**Speaker:** Henry Hall

**Speech Type:** Birthday

**Speech Preface:**

Hello henry, This speech will be pretty straight forward. Not too many notes in it for you. There will be some basic humor, which you can change if you would like, but should fit right in. It was a pleasure writing the speech for you and Fiona sounds like an amazing woman who really has done some great stuff, including overcoming what she did. Enjoy.

**Speech:**

First off, I just want to thank you all so very much for coming tonight and spending what would appear to be my wife’s 50th Birthday. **(Look at your wife)** Honey, for only 50 you look absolutely gorgeous.I mean, if we were to just glance at you I would think we were celebrating your 29th birthday. Now we all know my forte is not speaking in front of large groups, so I will keep this short and sweet. Before I go any further though, I want to thank Jillie and Rox for yet again making this place really shine. I don’t know how they do it, but they never cease to amaze with this kind of stuff. I can tell you that if it were up to me, some colored napkins and nice silverware would probably be as far as I got.

Fiona, luckily in your years you have had the great pleasure of making some pretty amazing friends, **(look out towards group)** thank you all again for being here. I think all of us can agree you are by far one of the most gentle, sensitive, loyal and kind person’s we all know. I mean, I know each of us have our own stories about why Fiona is such an amazing woman, but did you all know that she bought our gardener a cat because she saw how much the gardener liked ours. Now, I’m not sure if that’s proper etiquette or not, I think you’re just supposed to tip them with cash, not a living creature, but that’s beside the point. The point is she was doing something nice, and that’s the Fiona we all know. I honestly don't know if there are enough adjectives to describe my wife. She is constantly doing nice things for other people. Fiona is known for her adventurous spirit, from her times back home in Hawkes Bay to the ski resorts in France and beach resorts in Turkey, we know this woman knows how to have a good time. I think we can expect to have a pretty fun time tonight with a lot of laughs and maybe even a few tears of joy.

Now dear, I just want you to know that since I met you in ’98 and then married in 2000 I have had some of the most memorable times with you by my side, and I wouldn't have it any other way. From our long and exciting trips, like the one we just got back from to the small trips to the grocery store I know I am always in for a good time when you’re by my side. You know how to make me laugh, you know how to make me smile, and you definitely know how to make me love. I am sure that your parents, Denys and Sue and children Greta, George and Sophia would all agree with me when I say you are the reason we all smile throughout the day. You have a way about you that is so caring and helpful, yet funny and loud. I couldn't be happier with the woman I married. You have helped me in more ways than you know, and I couldn't be more thankful for what you have done for me in our years together.

Fiona, I know we have had our fair share of things to work through together, and I can’t even begin to tell you how proud of you I am for making the decisions you have made. Through everything that you have gone through, somehow you still find a way to make everyone else’s day a little bit brighter and I think that it was makes you so special. From working your way through rehab and turning that into a positive outcome. Going through what you have gone through, and yet still being strong enough to help others and get them going on the right path just shows the type of person you are.

I think what makes you the most special though is that you are mine, I cant wait to see where the next 50 years takes us and you better believe I will be right behind you each step of the way. You thought the last trip we just went on was a good one, well I’ll let you in on a little secret… it only gets better from here. The trips we will go on, the memories we will make will be our gift to ourselves. Fiona, I know you're a sucker for the holidays, Christmas is almost here so you better get ready to have even more fun.

Well, I think I have gone on for long enough, and I really would like to make this night about my better half. As much as I would like to keep going on about how amazing my wife is, I’m sure you all would like to start having a little more fun and have a piece of that amazing cake that Jillie and Rox so graciously got for us all. Thank you all again for spending tonight with our family, it really means so much to see all of you here sharing the memories that we have all made, and will continue to make in the future. Now, if you all wouldn't mind, I would like to introduce Fiona’s mother, whom by the way is an equally amazing woman, I can see where Fiona gets all of her great qualities from. Sue, the floor is yours.

Thanks.