To: Cindy:

From: EZ Speechwriters / Pete

Thank you for the opportunity to earn your business, and it was a pleasure talking to you.

Your speech is **below** in **black** font. In the first part right here, and sporadically in **blue** font throughout, are suggestions for the speech.

 You’re speaking at one of the most cherished events of a lifetime, Jeremy, and Maria’s wedding reception.

What a wonderful location Bel Vino, it should be very memorable.

 I will attempt to give you a few guidelines, with which you may already be familiar.

 Whether you’re at a raised head table, or a table clustered within the guests, the rhythm is similar. You may be the first, middle, or last to speak.

 If the location provides a microphone: Do not lean into the microphone, rather bring the microphone to you as you stand at your location. If the microphone is remote, great. But again, bring it up to you, don’t lean over. If there is static, or if the wind is making your speech echoey, then do not try and overcome that, as that will make for stress. Don’t look around for help, just calmly place the microphone down and use just your voice to project, but do not yell. Your voice will go to all if it is firm. If someone from the Bel Vino staff recognizes the microphone challenge, let them fix it, but until then continue your calmness.

 If you have notes, or even the entire speech on paper, great, as most folks do. The key here is to not bring the paper up in front of your face. Keep the paper or notes, on a surface in front of you, look down when you need to, and do not bend over. Just look down. That may take a few minutes practice when you do rehearse.

 If you are nervous, don’t be. Speaking before folks can be daunting, but it does not have to be. Have a conversation with your audience, not a lecture. Talk as if you were around a big family holiday table, because in essence, you are.

 Make eye contact around each table. Slow that contact and stay focused on specific individuals if you are talking about them, especially Jeremy and Maria, as well as Eladio, Breanne, Ralph, Deanna, Joshua, Kevin, and others. Also make eye contact with family, grandparents, friends of the bride or groom, and the bridal party. As you’re speaking in general, relax and if nervous, focus on an object somewhere behind the group. It could be a banquet table, a flag, or even a door or wall picture at the back of the room. If you look just beyond your audience, just over the tops of the heads of the last group of tables, it will appear to all tables, that you are looking directly at them.

 When it is time for your speech someone may introduce you, or not. Stand up, look comfortable. No glass clinking, just stand and look at everyone, raise one arm slightly, and smile. The audience/guest’s conversations will become subdued, and the attention will turn to you.

 And speak slowly. Most of us when before a group tend to speak rapid fire, just to get it over with. But not at this event, just take your time, and have a conversation with everyone.

 I recommend you rehearse it three times. Rehearse as you will be speaking. In other words, stand next to a table. If you want someone there while you rehearse, fine. But people want to help, which is a natural inclination, and they tend to interrupt. You’ll be much more focused if you are alone. Rehearse twice one or two days beforehand, then once only the morning of. Do not overthink this, just have your notes available, and talk from the heart.

Please feel free to make any additions or deletions, as you prefer. And feel free to call me.

Remember, this should be fun,…..so Have Fun.

 **Begin:**

“Hello, **everyone**, I am so pleased to be able to say a few words, at such a joyous event.

Holla, a **todos,** estoy muy contento de decir unas palabras en un evento tan alegre.

 Pause for just a moment until they settle.

Many of you tonight know me, but for the few who I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I am Cindy Gonzalez, the mother of the groom, Jeremy, and now so pleased to be the mother-in-law of the bride, Maria.

First, I want to concur with what so many others have said regarding this beautiful venue, Bel Vino. The coordinators and staff have been very helpful, courteous, and made us feel right at home……Thank you.

I want to express how wonderful it is to look out over this room and see, (look out over the entire room), family, friends, co-workers, and others who were able to share this celebration.

My words this evening come from the heart of a mother. A mother who is so very proud of her son, Jeremy, and thrilled that Maria and he are husband and wife.

And happy for the life they’re beginning together in Texas, Jeremy in his Distribution capacity for the Walmart Corporation, and Maria already having begun her first scholastic year as a full-time kindergarten and first grade teacher.

It is also a wonderful feeling for me, that Marias’ family has opened their arms to ours, and we thank them for their warm and genuine new friendships.

Jeremy and Maria have been fortunate to have true and caring individuals throughout their lives, both family and friends. I am complimented by their new friendships, and I personally want to acknowledge each.

\*Eladio,………father of the bride, thank you for your daughter, and the woman that Maria is today.

\* Deanna, who approximately six years ago, with Cupid’s bow, introduced Maria and Jeremy.

\*Breanne, Maria’s Maid of Honor, and a friend since the girls, were…… well,….girls.

\* Kevin, Jeremy’s Best Man, and wingman.

\* Joshua, Jeremy’s older brother, friend, and mentor.

\* And so very important in Jeremy’s life, is a man who was in many ways a father figure to him, his older cousin, Ralph.

 Cindy, right here add anyone else that may feel left out if you do not include them. Or I can if you tell me who and what, etc.

And two others, who are infinitely and forever a part of the Groom and Bride: Pause: Chela, Maria’s wonderful mother who left us suddenly last year. Pause: And Alberto, Jeremy’s father who left us some ten years past. It is my firm belief that both Chela and Alberto are with us this evening, and so very proud of both Maria and Jeremy.

 Pause briefly.

Wonderful occasions like today require serious planning down to the smallest detail, and occasionally something can go amiss. Our bride and groom prepared the invitations and were extremely precise in the address of our location this evening. BUT, ah-yes, that stomach turning ‘But’, they did not include the name, Bel-Vino on the invitation. *“Not a problem”*, responded our two when they realized this, saying: *“People will find the event by the street address, Rancho Road”,* which makes sense, except, (wait for it now):

 Smile,..Pause

that in Riverside County there are: Rancho Chaparral Road, Rancho De Las Piedras Road, and befittingly, Rancho Not So Grande Road, with similar address numbers as Bel-Vino. Try explaining that to Alexa and Siri!

 Laughter

And,…that may very well explain a few late arrivals today, and why several homeowners around Riverside County, had people parking in front of their homes, all dressed up, and knocking on their front doors.

 Lite Laughter

When our couple were first dating my son was a bit nervous when he went to Marias’ family’s home, including her four brothers! He was trying to remain calm and cool, cool being the keyword here, as he accepted Chela’s offer of a traditional dish,…..which was emersed in something Jeremy was not familiar with, Habanero juice. And there he sat, his face crimson red, his mouth oven hot, and he, not very cool at all. As the saying goes, ‘Baptism by Fire’.

 Lite Laughter.

I, along with everyone here, wish a future for Jeremy and Maria filled with good health, good fortune, as well as to be forever surrounded by cherished family and friends. All of our lives can become tense at times, and I am confident Jeremy and Maria will rely on each other to confront whatever comes before them. I look forward to both our families’ traditions continuing, as well as Jeremy and Maria creating their own. Jeremy and Maria, I want to hug you both,….and I intend to do exactly that as soon as I finish here, so……….

 Pause:

Everyone, please raise your glass or cup with me.

 Wait a few seconds for folks to get ahold of their glass or refill their glass.

‘Jeremy and Maria, from our hearts to yours; may you have true happiness both individually and as one. Show understanding and courtesy to each other. Never hesitate to explore what the world has to offer, and what you have to offer in return. Above all else, remember this, each day is not a dress rehearsal, live your lives as if it were opening night, because it is.’

 **Cheers/Salud**

Pause

Enjoy the rest of your evening everyone, and later please travel safely and responsibly to your destination.

 Say: Thankyou, if there are speakers after you, or you don’t know if there are speakers after you.

 Say: Goodnight,…If you know you are the final speaker.