**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DENISE ARELLANO**

Hello everyone!!! As most of you know, I, too, am Denise.... and I am thrilled to be the Maid of Honor as my wonderful, sweet friend, Denise, marries her true love, Sat. Today is a very special one. It celebrates the joining of two beautiful souls and acknowledges just what ingredients are found in everlasting love.... before Denise met Sat, I would have thought that meant mutual respect, caring for the other person more than you care for yourself, and a healthy amount of that certain “something”... that undefinable, irresistible chemistry that sparks when two people find each other.... what I learned seven years ago taught me the most import element of love is.... **HORCHATA**... yes.... people, what we witness today is nothing less than “Love through Horchata...” who would have ever guessed that timeless, everlasting love would be bound together by a mixture of rice, milk, vanilla, some almonds and a cinnamon stick??? (**Wait for the laugh**)... I guess it’s true, though... and when you think of it, the “love potion” that brought these two together satisfies a thirst.... is as sweet as it is spicy.... and once you try it.......

The night that changed two lives forever started out as a usual girls night out for “the Denise’s...” it may not have been a Tuesday, but there was definitely a taco run involved. Denise and I have been close friends for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.... maybe because we would never forget each other’s name (**Wait for the laugh**) but most probably we’re so close because, well, she’s an amazing, loving, sweet, sensitive, truly genuine human being who’s great to be with .... and **LOOKS** great while being so awesome!!! Denise is the real deal and there are few people in this world that I would rather break bread... or tear a taco with... than Denise. **THAT** night... it was late.... and we were right in this neighborhood.... in fact we were just up the street at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And while few people might think going “full taco” at 3 am doesn’t seem like the best idea.... just add a horchata chaser for that cool guy... “over there” and that’s when and how and where the “magic happens.”

Denise and I were, I guess you might say, “non-believers” when it came to love... I mean, we “loved” things... fashion.... good friends... late night food runs... but Love with a capital “L?” We weren’t convinced... but as we have come to learn, like so many people that discovered this before us... that true, deep, lasting love **DOES** exist and... somehow I’m a closet matchmaker....

So there we were... 3 am... more mischievous and curious than **HANGRY**... and that guy over there... I wound up being Cupid... if you can picture **THAT** ... and Denise **bought** that guy over there... in the cool sneakers.... there **HAD** to be cool sneakers involved... a horchata... and the rest is history. Yes... **Love over Horchata....**

It turns out that these two discovered they had... and have... much more in common than craving late night snacks... Satiya is also kind, loving, sweet, and so fashion conscious.... down to the tips of his toes... if you know what I mean (**Wait for the laugh**) and they both love music. Throughout time, we learn that the music we love becomes the soundtrack of our lives.... music and lyrics help us to explain ourselves, our emotions, and what we’re going through even when we can’t quite figure it out on our own. Music defines our purpose and clarifies our emotions... just like when Sat heard the Cure and **KNEW** he would marry Denise...

**“I've been looking so long at these pictures of you  
That I almost believe that they're real   
I've been living so long with my pictures of you  
That I almost believe that the pictures   
Are all I can feel”**

Satiya, Denise, I’m happy to report that this **IS** real, you are finally, after **SEVEN** years... together forever, married and ready to have the adventure of a lifetime as husband and wife, and the pictures you will have and share from these beautiful moments we’ve all shared today will remind you of how real and **UNREAL**, meaningful love feels. ... and although we are all swept up in this wonderful, romantic moment, remember that true, enduring love is not just searching and staring and trying to fit pictures.... it takes work... commitment... respect, humor, conversation, and a great deal of trust... just know that you **ARE** each other’s picture. I’ve witnessed this love grow over the past seven years and really, you two give us **ALL** hope and belief in the power of love.... and with that... (**If you want to propose a toast you can say the following... I think it might be cute if you use a glass of horchata to toast the bride and groom**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.... of course, to honor Denise and Sat, I will be lifting a nice cool **HORCHATA**... (**Wait for the laugh**)

To Denise and Sat... Here’s to a long happy life together filled with love, health, humor, prosperity, music, magic, family, friends, and **LOTS** of horchata!!! Congratulations!!! We love you!! Thank you