**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ERICA PUIG**

**FINAL**

Hello everyone... it’s great to be here, and it’s even better knowing we are celebrating the marriage of my best friend, Niki, to her wonderful **HUSBAND**, Mikey... yes!!! We finally get to use the “technical terms” and it feels so right! Even though I am sure you’re all eagerly awaiting the “speech of the night” from the ever so expressive Ree, **FIRST**... I’d like to say a few words... I mean, after all, as most of you know, Niki and I have been best friends since freshman year of college, so, yeah... I’ve got some “things” to share... (**If you want you can turn to the bride and say**) Nervous Niki?? (**And wait for the laugh**).

When I first decided to attend Monmouth I figured I “**get schooled**” in lots of stuff, but I didn’t expect to meet my best friend in the process... in fact, when Niki and I first met, we had **one thing** in common... **WE HATED EACH OTHER**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... this was **deep** and **mutual**, so you can imagine that the girls basketball team did not seem big enough for the both of us.... and we had **FOUR YEARS** to look forward to... ugh... and then we had an away game... in Cali, and on that first trip we **had to sit next to each other on the plane**.... we all know what **FML** means, right??? (**Can you say that and wait for the laugh?**).... **WELLL**... I don’t know if it was the cabin pressure or the snacks, or **WHATEVER**... but here we are.... best friends... and I could not be more thankful for Niki’s friendship or happier for her marriage to Mikey.

It turns out I learned a lot at Monmouth, and especially on that first plane ride. I learned to give people a chance, to try not to judge, to keep an open mind... and I got the gift of a lifetime! Niki is one of the most loving, caring and thoughtful people I have ever met. She also has one of the most outgoing personalities with an irresistible, bubbly way and a great sense of humor that can cheer anyone up on a bad day. Did I forget to mention she has a sharp wit... so watch out Mikey... but then again, you already know that and we all know it’s one of her great assets! (**Wait for the laugh**). Niki and I have been through a lot together, and we can even talk about **some** of it... (**Wait for the laugh**), but the main thing is that we are there for each other... through thick and thin... through tests and trials... I mean... like **Spanish** tests, right Niki??? **Si!! Si!!!** (**Wait for the laugh**).

Niki, today is a day when we share stories of love and appreciation in honor of the love you and Mikey share, but I hope you know that **EVERY** day you brighten our lives and make sure we all have a smile on our faces.... no pressure Mikey, but... “Happy wife, happy life!!!!” ... for **ALL** of us!!!

All kidding aside, I want to wish the two of you all the happiness in the world, and Mikey, I know you will continue to make Niki happier than she could have ever imagined...

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to the bride and groom:

To Niki and Mikey, here’s to a lifetime filled with love and happiness, partnership and respect, fun, memories, and more than either of you might ever wish for! We love you! Congratulations!