WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

ANDROULLA GEORGIOU

Hello everyone!! Tonight is the time to celebrate love, family, connection, tradition; … a little **MORE** love (**Wait for the laugh**) and the marriage of these two beautiful people… my niece Nikki to her handsome **HUSBAND** Brendon. Nikki and Brendon, you two have brought together **HUNDREDS** of people that celebrate you and share in your joy and love and hopes for the future, but I would like to dedicate this acknowledgement to someone who is **SO** important, I think it’s safe to say that **none** of us would be here without her… in fact Nikki wouldn’t be here either… and that is Nikki’s mother, my sister-in-law, the “**heart**” of this family, Sofia.

Sofia, you have literally waited a lifetime to experience this moment, and that lifetime has had its challenges, but here we are, and we are all so thrilled for you and the family. As we all feel the love that is in this room, and as we celebrate the happiness of our bride and groom, I want you to know, without any doubt, that the smiles and good wishes we all share have been inspired by your tireless devotion to your children, Nikki and Marco, your family and friends, and your passion to make sure that everyone is happy and taken care of is completely reflected in every detail and every moment of this celebration. While you may have thoughts that occasionally cause you to doubt who you are, or what superficial issues might make you hesitate at times, I want you to do me a favor right now. Take a look around this room…. look at your brother Michael… look at your daughter Nikki… look at your new son-in-law Brendon, and look at all of us. Take it all in and feel the warmth and love we are all sharing. Do you know what that is? It is the reflection of that enduring and spirited light inside of you and it’s what you give to everyone, every day, in everything you do for all of us, especially when it comes to your family.

You are the spirit of Christmas itself for all of us. That spirit and care shows in everything you do… from the way you bake five different sets of cookies so that we all get our favorites… and yes, that **also** includes the macaroons even though only Michael likes them! You bring the sparkle to the tree as you lovingly place each garland and light. Your artistry and impeccable style show through in every bow on every gift that waits perfectly and patiently under that gorgeous tree. We all know how special the holiday is because of **YOU**. While others may stress, you harness your energy with enthusiasm and joy and that magical laugh that defies description.

Sofia, you know how you always tell us to remember all of the reasons that we’re blessed? Tonight I want you to know that **YOU** are on the top of that list. While I know you know how much I love you and how thankful I am that we are family, since we have such an abundant crowd gathered in one place, it’s the perfect moment to let you know that we are all so immensely lucky to have such a wonderful, creative, kind, and giving person in our lives…. And although at Christmas you embody the spirit of giving, tonight and every other day you inspire each one of us with love, hope, devotion, and possibility.

Your motto, “Live each day to the fullest” means something very personal to each one of us and your inner wisdom of knowing how to find “home” no matter the situation is an inspiration. Your light has ignited creativity, dedication, and a sense of purpose… (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**)… and it also **lights that fire**… **in the oven**… after all, those cookies don’t bake themselves! (**And wait for the laugh**).

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

Sofia, a wise woman once said, “Love is life is life is love.” That is **YOUR** **Superpower**. (**Have the guests hold up cut paper hearts in red and pink and raise them with their glasses as you toast**). Now is the perfect time for us to give **our** hearts to **you**… Thank you for everything you do and for all of the love you give. May you continue to share your love and light for a long, **LONG** time! Thank you all and congratulations Nikki and Brendon!