To: Sarah:

From: EZ Speechwriters / Pete

Thank you for the opportunity to earn your business.

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 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, Jeanne’s and Elliot’s wedding.

What a wonderful location, Carlowie Castle, this should be very memorable.

 You may be an accomplished speaker, (from your questionnaire responses I believe you are accomplished), or you may be new to speaking before a gathering. 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 castle 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 Jeanne and Elliot. Also make eye contact with family, grandparents, close friends of the bride or groom, and the bridal party. As you’re speaking in general, relax and focus on an object somewhere behind the group. It could be a banquet table, a flag, or even a door at the back. 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.

 Even though time is short, 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 you’ll be much more focused if you are alone. Rehearse twice one or two days beforehand, then once only the morning of.

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

Have Fun.

 **Begin:**

“Welcome, Welcome everyone to this wonderful celebration, wonderful group of all of you, and my-goodness, to a truly magnificent location. Many of you know me, but just in case, my name is Sarah, I am the bride’s, Jeanne’s, sister, and privileged to be her Bridesmaid. One of her four sisters, and as we are sometimes referred to, Team Tirro. I want to thank everyone here today/tonight, for making the journey to this magical place, one with rich history, tradition, and a feeling of deep human texture. Built between 1852 and 1855, it is one of the Hallmarks of not only Kirkliston, but also Edinburgh. I want to acknowledge the curators, the management, and especially the staff here at **Carlowrie** Castle, for their courtesy, their friendliness, and making us feel at home. Being within these walls is truly a mystical experience.

I am overcome with joy for Jeanne, on this day, as she and Elliot continue their lifetime together. Elliot has so many attributes as a man and as a person, but what is ever present, is his true, loving, care, for my sister, our sister, Jeanne. We are so very pleased that Elliot has become a part of our family, and we are equally excited to be a part of Elliot’s.

It was our sister Grace, who was so intuitive to recognize the possible connection between Jeanne and Elliot. It was by the Grace of,….Grace,….that a first encounter, a first date, was arranged, and that unmistakable connection was brought to life. Experiencing oneness with another person rises from the deepest parts of our being. I see my sister’s continual smile, a still-frame if you will, that exceeds a thousand-words. If ever two were destined, it is my sister Jeanne, and Elliot. Disney’s Anna from Frozen may have described it best*,…..”They finish* *each other’s Royal Crown sandwiches”.*

As many here today/tonight know, there are five of us. Jeanne is the youngest. When she came into this world, I came into her world, more specifically her playpen, especially after my school day. I would fill her small ears with all the joys, plans, schemes, and ideas that an eight-year-old can conjure. In reality it was just some playful family shenanigans, but Jeanne listened to my ravings as if they were instructions on conquering the world. And that conversation, that closeness, has continued throughout our lives. So, Elliot; if ever you’re brave enough to furniture shop alone, please make sure any purchase of a couch or sofa, is one that can hold three, You, Jeanne, and occasionally **Me**. **Light laughter.**

Elliot’s sincere care for Jeanne is ever present, and none more evident than the time Jeanne and I were long distance cooking. It was holiday fare, one we had always shared, this occasion being our first apart. So, we employed culinary sister-ZOOM, Jeanne fast at work in her kitchen, me Zooming from afar, and Elliot dearly looming from near. The menu had specific ingredients necessary for completion. And as does happen, several of those were missing from Jeanne’s kitchen cupboards. The missing staples were not discovered all at once, but rather as the culinary project went along. So, Elliot stood by, and went for supplies, not once, not twice, but **three** times, to ensure Jeanne’s menu was complete. *Elliot, I think you may have coined the phrase ‘DOOR-DASH !!* **Light laughter.**

And that care and deep commitment is also part of Jeanne. Her presence and her love are always nearby. Actually, so nearby that I can pick out a daily outfit, stick my hand into one of the pockets, and out of that pocket comes a loving or funny note from Jeanne. That truly embraces that my sister is always thinking about us, and in many ways, always there with me. Jeanne is also the type of woman that if we ever need anything, she will be there to help, to support, to advise, and to comfort. Jeanne, no one, no sister, could ever ask for anything more,……..thank you truly, from the bottom of a sister’s heart.

I am going to conclude with something prophetic that adds another layer of icing to the bond between our bride and groom. Last year Elliot in his thoughtfulness, found and gave me a Robert Burns book of daily Scottish poetry. I am going to share with you a portion of the first Stanza of **the** poem assigned to today’s date, yes, today’s. Burns wrote this to his wife in 1778, shortly after their marriage**. Pause.** The name of the poem, and the name of his **wife**,…Jean.

 *“From there the bonnie lassie lives,*

 *The Lassie I lo’ve best:*

 *There’s wild woods grow, and rivers row,*

 *And mony a hill between;*

 *But day and night my fancy’s flight*

 *Is ever wi’ my Jean.”*

 Please raise your glass with me:

***Pause for everyone to do so.***

*‘Here’s to a lifetime of magical beginnings, special endings, and more than you could ever wish for. Best Wishes Jeanne and Congratulations Elliot.’*

***OR***

*‘Elliot and Jeanne: Be kind, be thoughtful, and be protective of each other. Embrace the world that awaits you together. Most of all enjoy every moment of Life. This is not a dress rehearsal; this is* ***Opening Night****. We love You.’*

From myself, our family, as well as our new extended family, thank you all for sharing this wonderful time. From our hearts to Yours,……………… …………………………………………...**Goodnight everyone.”**