**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**CHRISTOPHER CHIAPINELLI**

Hello, for those of you that may not know me, I’m Chris Chiappinelli, or, for those of you that **NOW** know me, call me Chipo …. easier to spell…and a **LOT** less syllables… you’re welcome!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)  I am Brian’s groomsman, **hopefully** one of his best friends, and with any luck and a couple of prayers, I **STILL** will be, depending on how I survive the next few minutes… . Brian has a lot of great friends that could have easily been up here so I am not sure how my name was picked… **out of a hat???** **Short straw??? Best man bingo???** No matter, I am thrilled to have finally **WON SOMETHING.** I’mhonored to be here with Brian and Denise on their special day and having the opportunity to say a few words about these great people really is a **WIN**.

 I’d like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to Denise and Brian’s parents, Yolanda, Ruben, Katie and Sam, for raising such an amazing guy. Even though Sam is no longer with us, he is very much with us in spirit and I am sure wherever he may be, he is tremendously proud of Brian and Denise. I would also like to thank whomever is hosting this awesome wedding, giving all of us a chance to celebrate this great couple, together, with one incredible objective…to feel the love and share the joy. In the strange times we’ve all had to endure over the past few years, I have to say, it feels **GREAT** to be with all of you, especially Denise and Brian, so thank all of you for coming!!!

When someone mentions that really special, enduring friendships are timeless, believe them!! I honestly can’t remember the actual very first moment I met Brian, but I feel safe in saying, Dimestore Hoods gave life some meaning… super music, great sessions… and even better fans and followers!! Growing up in San Pedro, there were a lot of things going on in the 90's, and back then, everyone knew… and still knows, everybody…. but Brian's been one of “my boys” for over 20 years. When I say that it feels like a lifetime, please know, in this case, it’s a very good thing. Denise came along when our friend Matt  had a Cinco de Mayo party at his house in Redondo, around 2008/2009, I believe.  I’m not sure if that is where Brian first met Denise but, man, she left an impression!!! I remember him talking about her a lot…. like **A LOT A LOT**. I had a feeling that she was special to Brian right out of the gate. Denise was nice, pretty, cool to hang with but most of all, my buddy was so happy at the thought of her.  As time passed it was clear I was correct, because there were some moments when I would ask Brian to go someplace or do something he would have to clear it with Dee. Well, as “the kids” say these days, **IYKYK**… if you know you know… and I **KNEW**. This was an obvious sign Brian had found someone special. **YES**… my friend, Brian… getting **WOOPED**… **SERIOUSLY**… it couldn’t happen to a nicer guy!!!

 Brian and I had some great times, before and after Denise and Brian became a couple. Some of my best memories with Brian were after we bought San Diego Charger season tickets together. I was dating my wife gabby at the time so I had to get the ok first, but she has always liked Brian  so I got the green light.  Brian had a hard time sitting still at the games at times. I'll never forget the time he wanted to get up to go and get a drink. When we got to the bar we heard the stadium erupt. We looked up at the TV and Ladainian Tomlinson  had just broken the record for most touchdowns in a single season.   We got to be there to see it ….sort of. Driving down to San Diego and staying the night at hotels on game day was great. The 2 hour drive to get there would maybe have been an awkward drive for some people, but those drives were some of the most memorable for me. Our friendship grew with each road trip and Brian was always ready to listen and give advice on things that were going on in my life, at work, in my relationship with my now wife, and a number of other issues that would pop up. Brian was always a good guy to have on your side… not only was he 6' and still is… Brian knew how to defend himself which…. Not gonna lie, I used that to my advantage when needed, but even so, he has been a loyal friend that always had my back in every situation…. Which came in handy when we would attend Jets/ Chargers games… not easy when someone… **ME**, actually, is a Jets fan. Here’s a hot tip… if you’re going to be heckled at a 50,000 seat arena…. You’re going to want Brian on and **AT** your side, checking the crowd and watching the exits!!!! **TRUTH**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

I am so happy for Brian to have met someone as wonderful as Denise. From what I can see, she makes him a happy man and together, they clearly love each other and truly enjoy life.  Whether it’s snowboarding, cruising on the boat with Bear and Cheech, or hanging out with Honor and Chase, Denise and Brian show us the meaning of living the **good life**. As we all know, some people never find that kind of devotion and happiness, and that’s why I am so grateful to Denise for making my buddy’s life complete.

 I’d like to invite all of you to please join me in raising a glass to Brian and Denise:

To Denise and Brian, on behalf of everyone in this room, I want to wish you both a lifetime of peace, love, health, happiness, and more than you might ever wish for…. Love you guys. Thank you!!