BRIDESMAID SPEECH

FOR

VALERIE PACE

Hello everyone… for those of you that may not know me, I am Valerie, one of Danielle’s bridesmaids…. and I would also like to think that I am one of her best friends… after all we have been friends since we were about twelve years old. We know that she is an amazing young woman…. a wonderful mother… an honest, devoted daughter, and loving wife…. and I must admit… a pretty good secret keeper…. at least I hope so!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Danielle, we have been friends since the early days…. when we discovered and learned to appreciate what it really meant to have a best friend. I once heard this recipe for best friends… take one million memories, ten thousand inside jokes, a few hundred shared secrets, four strong shoulders and one reason…. that’s the winning formula and I am so lucky I found that with you. We’ve really seen each other grow up and become the young women we dreamt of becoming… and I am proud to say I was there to be your witness, your “wing girl,” and now your bridesmaid.

Yes, I guess you can say we’ve been together through it all… Danielle, from those very early days hanging out on your parents’ front steps to roaming the “mean streets” of Oceanside, to hanging out in your bedroom and discovering our astonishing… and I mean **ASTONISHING** dance skills as we improvised some special moves to “those songs” that could never be revealed to another living soul… yes. They were **THAT** unique… oh… if those bedroom walls could talk… Those were the days of beepers and our Nokia cell phones… and I have a question.... was there **EVER** a human being who was better at that Nokia snake game than you? I doubt it… at least not in Nassau County… or the entire Island… or maybe even the east coast. Danielle, when we were younger we had a blast and we thought those times would never end… and if we were any “less cool” climbing up to the roof to hang out during those countless sleepovers… they probably **WOULD** have ended much sooner… with a **THUD** and plenty of screaming. (**Wait for the laugh**). Danielle, our friendship has outlasted our beepers, it’s been stronger than a Nokia flip phone, and it’s more enduring than the songs we sang ... back then.

But your personality, your devotion, your intelligence and your love and caring for everyone around you have just grown and become even greater through the years. I am so proud to be your friend and to be so amazed and inspired by you. You were special when you were twelve and you’re even more special now. You’re an incredible wife and mother and you never cease to constantly show your courage and determination. From the little things… like couponing to the big things… like focusing on your personal and family goals, somehow you find the way to get it done with grace, attention to detail, and tons of love. You really have a heart of gold and it just gets bigger and bigger as your family grows. Greg, I know that **you know** just how blessed you are to find someone like Danielle… someone who speaks her mind with respect and consideration. And I want to point something out to you, Greg, and to everyone here… I now know Danielle for eighteen years and I can honestly say that I have never seen her smile like she does when she looks at you…. and I am so happy that Danielle is **that** happy.

To the Spina and Lawlor families, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on the celebration of this beautiful marriage. We all know how precious **real** love is and I am so happy that my dear friend has found this level of happiness with Greg and adorable Lucas.

Danielle, the first eighteen years went by in a flash and before we know it you and Greg will be watching Lucas find his best friends and then telling him to “get down from the roof,” and then you’ll be checking out the people in **HIS** life…. Here’s to another thirty, sixty, or more years of friendship for all of us, and may we all dance at Lucas’ wedding too…. but **NO Pressure**!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… and maybe, just **maybe**… you and I will surprise everyone and bust out the old moves!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… I wish you and Greg and Lucas more love, health and happiness than you might ever wish for… Congratulations!!