MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

LAUREN PIKOVSKI

Hello everyone!!! It’s so great to be here celebrating the marriage of two of my favorite people It’s an honor to travel across the country to bear witness for my best friend, as she becomes a “Real Housewife of Chicago” (**Wait for the laugh**)…. Actually Sarah, you know I don’t know much about this stuff but from what I do know I can say you look absolutely gorgeous tonight and your happiness is lighting up this room… even more than usual! I heard LuAnn is having three weeding gown changes for her wedding to Tom… that’s because she **NEEDS** them to deflect the DRAMA!! You don’t!!!

We’ve heard that people come into our lives for “a season, a reason or a lifetime.” Well, I can safely say that both Sarah and I **had** a mutual close friend… she may not be around any longer… you could say her “**season**” passed…. but I think Sarah and I would both agree that we can understand the **reason** she was in our lives was to bring us together and I **KNOW** we both know our friendship will last a **lifetime**. It was about four years ago when Sarah was living in North Carolina and came to New York to visit that mutual close ex-friend… are you all still with me? We all got thrown together into one hotel room and we emerged knowing that one day, we would grow to be as close as sisters. And our spirits and our mutual love and respect have been inseparable ever since. …. Sometimes that’s not so easy when two friends are separated by at least one time zone… but Sarah and I know that our closeness transcends distance.

Having a friend like Sarah is a joy… and it’s also been quite an adventure. really… We jet around meeting and sharing our lives and when something important happens, we are there for each other, no matter the time… no matter the distance… Who will **EVER** forget when I heard about “the one and only” Stephen and flew to Chicago to meet him? What a greeting **THAT** was!! With eager anticipation to meet this special person, I boarded the plane from New York to Chicago… My first visit to that town… my first time meeting this guy about whom I’d heard so much…. and it was **ALL** good, Stephen!!! Promise… We had plans… **BIG PLANS**…for an unforgettable Saturday night. Apparently so did the pilot…. I wound up arriving at 3 AM… Sarah knew of the issues I was having and texted me to assure me the doorman would let me in. I finally arrived at Stephen’s apartment… exhausted… shortly after Sarah texted again to let me know they went to sleep. I got there… **close to 5 am**… and the door was **LOCKED**. I banged on the door for almost an hour… and my sincere apologies if any of Stephen’s neighbors are present tonight… I called. Nothing. No response. Zip. Now, we all know doormen on the “graveyard shift” may not be the brightest, but come on… Did anyone figure that “Let Lauren in” meant, “**Give her the damn key**?” I thought about camping out on the floor but that didn’t last too long so I wound up getting a hotel room nearby for a very. Quick. Nap…. because **Guess what**? Sarah had brunch plans… at **TEN A.M.** Who has brunch at 10 am? Soldiers don’t!!! Hunters and fishermen don’t!!! Not even Grandmas and Grandpas brunch at 10 AM!!! But ya gotta love Sarah… I also realized… maybe I was **weak and over tired**… but I like that guy Stephen **the minute** I met him. Of course he could have given Sarah a “head’s up on the definition of “**Brunch…**” (**Wait for the laugh**) That “early bird” really was special and it was my first encounter with him. When I saw the two together, I have to confess, I melted just a little. It was clear just how in love these two are and it was so great to be in their company. Stephen is one of those people that make you feel comfortable from the beginning. Of course if you don’t love **LOVE** and you shy away from laughing your head off, then maybe you shouldn’t be hanging out with these two…. but I guess I’m telling that to the wrong crowd!!! You guys already **KNOW** how great they are together!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

For the past four years Sarah and I have been best friends and it was an honor and my privilege to be included in the plotting and planning of **THE** engagement. I was one of the privileged few that knew what was about to “go down.” The ring was sent to my apartment in NY and the saga began. I swear I know nothing about being a fence or being used for trafficking, but I apparently **DO** know how to be stealth when it comes to transporting **ICE.** I landed in Chicago, met Stephen in private and made “**the drop**.” We all flew to New Orleans to celebrate Sarah’s thirtieth birthday when the flight attendant announced “The Lucky Winner is…” and here we are.

Actually we’re all lucky winners to be in the lives of two such great people. Sarah, you’re as beautiful as you are loyal and good. It’s obvious that you light up any room you enter, and your wisdom and humor are special gifts you selflessly share. Stephen, your generosity and friendship are unparalleled and being with the two of you makes me happy to be the “**third wheel**!”

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say the following… if not, you can just say the final sentence**)

Ladies and gentlemen, Please raise a glass…. it doesn’t matter if it’s Tipsy Girl Champagne, Ramona Pinot Grigio, or a good stiff Skinny Girl Margarita… (**Wait for the laugh**) … kidding… just go for the Champagne!! I would like to propose a toast to the New Mr. and Mrs. Muller:

(**You can either go funny and say**) Here’s to Sarah and Stephen… May you have more riches than Yolanda and Camille combined, more happiness than Kyle and Maurizio, and more health and good fortune than all of those housewives put together!! Here’s wishing you a lifetime of love, partnership and happiness!!! But remember… when life hands you lemons… **Put nine in a bowl!!** (**Wait for the laugh**) Bravo! We love you!!

(**Or you can keep it simple and just say**) Here’s wishing you the journey of a lifetime and may it be one filled love, health, partnership and happiness!!! Bravo! We love you!!

Thank you!