**WEDDING TOAST**

**FOR**

**ALMA ROSENDO**

Hello everyone!!! I want to thank all of you for being here this evening. Tonight may be known as the “rehearsal dinner,” but as the saying goes, “Life is not a dress rehearsal…” and I am quite sure that Keno and Ellis are more prepared than ever to walk down that aisle tomorrow, take their vows, and celebrate the rest of their lives together as husband and wife!!! We all know just what these two mean to each other and the love in this room reflects the love they have for one another!!!

As the mother of the groom, it is a privilege and a pleasure to welcome each one of you tonight. (**Do you want to mention your husband, if so, please include him here**) Chylbert and I want you to know that whether you’ve traveled from near or far, whether you are part of our family or a dear friend… or a member of our **NEW** family, I want you to know that your presence is treasured…. I cannot imagine a better group with whom to share our joy!! And speaking of **NEW** family, I want to finally, officially, welcome Ellis to the Rosendo clan!!! (**Please name whoever is appropriate**) To Ellis’ parents, Bien and Jenett, and to her brothers and sisters…. (**Name Ellis’s siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know I speak for all of the Rosendo’s in congratulating all of you!!! Our extended family is getting even bigger… I can’t wait for the family and holiday gatherings…. (**If you want, you can mention favorite sports or games here**) ….. imagine the teams we can form to have some good games of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Years ago, when Keno was first born, I really thought we hit the jackpot…. He was such a blessing for our family, and then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years later, we were doubly blessed with the birth of our younger son, Junno…. Little did we know back then that our very own Cupid was born!!! Yes, for those of you that may not know… and I cannot really imagine that’s possible with **this** crowd…. since you are Ellis and Keno’s nearest and dearest, that it was Junno who introduced our bride and groom!!! And Cupid… I mean Junno (**Wait for the laugh**) worked some magic on himself and last year married the beautiful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…. I really must say that my cup is full… my blessings abound…. And I couldn’t be happier or more proud of my sons and daughters-in-law.

Ellis, I know each day brings new discoveries and revelations about Keno, but I would like to share some thoughts from my point of view, as his mother…. There are so many moments I can recall as I watched Keno grow up into the man he is today. While there are words that I would use to describe the grown up Keno… caring, generous, hard working, independent…he was always a thoughtful person…. Considerate, compassionate, kind…. He and I had a special bond, and he had ways to show how much he cared and cares for his mama (or use the term that Keno uses for you). I remember when he was a kid, playing basketball. There were times I would go to his

games to watch him play…And in those times, as he would score, he would automatically look my way… Keno **ALWAYS** knew who is greatest fan and biggest cheerleader was… **ME**!!! … he wanted to make sure I didn’t miss a thing…. And I didn’t!! I **WOULDN’T**!!! When I say Keno is generous, that only partly explains it. He’s also thoughtful… whenever he goes shopping, there’s always something in the bag for me… whether it’s a new handbag or a blouse, or whatever… he knows my style, he thinks of me, and he has great taste!!! How lucky am I?!?!

Throughout the years, as my boys were growing up, I had one constant prayer for both of my sons… that they will have the capacity to love someone as much as I love each of them, and be loved in return. Junno married his love last year, and now Keno will marry Ellis tomorrow.

Keno and Ellis, you met and began your friendship as travel buddies… that’s probably the best way to start a true and lasting relationship …. as caring, respect, and partnership are what it takes to make a marriage work. The two of you built the best foundation before you even realized it!! And Ellis, I remember when I first met you, I had a very deep feeling that you would be a great match for my son, and here we are!! You both bring your best to this marriage, and Ellis, from your sweetness to your intelligence, from your kindness to your loving nature, I know you and Keno will have a blessed life together… you’re both ready to begin a wonderful new married life.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.. probably one of the first of many to come…

To Ellis and Keno… here’s to a life filled with friendship and love, partnership and respect, good health, great fortune, and more of the best in life than you might ever wish for!!! Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you all!!