**Gehrin Speech/Revised [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. I’m so terribly honored that she’s asked me to be her maid of honor.

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, IF YOU KNEW KELLY LIKE I KNOW KELLY, YOU’D THINK SHE’S PRETTY AMAZING, TOO. SHE PUT HERSELF THROUGH SCHOOL WHILE WORKING FULL TIME, AND GRADUATED WITH HER [RT?] DIPLOMA FROM [NAME OF SCHOOL] IN [YEAR]. THEN SHE LANDED A GREAT JOB AS AS A [TITLE] AT [COMPANY]. THEN SHE TOOK A [FIELD] TEACHING POSITION AT [NAME OF INSTITUTION], EVENTUALLY BECOMING SUPERVISOR. BY [YEAR] KELLY WAS SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF RT AT [NAME OF INSTITUTION] — AND ALL OF THIS WHILE RAISING HER TWO AMAZING DAUGHTERS, PAYTON AND OLIVIA [ALMOST ENTIRELY ON HER OWN(?)].

IT WASN’T TOO LONG AFTER THEY MET THAT KELLY KNEW SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH STEVE, AND VISA VERSA. THIS WAS ABOUT [NO.] YEARS AGO, AND I WELL REMEMBER THE EVENINGS OF AGONIZING: WILL HE CALL ME? . . . I THINK HE’LL CALL ME? . . . WHEN WILL HE CALL ME? . . . HE’S NOT GOING TO CALL ME! . . . HE CALLED ME!! AND THEN THERE’S STEVE TEXTING KELLY NOT A WEEK AGO YESTERDAY SAYING, *“SIX MORE DAYS TIL YOUR MINE!”*

DO YOU SEE WHY I THINK THERE’VE NEVER 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 NOT ONLY RESPECT, BUT ADMIRE EACH OTHER. 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*!

[TO STEVE’S MOTHER:] [HER NAME], YOU AND YOUR LATE HUSBAND, [FIRST NAME], 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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