**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LOREDANA GRAY**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I’m Loredana and I am the very happy, proud Maid of Honor for our beautiful bride, Meghan. Today is a day much more special than most... As she marries Michael, we are all witness to a phenomenon most of us already recognize.... Meghan is a force to be reckoned with... a shining light that brightens every space she’s in... she’s a bubbly, happy dynamo on a regular day... we’re lucky enough to witness this supernova on her wedding day.... **WOW**!!! I’m almost at a loss for words.... **ALMOST**.... not quite... so here goes...

For those of you that may wonder about the importance of an Economics class in college.... **ESPECIALLY** Mr. Fisher’s Econ class at Roosevelt University, let me say this... I learned **A LOT**... maybe not so much about macro or micro finance.... but enough about people and friendships. It was back in 2006.... and while I mostly kept to myself... did the work, and “made like an active stock and split... “ (**Wait for the laugh**), I **DID** notice **THAT** girl... over there... you know... the one with the bubbly personality... the sarcastic banter... the one that filled the room with her smile... and I had a feeling that **IF** I ever decided to speak to **ANYONE**, it would be her and we would most probably be good friends.... **Welllll**... you know how the universe provides... sometimes things you **DON’T** want??? That’s what happened when Michael Munn... nice enough... clearly **NOT** my type, made his move... he had been trying to ask me out for a while, or so I sensed... and feared, and one day, after class, he approached... and so, miraculously, did Meghan... just as I was rushing to pack up my books and dash... **really**... he stepped up and asked... and at almost the same time, my soon to be guardian angel, Meghan, swooped in and said, “Are we still on for coffee??” You can imagine how mortified I must have looked for her to do that... Meghan and I had never spoken to each other up to that point... she saved me from... I **CANNOT** even imagine... and we’ve been inseparable ever since. I don’t know how thrilled Michael Munn was, but I can assure you all, college Economics class is a **life saver**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). With all due respect to that guy, his courage brought me my best friend, the godmother of my daughter, Ariana.... who, by the way, is **VERY** particular and LOVES her Auntie Meghan, and I am forever grateful to him for his misplaced courage.

I really felt I owed Meghan and told her I **REALLY DID** owe her a coffee, so we went to Starbucks... and the rest is history. It was instant friendship and a lifelong sisterhood began. Meghan is the kind of person that just knew... and **KNOWS**... she had my back instinctively and I am so blessed to have her in my life. My only regret would be that we didn’t meet earlier, because from what I’ve been told, she’s always been this fantastic... Rumor has it that she was a perpetually happy baby... she walked at ten months and spoke complete sentences at just two years old...ask her mother what Meghan was like, and she’ll compare her to a “sparkler...” we can all see that... joy just exudes from her... and as she loves to sing, legend has it that she had the best voice in her high school sophomore class of **SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY KIDS**... I have a feeling we all would be inspired to join in... (**If you want, you can say**)... Michael... I bet the acoustics in your shower are amazing... got any recordings?? Does Meghan take requests?? (**And wait for the laugh**).

How do you tell the measure and make up of a person? One way is by the quality of the company they keep. Meghan is the kind of person that has the gift of making lifelong friendships... just ask (**Name some of her friends**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Bubbly and adorable will get you just so far in life... it’s the **REAL** character that counts... loyalty, honesty, integrity. She’s loving and dependable... and yes, up until now, her greatest triumphs have been the friendships she has made.... but there was that summer... July 4th, 2017....

While Meghan never took dating “seriously,” I always had a gut feeling that she would meet someone, it would click, and that would be that. So with “a little help from her friends, and a little encouragement from technology, Prince Charming.. I mean Michael, appeared... you know how you... just **KNOW**... well, there really **ARE NO ACCIDENTS**... and as these two got to know each other they realized they were connected... they worked in the same company for **six years** without knowing each other or ever crossing paths... I guess they both must have been **WAY** dedicated to their respective jobs!! (**Wait for the laugh**). What’s more, they had family members that knew each other... when the universe gives you signs... you can’t help but realize, it’s **DESTINY**...

It’s now over one year and they’ve traveled a well worn path together... and they’re really **JUST** beginning... it is so wonderful to witness the two of you together... so in love... so intent on sharing life... so devoted to experiencing a lifetime of bucket list moments and everyday blessings.

Meghan, you’ve been through **ALL OF IT** with me throughout the past thirteen years, and I cannot imagine anyone that deserves or can appreciate the happiness you and Michael share right now and for the rest of your lives. I am witness to the fact that you bring out the best in people and Michael brings out the best in you.

Here’s to a wonderful life together... filled with joy and love, health and happiness... (**you can say**)... not much coconut if any at all... (**Wait for the laugh**), and many moments of sparkle and energy... more than enough to make your hearts sing... in **UNISON**... congratulations! We love you!! Thank you!!