**Gehrin Speech [EZ Speech No. 16234]**

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Remarks by Brenda Gehrin as Maid of Honor at the wedding of her best friend, Kelly [last name].

hello there, everybody. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I’M Brenda Gehrin, AND I’M blessed to be able to say that Kelly [last name] is my best and dearest friend in the world. AND SO WHEN SHE ASKED ME, I WAS ALL COOL WITH THIS WHOLE “MAID OF HONOR” THING — *UNTIL* THEY TOLD ME I HAD TO GIVE A SPEECH. PUBLIC SPEAKING’S NOT FORTE [PRON.: “FOR-***TAY*”**], SO PLEASE BEAR WITH THE FOLLOWING EFFORT TO PUT SOME INTELLIGIBLE SENTENCES TOGETHER TO HONOR KELLY AND STEVE’S MARRIAGE.

I WANT TO START BY SAYING [TO KELLY] KELLY, I LOVE YOU dearly. YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND, MY CONFIDANT, MY SISTER-WITHOUT-THE-FIGHTING, MY SOULMATE. YOU’RE NOT ONLY THE MOST FORGIVING PERSON, BUT THE KINDEST, MOST LOVING, WARMEST, AND MOST HARD-WORKING PERSON I’VE EVER KNOWN. “BFF” DOESN’T *BEGIN* TO COVER IT, MY DEAR, AND YOU KNOW IT!

NOW, ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE, I CAN ONLY SAY: IF IT WEREN’T ACTUALLY *MADE* IN HEAVEN, IT WAS CERTAINLY *DESIGNED* THERE. I DON’T THINK THAT THERE’VE EVER BEEN TWO PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD MORE CLEARLY MEANT FOR EACH OTHER THAN KELLY AND STEVE ARE. THEY LOVE EACH OTHER SO DEEPLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. THEY LAUGH TOGETHER FREELY, AND THEY LOVE BEING IN EACH OTHER’S COMPANY MORE THAN ALMOST ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD. THEY ALSO LOVE TO DANCE, ALTHOUGH I MUST SAY STEVE’S GANGHAM-STYLE MOVES STILL NEED A BIT OF WORK. AND THEY ALSO LOVE TO EAT RAW FISH.

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST *IMPORTANT* THING THEY SHARE IS A DEEP AND ABIDING LOVE FOR KELLY’S TWO PRECIOUS DAUGHTERS, PAYTON AND OLIVIA, WITH WHOM STEVE BONDED DEEPLY ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT THEY MET. THIS IS SO, SO *RARE*!

DO YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE MOST EMOTIONALLY DIFFICULT PERIODS A WOMAN EVER GOES THROUGH IN HER LIFE? IT’S WHEN SHE’S [NO.] YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN DIVORCED FOR [NO.] YEARS, HAS TWO KIDS WITH A FIVE-YEAR AGE SPAN BETWEEN ‘EM, AND IS LOOKING FOR A *HEALTHY* RELATIONSHIP WITH A GOOD MAN WHO’LL EMBRACE THE IDEA OF MARRYING NOT JUST A WIFE, BUT A WHOLE FAMILY [OR BETTER, IF YOU DON’T MIND THE IMPLIED PROFANITY: “WHOLE FAM-DAMILY”]. NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST BECOMING OF RESUMES. YET, STEVE [LAST NAME] TOOK THE CHANCE, AND THE FOUR OF ‘EM ARE NOW ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY. CALL IT ACCIDENT OR CALL IT FATE, IT’S BEEN A BLESSING FOR ALL CONCERNED!

[TO STEVE’S PARENTS, IF THEY’RE IN ATTENDANCE:] AND TO YOU, MR. AND MRS. [LAST NAME]: YOU COULDN’T POSSIBLY HAVE RAISED A MORE LOVING AND GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE SON AS STEVE. HE’S SO VERY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS PARENTS, AND YOU SHOULD BE VERY, VERY PROUD OF HIM.

AND FINALLY TO YOU, MY DEAR KELLY AND STEVE, I’D LIKE TO CLOSE MY LITTLE SPEECH WITH THIS TOAST, [TO THE AUDIENCE] IF YOU’LL ALL PLEASE JOIN ME. [RAISE A GLASS] *“TO KELLY AND STEVE: I PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS THIS MARRIAGE AND KEEP YOUR LOVE STRONG. MAY YOUR LOVE BE EVER INCREASED, AND MAY IT NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD MULTIPLY, AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN, YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE, AND YOUR SUSHI ALWAYS FRESH. MAY YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY ALWAYS AND REMEMBER HOW VERY MUCH YOU LOVED EACH OTHER RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT. AND FINALLY: MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. GOD BLESS THE TWO OF YOU!”*

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