**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**STEPHANIE DELOS SANTOS**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone! For those of you that may not know, I'm Stephanie and I am so proud to be Alison’s maid of honor. Tonight’s ceremony and celebration are the culmination of a time in both Alison and Abriel’s lives when the bar was really raised…. After all…. Show of hands…. How many of us get to get a proposal on national TV? Alison, Abriel outdid himself when he managed to pull that off but you know what? That incredible moment when he stood behind you as the magician worked his magic was just a small indication of how special you are and how much you are loved…. By Abriel… by your family…. By me, your friends, and everyone here tonight. This courtship has been incredible…. The proposal was **AWESOME**….and the marriage? Knowing the two of you, I have a feeling this will be **OFF. THE. CHARTS**!!!

When I speak about my friend Alison, I want all of you to know that I speak from experience. I speak from history. (**Is it okay to say**) … and if I don't keep this ladylike, I’ll be speaking from a rest area on the New Jersey Turnpike (**and wait for the laugh**). In all honesty though, I can't imagine going through life with a better best friend. To know Alison is to love her… and to have the honor of calling her my closest friend….Hey.. who am I kidding? She’s more like a sister to me….and to be able to claim **THAT** is one of the greatest honors of my life. Some of you see Alison and Stephanie as “**The dynamic duo**….” but to us, we see Kate Middleton and Pippa….we’re talking **SISTERS**… Over the years, (**Name the number of years you've been friends**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be exact, Alison and I have laughed and cried, we've taken turns sharing wisdom about life and guys…. Boy… does she know just what to say when someone is in the middle of a dramatic **BREAKUP**! Alison has always had my back…. She just knows how to be a true and sincere friend. There’s a Latin saying that goes, “In vino Veritas.” It means, ,”In wine there is truth.” Let me tell you…. We figured **THAT** one out! The two of us **LOVE** our “**truth serum**!” (**Wait for the laugh**). But her ability to share a cocktail, listen to tales of heartbreak, and find the exact words to get me through life’s rough spots…. That’s rare.

Alison has so many great qualities… and I’m not just saying that… let’s be honest… Abriel has already “put a ring on it…. Actually **TWO**… so the deal’s done and there's no need for me to talk her up… especially to **THIS CROWD… (Say this with exaggeration and wait for the laugh**)…but I will…I cannot imagine someone having the natural ability to be as friendly, nice, smart and outgoing as she is. Alison shares that gift with all of us. I can't imagine anyone that loves to have a good time more than our bride… oh wait… **ME**! (**Wait for the laugh**). She’s a full blown Leo and **LOVES** being the center of attention…. Hey Alison… I bet that’s coming in handy tonight! (**Wait for the laugh**). Our bride can be just a teeny bit high maintenance and is always very well put together ….By the way, Alison, you look gorgeous tonight… all of that practice and experimentation has really paid off! (**Wait for the laugh**). In short, Alison gives great advice on love and life. She's a wonderful nurse and freely shares her kind and gentle heart, her excellent advice, and her sense of optimism with everyone she meets, and although she may shy away from drama, she is unstoppably devoted to “Game of Thrones” and all things medieval! Go figure!

Yes. Alison loves her “medieval times” and loves Abriel even more…. If that's possible. Keeping that in mind, I thought it might be fun to take us back…. Back… **WAY** back to see what it was like for a man and a woman entering marriage back then….well, for starters, people were much younger when they got married… girls were around twelve while boys waited for the ripe old age of fifteen to tie the knot… keep in mind, they didn't get to live to be much older that their early forties… before the 1500’s, anyone would have been able to perform the ceremony as long as the bride stood on the left side of the groom and the person officiating did not kill anyone. Good to know! It seems that in the good old days, right after the wedding, there followed the tradition of public bedding. These days that would probably mean that the sheet set you got as a gift from your registry was probably in the window at Bloomingdales or Bed, Bath, and Beyond… (**wait for the laugh**)…Not so back then!!! People needed **PROOF** the wedding was real… and I’ll stop there…

Alison and Abriel, now you're husband and wife and you have your entire lives ahead of you… Abriel has shown how well he knows you and how much he loves you and I know you feel the same. The proposal was just a small expression of the magic that comes alive because the two of you are together and I know I speak fro everyone here when I say that we look forward to witnessing that magic continue for a very, very long time…. Like **FOREVER**. I want to take this opportunity to express how happy I am that the two of you are finally one… may you have health, happiness, prosperity, and every magical wish you might ever dream up. The both of you are truly special and I wish you only the best for many lifetimes… a French writer named André Maurois once said, “A happy marriage is a long conversation that always seems too short.” I think you two discovered that to be true the first time you went out for coffee…. Congratulations and may the magic never end! We love you!