” is the reuniting of Russell and Davita as husband and wife. We all have to go through our process- whatever that is for each one of us, but if something is meant to be, these two are proof that soul mates and destiny exist. And Frank Sinatra drove the point home when he serenaded us with Sammy Cahn’s lyrics. “Love is lovelier the second time around. Just as wonderful with two feet on the ground.”

It’s been said that “Giving someone a piece of your soul is better than giving a piece of your heart because souls are eternal.” When we look at Russell and Davita, it is clear that after all the years that have passed, they’ve found each other again, that there is a divine plan and it’s touching and heartwarming on so many levels that these two soul mates are again one. As Sinatra continues:

“Who can say what brought us to this miracle we’ve found?

There are those who’ll bet love comes but once, and yet

I’m so glad we met the second time around.”

To Russell and Davita and (**if you think it’s appropriate, name any children and parents they have- I know Russell’s mother is alive- how about Davita’s parents?)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we want to congratulate all of you and wish you all lots of love and happiness from now on.

I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.

To Davita and Russell, believe it or not, Cher said, “If grass can grow through cement, love can find you at any time of your life.” (**Wait for the laugh**). Here’s to Cupid for his impeccable second shot and to the two of you for being such willing targets… may your love outlast time. Congratulations!