**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ESTRELLA FRIAS**

Hello everyone... for those of you that may not know, I am Estrella, Bianca’s **VERY** proud aunt, and let me tell you, from the minute she was born, I knew there was a very special blessing in my life, but **THIS**!!!! **WOW**... winding up in **PARADISE** to celebrate this beautiful couple and this magnificent marriage.... **WAY TO GO** **BIANCA** and **MATTIAS**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) with both the bride and groom involved in aviation, it makes perfect sense that they considered the world their “oyster” when it came time to selecting a destination.... can you **IMAGINE** if they worked for Elon Musk? We’d be toasting on Space X right about now!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... that would call for a different wardrobe for sure!!! I wonder if anyone makes freeze dried Champagne pellets!?!? (**Wait for the laugh**).... but here we are in Phuket and honestly, We’re **STILL** in the midst of “**out of this world**” beauty. I want to congratulate (**Name Bianca’s parents... which one is your sibling**?) my brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name Bianca’s brother**) and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as we all welcome Mattias to the family.... boy are we all gong to cherish these memories!!

Bianca and I have so much more in common than family ties and DNA... I just got married last year to my beautiful wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and so since I’m a veteran of sorts, I’m going to go out on a limb here and offer some very valuable marriage advice... that may or may not be inspired by Bianca’s touching and almost infinite list on how much we adore each other.... so here goes....

10. Bianca, and now Mattias, when I remind you both that I am your **godmother**.... and **godmother-in-law**...you no longer have to kiss **MY** ring... (**Wait for the laugh**), but you **DO HAVE TO** honor the rings you have exchanged with one another... and I’m sure you will **WANT** to. Those rings are a symbol of your eternal bond...they act as a reminder that your hearts are connected. Don’t forget that.

9. Take the advice of the wise old comedian, Henny Youngman, who taught,”What’s the secret to a happy, long lasting marriage? My wife and I go out to dinner at least **TWO** **TIMES** every single week... dinner... dancing...great wine... I go on Tuesdays, she goes on Thursdays (**Wait for the laugh**). Yeah... **THAT’LL** keep things fresh!!!

8. If... on the rare occasions you happen to argue... respect the other’s position.... listen to what they are saying.

7. Give each other space.... not... like... **TONS** of it... but just enough that the other can have their own interests and be able to come back to share the excitement, the process, even the frustration of new or different discoveries.

6. Keep the conversation **GOING** and make sure it’s **INTERESTING**... a simple rule for this... see number 7 and keep working on feeding your own souls in order to nurture each other’s.

5. Mattias? This one’s for **YOU**... Simple... **HAPPY WIFE, HAPPY LIFE**... sorry... she’s my favorite niece!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

4. Remove the word “fair” from your vocabulary. Many things in life are not “fair,” but they’re interesting, challenging, and can be life altering. Pay attention and learn. You’ll grow exponentially... **together**.

3. **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**... it’s **NOT** just for Aretha!!!! Oh **PLEASE** tell me you guys know who Aretha Franklin is.... if not, just respect one another. You’re on the same team. You are united in the same causes... have each other’s backs.

2. We are **MIRRORS** to our spouses... if something weird is going on... take a look at **YOUR** behavior and don’t indulge brattiness.

...And the **NUMBER 1 BIT OF ADVICE**..... A happy, successful, brilliant marriage takes **WORK**. It takes **OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPENED EYES**. You’re not going to always be in the gorgeous surroundings of Phuket, looking more beautiful than either of you have ever looked in your lives, with friends and loved ones surrounding you whose **ONLY** mission is to reflect the joy and optimism and love you feel right now. **NOPE**. There’s gonna be flat tires and the flu... burnt dinners and missed opportunities....bad moods and worse slips of the tongue, but just remember how you feel **RIGHT NOW**, at this moment. Remember who your best friend is... (**If you want you can add**) ... besides **ME**, of course.... (**and wait for the laugh**), and constantly commit to one another and **recommit again and again and again**... cause life’s not fair, but married life sure is **BEAUTIFUL**...

And to **YOU**, Bianca... you’re our beautiful bride, our pride and joy... your enthusiasm for life is contagious, and it has been one of the great honors of **my** life to guide you and teach you the ins and outs to living fulfilled .... like when I taught you poker... thanks for not becoming a grifter on the gambling scene... (**Wait for the laugh**).... I know... What happens in Vegas or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **STAYS** in Vegas or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Wait for the laugh**) or when I taught you how to fly... thank you for not **REALLY** taking that **LEAP** of faith..**off that flight of stairs**... we would have had a bad case of “**niece pizza**...” (**Wait for the laugh**). Thanks for keeping up with me... or the other way around, when we toured Montreal on **RAZORS**... good traffic dodging... **SKILLS**!!! and thank you **SO** much for **NOT** drowning in that wave pool when we went camping. .. **BOY**, your parents would have been **REALLY** mad at **ME** for **THAT** one!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Last year, when I turned the **BIG FIVE-OH!!!**, you wrote a beautiful, touching tribute to me that I will cherish forever. ... I want you to know that I love you and root for you, and now Mattias **FIFTY times more** than that list was long. We are all so proud of you and I **KNOW** that Grandma and Grandpa are looking down and celebrating with us today... they would be so proud of you...they definitely feel this love and I **KNOW** we feel theirs.

To you and Mattias, thank you for sharing Paradise with all of us... and Phuket is pretty great too! I speak for everyone when I say that we wish you a lifetime of health, happiness, respect, adventure, and more than you could ever wish for.... and one more thing... Mattias... thank you for being my **MCN**... **Man-crush NEPHEW**!!!! We love you!!! Thank you all!!