**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SHANNON CARROLL**

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that know us well, and honestly, that better be **ALL** of you !!!... (**Wait for the laugh**), you know how special this day is for Melissa, Danny, and yes.... **me**..... Melissa and I have been inseparable for most of our lives and we’ve spent much of our lives together .... playing, plotting, planning... and wondering just what this moment would be like... well, here it is and here we are. Melissa, you and Danny have made it “official” ... Danny, you’re “one of us” now.... I am proud to formally welcome you to our world of shenanigans.... and I am even more proud and thankful that the two of you will spend your lives together, cooking up more great adventures and moments, filled with fun, laughter, and humor. Melissa and I have experienced lots of “firsts” together.... but don’t worry Danny... she’s all **YOURS** when it comes to the two of you setting your **OWN** precedents!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Friendship is a funny thing... no... **REALLY**... Ours has been based on laughter and lots of humor... basically we’ve roasted each other in every aspect of our lives for as long as I can remember! There were no lengths we wouldn't go to in order to share a good laugh. Unfortunately, what happens with Shannon and Melissa **STAYS** with Shannon and Melissa... (**Wait for the laugh**) but there are a few.... **eh... ummmmm... maybe a couple**??? ... (**Wait for the laugh**) of examples I can **try** to tell!

Like I said, the two of us shared many “firsts...” Shaving our legs, dying our hair, wearing make-up & high heels, first kisses.... sorry !! **NOT** to each other!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) , first slow dance with boys, first “adventures with alcohol,” first crushes.... you know... when you think you’re in love, first heart break... you know... when you’re **sure** **THAT** will never happen again... getting our drivers licenses, and finally seeing our favourite boy band ‘ The Backstreet Boys’!... fortunately I liked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Melissa was devoted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.... and, of course, our very first apartment- which we were pretty convinced was a **DAMN (darn??)**  palace! (**Wait for the laugh**).

When we were teenagers, being apart from one another, even a little, was tough, One winter I caught the virus Mono, which was going to keep me in isolation for 14 days. We badgered our mothers, convincing them to allow us to see each other. While they were drinking tea in the kitchen, Melissa and I spent the entire time in my bedroom sharing lip gloss, drinking from the same cup... sharing as many germs as possible... we had this bright idea that if she caught what I had, we’d be able to stay sick together at my house...great plan... **RIGHT**?? Once I was better, to make sure we were never separated again, every Friday I would get off at her bus stop with just my backpack of school books and I would not leave until I had to go home on Sunday evening. So yes, Melissa’s family kind of had custody of me on the weekends!! We shared **EVERYTHING**... what was hers was mine and vise-versa.

That’s just a little idea of our bond. For now, I’ll spare you “the egg story” or the time I sort of “borrowed” my dad’s car... at **fourteen**... **me**... not the car (**Wait for the laugh**)... and sort of drove... without ever having a lesson... hey!!! We’re both **HERE**... aren’t we??? (**Wait for the laugh**)... yes, the two of us are truly “**ride or die**” and we’re both grateful to have made it **this** far. I once saw a tattoo on someone’s arm... it said, “Steal my wheels and I’ll still roll” .... that’s kind of been the story of our lives... and it’s been great.

... and then... along came Danny... (**Turn to Danny and say**) Danny, I really want to thank you for being such a great friend and accepting me for who I am. You show me love and respect... and that shows your devotion to Melissa. You **KNOW** she and I have a very unique sense of humour and since day one, you’ve been on board.... you’ve never been offended by our foolish behaviour... even when Melissa and I are on the phone, you chime in, “Hey Girlll” just because you **KNOW** it makes me laugh! It’s important for both of you to know how honoured I feel to be able to be a part of your journey (**If you want, you can add**) ... at a healthy distance, of course... **PRIVACY**!! (**And wait for the laugh**). I am the godmother to your beautiful daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Maid of Honor tonight...this means the world to me.

Melissa, throughout our friendship, you’ve always been there... there were times I had trouble pronouncing words, but no matter how long it took, you helped until I got it right, Over the years, as I developed anxiety when driving, you never got mad at me... you just took the wheel! If I had too many cocktails, you’d throw me over your shoulder and get me home safely... and yes, you **ALWAYS** “held my hair...” (**Wait for the laugh**). I hit the best friend jackpot... having you in my life makes me feel like the richest person in the world... no amount money could buy our bond.

Danny, the two of you hit the jackpot as well... Here’s to a lifetime filled with love, happiness, good health, lots of laughs... and of course... priceless friendship... Congratulations... we love you!!