**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SURESH CHAINANI**

Hello everyone!!! It’s such a joy to be here tonight to celebrate the marriage of my beautiful daughter, Sonia and her handsome husband, Justin. Whether you traveled from near or far, it’s wonderful to see all of you here, sharing the joy and love that is filling this room to overflowing!!

For those of you that know…. Really **KNOW**…. my daughter, you’ll know that it’s more than appropriate for me to “**spill some tea**…” (**wait for the laugh**). You **KNOW** I mean that in the best sense of the phrase. While all of you know Sonia, we, who have observed and loved her since she was a baby, know her as **Bubby**….. now let’s think about this…. While in some cultures, the name means grandma…. someone who is a loving caretaker…and Bu…. I mean **Sonia** definitely did that for her two younger sisters… she was like the little “mommy” for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when they were born, caring for them, changing their diapers, having two **LIVE** baby dolls to play with, the back story is a bit different…. You see, when Sonia was a baby, she used to blow bubbles…**. A LOT**… Her older brother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ could only pronounce **BUBBY** instead of **BUBBLES**…. and it stuck…something tells me that if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **WERE** able to say Bubbles, that nickname would have had a very different meaning… (**wait for the laugh**) … The truth is that no matter what she was called, our **bubbly Bubby Sonia** was and is a true light in our family.

Sonia is caring, loving, smart, and kind….. and while she risked seeing the tail end of the school bus once or twice or a hundred times… Let’s just say that unlike real bubbles, Sonia was not the **earliest** riser… (**wait for the laugh**), she managed to become the brilliant attorney she is today. We are all so proud of her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence.

And as far as spilling tea goes…. You’ll all realize there’s been a running theme… Sonia (**Bubby? Which do you call her?**) and I had a “thing” for tea. She was my “tea girl” and those times she would make me a cup of “good, hot railway station tea,” provide some of my sweetest memories shared with my daughter.

Sonia was raised as a true child of the world. With roots in India and the West Indies, and with her passion for travel, I suppose that when it came time to finding a mate, love has no boundaries or borders. She did, however happen to find a gem of a young man in Louisiana…. I will never forget my earliest meetings with Justin. My first impressions…. The ones that have really lasted and grown, was that I thought he was amazing…kind… gentle… respectful… and strong in his faith….. I’ve grown very fond of Justin and I am now proud to officially call him “son.” To Roland and Shelley, Justin’s parents, I want to welcome you to our newly extended family and I want to thank you for raising such a wonderful, caring son…. who, by the way, **ALSO** loves tea… (**wait for the laugh**). I would also like to extend a special greeting to Justin’s Meema, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s great to meet you and share the joy you must feel as your family evolves and grows.

Sonia and Justin, here we are. You’re married!!! I’m pretty sure this is the part at which point I give some good, sound, fatherly advice…. “Love is good… love is kind… But can we say, **Love is Blind**?? (**This is the reality show they mentioned on their wedding website**). While I have **MUCH** higher hopes for you two than I did for Shayne and Natalie…. (**Wait for the laugh**), there’s still some wisdom I think I can share. In Ephesians 4:2-3, we learn, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of **peace**.” (**If you want to make a joke, you can say**) Something tells me Shayne could have used **that** advice!! (**and wait for the laugh**)

… Yes… now you two are married….. this is just the beginning of the greatest adventure of your lives! I know I speak for everyone here when I say that Kimberly and I wish you only the best of everything…. All of the love, health, happiness, prosperity, and partnership that life can offer. May your thirsts always be quenched with the tastiest tea in town… whereever that town may be on your travels at home and abroad…. May you continue to find beauty and meaning in the incredible wonders of nature you both love so much…. May you continue to find comfort in knowing that you two are a “**perfect match**”… Shayne didn’t do too well there either (**wait for the laugh… it’s another reality show that they’ve probably watched**). …And may you always find your true “home” in each other. Congratulations!! We love you!!