WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

THUY ELAINE LUONG

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know me, I am Elaine and I am **THRILLED** to be here!! Weddings are always a great excuse to cut loose and have a really good time, but when the bride is one of your oldest and dearest friends, that makes the moment more special than I can say. Victoria, on an ordinary day you are **extraordinary**…. today, you are… well you’re more beautiful than I have ever seen you…. and that’s surpassing a pretty high bar!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) and Son… you make Vicky look even more spectacular!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, the love that is beaming from the both of you tonight is really lighting up this room and everyone here is so happy for you two.

I know I just spoke a bit about looks and I don’t want to seem superficial, but I will never forget my first encounter with Vicky. We met through a mutual friend and my first thoughts upon seeing her have stayed with me since then…. there was something about this creature in the room… let me set the scene a little bit… it was during my **grunge** phase… you know, jet black hair, half my face was covered with it, thick dark eyeliner… I could have saved time and put it only on the eye that showed… **THAT** would have been **SUPER** cool… **(Wait for the laugh**) and, of course, I was draped in black head to toe…. looking the part of a visual and social outcast, disappearing into the atmosphere, laying really…. **REALLY** … **low**. And then across the room… a **GLAMOURPUSS**… **BIG** permed hair, **BIG** and **BRIGHT** red lipstick…. with looks that were intimidating and not really approachable, and I thought to myself… “**WHO** is this really pretty **STUCK UP** girl????” Of course if I had seen myself in the mirror before I had gone out for the evening, I suppose I would have noticed that I might possibly have looked just a teeny bit unapproachable myself… I guess we more alike even at the beginning than I realized… I remember thinking that if we were in high school back then it would have been like she was the pretty and popular girl while I was the awkward outcast. I learned a lot about Vicky and myself from that first encounter. I learned that looks don’t mean anything when it comes to real friends and as Vicky and I grew to know each other, we saw how much we had… and have, in common.

We realized we both had style and it was just **different.** We noticed that we both loved music, and we both saw how valuable and precious friendship was for the two of us. That first awkward meeting was twenty-three years ago… to some people that is a lifetime, and through those years we got to really know each other. We celebrate our differences and we honor our common bond. Friendship is a great thing… she is there for me, and I am there when she needs a shoulder to lean on, a mirror for feedback, and a steady hand for eyeliner… **KIDDING**!!! Vicky can out- make-up all of us!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). As we’ve gotten older and grown as friends, our common bond has grown too and together we share so many of life’s really precious moments: girl stuff like shopping trips, family vacations, “extreme makeovers”… yes, she has transformed me!!! …and of course, weddings! Vicky is even more beautiful on the inside than she is on the outside. I would go to her for any kind of wisdom and whether it’s for style or life advice, Vicky is there for her friends with an open heart, patience, grace and humor. Aren’t we lucky!!

And speaking of lucky… What a blessing it has been since Son has entered Vicky’s life!! It’s great to see to people that share so much… they have so much in common and yet they celebrate and support each other’s uniqueness. Our bride and groom are two beautiful people who both have a great sense of style and yet, as we have all learned, that is the least of it. Vicky and Son share a connection of their souls. Their similarities have created a beautiful and unbreakable bond and their outer beauty and style is a reflection of their inner strengths and love for each other.

Vicky, it’s been quite some time since I first saw that creature with the big permed hair and those wild red lips. I am so proud of the woman you have become and I am even happier that you found such a great love and bond with a wonderful man like Son. I know deep down in my heart that you are happiest with your **husband** and that is the best reason on earth to celebrate your joy.

Son, thanks for bringing such joy to my friend Vicky and for caring for and loving her kids, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You all make a beautiful family and I know I speak for everyone here when I say that we are all so thrilled for the love and joy you share. May you have a lifetime of health, happiness, love, friendship, respect, good times, and of course, style!!

Congratulations! We love you!