**Carmona Speech [EZ Speech No. 16334]**

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Toast by Mr. Kenneth Carmona at the wedding of his business partner, Steve Leidner.

you know, steve, when i was thinking how to toast a guy who’s somehow let 30 years slip by between marriages, i was reminded of that vince gill song, *when love finds you*:

*“And when you least expect it, it will finally come true;*

*There's nothing you can say when love finds you.”*

well, my friend, it took a while, but it sure looks like love’s found you once again, and i couldn’t possibly be happier for you. patti is a gorgeous and accomplished woman who appears for some inexplicable reason to have SOMEHOW fallen hopelessly in love with you. you’re a VERY lucky man, steve.

[to patti] of course, you’re a pretty lucky woman, too patti. steve’s a pretty good catch in his own right, with his DRIVE, HIS INTELLIGENCE, AND HIS own peculiar brand of rough-edged cabbie charm. after 15 years of partner-ship with steve, i can tell you that he is one of the most honest, most principled, and most genuine people i’ve ever known. he’s also among the hardest-workng men I know. A lot times, you’ll hear about partnerships breaking up because one of the partners came to feel that the others weren’t doing their share. well, that’s *never* been an issue between steve and me — not for one, single *second* of the time we’ve worked together.

in fact our partnership once led us into a most amusing incident. Steve and i had walked into [name of restau-rant], a reasonably swank bistro on [name of street] in [name of city, if different from present venue], and i continued immediately to the men’s room to answer THE CALL OF nature. The Maitre d’ asked steve if he’d like a table for two, and steve replied, *“Yes, but my partner’s in the bathroom at the moment.”* To which the matre d’ replied, *“Oh, very well sir; when he returns, i’ll have a nice* romantic *table for THE TWO OF you in the corner.”* [pause for possible laugh] we expensed DINNER, anyhow.

well . . . let me just end this little speech with a heartfelt toast to the bride and groom. [raise a glass to the newlyweds AND MOTION FOR THE AUDIENCE TO JOIN YOU] to steve and patti: MAY YOUR LOVE BE ADDED, AND NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD BE FOREVER BLESSED WITH PEACE, AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN AND YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE. AND MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.

THANK YOU.

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