**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**VANESSA LUBERTI**

Hello everyone.... I am Vanessa and I am Nathan's sister. I am so happy for the new Mr. And Mrs. Nathan Pintos! I am also thrilled to welcome Farisha to our family. From the moment Nathan introduced us, it has been and will be great to have a sister, and she really is one to me. Nathan and Farisha, you are a beautiful couple, both inside and out, and since most of you here know Farisha, I want to make sure everyone knows just how special Nathan is... I want to let everyone know just how much he means to me as my "big brother," my protector, and my guide through life.

Nathan, my first memory of you, my big brother, was you teaching me how to slide down the stairs when you were about two years old. I always had the sense that you were... and are...very protective... you "showed me the ropes" by teaching me what "tough love" was. Boy!! You started training me early!! ... you know, come to think of it, that was kind of like "toddler boot camp." (**Wait for the laugh**). Even back then, when we were both so young, you gave all of us a good idea just what you were made of and who you would become.

I remember when you were a little older and started playing football. That day is so clear to me. Of course I wanted to do just what you were doing, so I wanted to play football too,.... I begged. I pleaded... I was told "No".... but I was also showing what I am made of, so I became the cheerleader for your team! And what about our "music careers?" You we're so cool playing the drums.... me? I got the clarinet. ... not quite as cool, so what did I do? I switched to the drums and together we became the "Pintos Percussion Section!" Once again he accepted and welcomed me, his little sister... this showed how Nathan's character was being formed... how he always set an example, how my devotion to and admiration of my brother had such a positive influence on me, ... oh... and one other thing... it also proved that our parents must have had **nerves of steel**.... (**If you want to make a little joke you can turn to your parents and say**) **TWO** drummers in the house???? Sorry Mom and Dad!!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

Nathan, I want to thank you for your patience in welcoming me when I was born and guiding me as we grew up... of course, things didn't always go so smoothly. Remember that time when you were twelve and you snuck out of the house and I told on you? And you said you were "thinking on the roof?" I'm still apologizing for **THAT** one.... come to think of it.... you never **did** tell me where you went.... **hmmmm** (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) Farisha.... make a note... he can be a little "slippery"... and if he goes out and doesn't tell you... my suggestion... check the roof (**and wait for the laugh**).

I remember when you went to Valley Christian High School so of course I wanted to go there too. On my first day a handsome freshman offered to help me find my class.... do you remember what I found instead? Yes. I found myself surrounded by **YOU** and the entire football team practicing their "flanking maneuvers" around **me**!!! Neither you nor the team were having **Me socializing**! For some reason, you and your buddies wanted me to stay focused on my schoolwork!! Talk about protective! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Your eighteenth birthday was also a time I won't forget. What a party! It seemed like the entire high school came to celebrate you... they way everyone loved and respected you and literally showed up for you was just another example of how you inspire people. It's not just our family that loves you and knows how great you are... how easy you are to be around... how wise you are... and compassionate beyond your years. You may love to crack jokes but it is your caring, your maturity, your love of your family and your sense of responsibility that make you so special. And when, at only seventeen years old you enlisted in the military, you showed loyalty and bravery that is rare. Of course selfishly I wanted you to stay at home and be safe, but you know that I have never been more proud of you... I guess I sensed that way back when we were babies... I knew then what I know now... there is no one I would rather have for my older brother.

So if any of you are thinking that I might have been a little attached to my big brother, you would be correct, but if you might have worried how I would react when he brought home the girl of his dreams....no worries!!! Because when he did, it was the **RIGHT GIRL**.

Farisha, it's official... you are now Nathan's wife and my sister. Everyone always says that when the right person comes along, he or she just fits in. I know how much you love my brother and for that I am grateful because as you already know, family means everything to us and clearly it means everything to you too. It's been great getting to know you while we grow and share our common bonds . Our friendship grows stronger with each day and as we learn about each other's tastes and passions, from "girl stuff" to decorating and everything in between, and most of all our mutual love of games like Pictionary, we are building a firm and lasting foundation based on love of family, acceptance, patience, and being a winning team!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It's been a privilege to be your maid of honor but even greater to be your friend and sister.

Congratulations Farisha and Nathan! We love you and wish you a wonderful, long, and happy life filled with health, happiness, prosperity, and more than you might ever wish for! Thank you!