**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LEE BALDASARO**

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know, my name is Lee... It’s so great to be here and to share this amazing moment with Andrea...and Dave.. and all of you... and I must say... it **REALLY** is an honor to be here as Maid of **Honor**!!! Andrea and I have been best friends for over **TWENTY** years.  We met in sixth grade and had an instant connection.... and while we may not have started planning for this day back then, we had **A LOT** to discuss... (**If you want to add a little joke, mention three things the two of you were REALLY into back then... a little embarrassing- like boy bands, crushes... some kind of fashion trend??**)... After all, in those days we were **ALL ABOUT** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**And wait for the laugh**), and we **DEFINITELY** bonded over our shared sense of humor...  **HOPEFULLY**, we **STILL** do!!! We would write each funny notes with hand drawn pictures and just laugh hysterically over anything and everything... We would eat pizza and fries every day ... yes.. back then, carbs were our **FRIENDS**... and we’d dance our hearts out to oldies in the living room.

It’s now twenty years later and... **thank goodness**, not much has changed. We invented this ridiculously embarrassing voice that we actually still use today.   If anyone’s interested, I’m sure Andrea would love to demo it for you.  Some of our best times were when we opted out of our of class dances and trips to do our own thing. **BOY** did we have fun!!!

With all that being say there is way more to our friendship that just a couple... or a few... or even **several** laughs.  For all the years that Andrea and I have been friends I’ve always known that if I call Andrea in need, she will be there.  We have been though a lot together and I know I can always count on her.... and she knows the same about me. Andrea is one of the most loyal and honest  people I have ever known... two qualities that are also extremely important in a marriage. Andrea is the type of person you can really trust... that is... **except** when she says **any** of the following things.... those that know and love this great girl **FEAR** the following... if she even **WHISPERS** or telepathically transmits anything **CLOSE** to these phrases, grab a good book and a snack... it’s gonna be a while.... (**Wait for the laugh**)

1. I’m on my way..

2. Ill be there 10 minutes

3. I’m taking a quick shower

In all honesty, Andrea raises procrastination... **NO**... Let’s call it “**savoring the moment**” to a fine art... along with all of her other endearing and special qualities, I am **IN AWE** of this one!!! **NOT**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Let’s also just say... she made it here today... in time for the festivities... and **THAT**, my friends, is a testament to how much she loves Dave!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Andrea and I have a very tight knit group of friends... Since the very beginning, Dave has always been open and welcoming to us. He was nice enough to host us many times at his apartment where we would all hang out, play cards, watch tv and play darts… in his dining room….where he had his dart board set up. I mean really... who needs a dining table anyway??? Dave, thank you for being **you**... for welcoming us, for including us, (**Do you want to add**) ... for learning to wait patiently for Andrea when she begins to utter **ANY** of those three phrases (**and wait for the laugh**). You have always made time to come to our birthdays and celebrations and we all truly consider you a friend.... and after today... you’re **really**... **STUCK** with us!!! In the best way possible of course!!!

Dave and Andrea,  you have come a **LONG** way from kids and coworkers at the Outback to now taking the next steps together as husband and wife. You have a very special relationship... you truly enjoy spending time together... even if it seems to us that you may be doing nothing.... just being together builds your bond. I love it when you two will often just take long rides, listen to music, and maybe stop for some Anna’s taqueria or a late night snack from Bovas.

I have also personally seen you overcome so much together and I know you have a great future... Andrea, I may joke about you taking a long time to commit, prepare, and get ready to go.... but I think we can all agree, in this case, it’s **SO** worth it. You and Dave are in this for life and I couldn’t be happier for you two... it’s an honor to stand up for you today and an even greater honor to know that I have such a great, happy friend to get us through life.

(**If you’d like to propose a toast, you can say the following. If not, just say the phrase**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Andrea and Dave... Here’s to a life filled with love and happiness, partnership and **patience** (**you can look at your watch and wait for the laugh**), good friends, great fortune, and more than you might ever wish for!!! Congratulations!!! We love you!! Thank you all!!