BIRTHDAY SPEECH

FOR

JOHN MACCARONE

Hi everyone!!! I know that technically this is a “girls only” event but I just want to stop by for a little while… maybe an hour or so… don’t get nervous… you all know that’s really about **forty minutes** on the husband clock… **could be less**… if you know what I mean… (**Wait for the laugh**), because there isn’t any place I would rather be than…. **(If you want to make a joke you can say**)…. wait a minute… you think I about to say, “A room filled with women”… right??? **WRONG**!!! There’s no place I would rather be than right here celebrating my beautiful wife Arlene on this very special occasion. Today marks the birthday (**Do you want to say 50th? Is she sensitive about the number?** **Say what you think is best**) of this very special woman and I’m so happy that Arlene has such wonderful friends who always manage to put a big smile on that gorgeous face (**Turn to your wife when you say that**). Someone once said that “ Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.” I know that Arlene feels that way about each one of you. I want to extend special thanks to Karen and Leslie for doing such a great job in helping to arrange this party. You’ve both paid attention to everything in such great detail and I am sure Arlene loves every last bit of all that you’ve done.

As I tried to think of what to say today, I quietly did some research. I looked, I checked, I even bought the “Six Sure Fire Birthday Speeches Econo Six-Pack” …. You don’t want to know what **THOSE** were like… at least I got free shipping!! (**Wait for the laugh**). After I read those I realized that what I need to do is to speak from my heart. That shouldn’t be too difficult, **SHOULD IT???** …Especially in front of **ALL OF THESE WOMEN???** (**Look a little terrified and wait for the laugh**).

Of course it’s not…. Arlene, you’re my favorite subject (**Name a sports obsession or a hobby of yours that your wife thinks takes up too much time**) …. wellll … If you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ off the list… **KIDDING**!!! You’re the love of my life, my super wife, the mother of our wild and crazy sons, Brandon and Johnny. You have all of these great friends, you’ve got a successful career in fashion with Girl Obsessed, and you are **NEVER** at a loss to give to someone in need. You always have the time to care… about everything. If anyone ever needed to know what a heart of gold looks like, they just have to look at you. Somehow you find the balance in life and make it all look so easy and you genuinely have so much fun… We’ve been together for twenty-four years and married for twenty-one of those years. We’ve been by each other’s side through so much and I really cannot imagine what life would be like without you.

As I look at you today and I think back twenty-four years, I can’t imagine where the time has gone. We’ve shared so many milestones together. We’ve built a wonderful life and a beautiful family and I love you very much. I know there’s an expression, “I am part of all that I have met.” When I look around this room and I see these women honoring you, I see you in each one of these smiling faces and I see their friendship reflected in yours and that makes me love you even more. And needless to say, you are an inseparable part of me.

I can make jokes that “Fifty is the new forty” or actually “fifty is the new **THIRTY**”… but that isn’t necessary. For the past twenty-four years you’ve gotten wiser, more beautiful, more accomplished (**Do you want to say “more sexy”? It’s up to you**), more grounded, and it has all been through a life well lived and loved. I am so proud of you and I am honored to share this life of ours.

(**Do you want to present any kind of gift to your wife or do you want to make a toast? You can do that here- you can make below a toast**).

[**Ladies, I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to my amazing wife:**]

Arlene, you’ve spent the first fifty as a beautiful wife, a loving mother, a devoted friend, a dedicated philanthropist and of course, a “**girl obsessed**.” I cannot wait to continue the incredible ride we’re on… I know it will only get sweeter!!! Happy birthday!! I love you!