**MAID OF HONOR SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LEE BALDASARO**

**REVISED**

Well, **THAT** was probably the **LONGEST** bathroom break in the history of weddings!!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I mean, **ANDREA**… your relationship with **TIME** is even more legendary than your relationship with Dave!! We get it!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). You survived a pandemic **AND** you survived the banana bread trend **DURING** the pandemic…you had a baby, you basically had to plan and **REPLAN** a wedding **THREE TIMES**… **AND** you are **STILL** able to fit into your wedding gown??? That’s **SKILLS**, my dear!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Enduring and persevering through **THREE** postponements…. It’s kind of a cosmic joke from the universe but you and Dave, and the love you have for one another, prevailed, and here we are…. **FINALLY**. So now it’s almost **FOUR** years later, and I’ve had …. hopefully… enough time to practice this speech, so…. **LET’S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP!!!!** (**Wait for the laugh**).

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know, my name is Lee... It’s so great to be here …. Okay,,, let’s fix that… it’s so great to **FINALLY** 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-THREE** years.  We met in sixth grade and had an instant connection.... and while we may not have started planning for this day …. Or the other 3 false starts we’ve been through, 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!!! …. Especially since, for the past four years, I’ve been taking notes…. (**Wait for the laugh**). We would write each funny messages 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 all those 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 said, 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 friendship and more importantly, 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**). Ok. Ok. Let’s get real…Andrea, I’m not questioning how much you absolutely love Dave and couldn’t wait to be “officially” together, but **FOUR** **YEARS** and **THREE** postponements… that **HAS TO BE** a **PERSONAL BEST** on the Procrastination-o-meter!!! (**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 these steps together as husband and wife. You have a very special relationship... and you’ve built a beautiful family with little David… 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 have proven that you 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. I may joke about what happened…. And **DIDN’T HAPPEN** over the past four years, but one thing that **DID HAPPEN** is that your love and connection have only grown. And since you two have become parents, Andrea, you’ve proven me right… and you **KNOW** how **I LOVE THAT!!!** I always knew you would be a wonderful mother and honestly, David is such a lucky little boy to have parents who love him and each other the way you do. I will never forget, after the baby was born, when you said to me, “ I know it sounds corny, but we literally, like, fell in love with each other all over again because of him.” Kinda makes you realize that there **ARE** no accidents, **EVERYTHING** happens for a reason, and every challenge presents the opportunity to grow and appreciate life more and more.

(**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!!