**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SUSAN MALCOLM**

Hello everyone! I am Adrian's Aunt Susan and I'm sure you can all appreciate how happy all of us in the Malcolm family are today. Adrian and Tess are a wonderful, loving couple and today's marriage ceremony and beautiful reception are just the beginning of what I am sure we all know will be a very blessed life together. There is someone here today, and without her love, support, wisdom, and tenacity, I promise you none of us would be here.... with all of the excitement of planning and the joy of actually witnessing the vows so beautifully spoken by our bride and groom I want to make sure that one person in particular knows how special..... EXTRAORDINARY.... she is, and that's my sister, the mother of the groom, Alice.

Alice and I grew up in a fairly large family. There were seven of us running around the house and I was younger than Alice by about six years. I think we can safely say she was one of my earliest role models.... and what an example she set! Alice was and is the type of person that is curious about life. Someone once said, "If you want to be interesting, be interested." That's Alice! She was curious, capable, and had a passion for knowledge. Alice has always been the sort of person who is engaged in life. As a teacher, she continued to learn. ... and those who love her and know her best know she's the type of person who leads by example. She may be a private person, but OH! is she thoughtful! She may be quiet and rarely gets to the point of red hot boiling anger, but BOY!!! Can she be brutally honest! Alice just shows us how to live, laugh, and love life and for that, we are so blessed to have her in our lives.

As a sister, mother, and grandmother, there is no one more devoted to her family than Alice. When we were younger she was my guiding light. As she got older, got married, had children, got divorced, worked on her teaching career, and even acted as a lay reader at her church, she demonstrated a grace and a devotion to all of the functions, tasks, and people that mean so much to her. Did I mention how organized Alice is? With all of those responsibilities, she would have to be!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Alice has three children.... Adrian is the youngest. There is also (**Name Alice's other children**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Each child is a reflection of Alice's tender loving kindness and incredible mothering.... even as a single parent.... and even when times and situations may have made life seem just too difficult, Alice never gave up. She never tried the easy way out. She never shirked her responsibilities.... and just so you know I'm not exaggerating, the proof of her dedication shines in the faces of her three wonderful children, each established and successful in their own right.

Abraham Lincoln said, " All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my mother." I'm quite sure that if you check with Adrian, (**Name Alice's two other children**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, each one of them would be very willing to agree.

New generations of the Malcolm children's children have made their entry into the world and If we are very blessed and thankful, more will be born to enrich our family. Although the future can not really be foretold, one thing I know is that my sister Alice will welcome the challenges, trials, and joys with her signature steely will and dedication.

Alice, I am so lucky to call you my sister. Each one of us is more engaged in life, more filled with faith and wisdom, more aware of the importance of family because of you.... so at times when it might seem like we may not always pay so much attention to you because so much else is going on.... like church functions, family business, wedding planning..... I just want you to know that we notice, we thank you, and we love you.

I would like you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast to Alice, my sister: You wear many hats and all fit you well. As sister, mother, grandma, and friend, your are an inspiration to all.... may you have health, happiness, and much joy with Adrian, Tess, and your new family, and may your good deeds and caring soul continue to inspire everyone! We love you! Congratulations to Adrian and Tessa!