1. There will be about 110 people at the wedding
2. Speech will be delivered to a group of adults. Family and friends
3. Event will be held in phoenix Arizona
4. I would like the speech to be funny, mostly heartwarming and story telling.
5. The bride will be my cousin Stephanie. Her mother and my dad are brother and sister. We have been very close as children and even closer after about the age 22 (she is 32 and I am 35 now). Her personality is fun loving, laid back, bubby, always seeing the brighter side of things.
6. Stephanie is my best friend, one of the most important people in my life. What always comes to mind was how hard her upbringing was. (Her mom died of cancer when she was 7 yrs old and was sent to live with her dad whom never really loved her, he died 2 years ago. She has one brother is prison and the other one doesn’t talk to her. She is all alone as far as immediate family.) I find it amazing that after she left home at 17yrs old and trying to make it on your own, with past struggles that someone could be so loving and absolutely funny. I find it pretty amazing. It’s hard for me to write this speech because I don’t want it to sound depressing but want to touch on how strong I think she is. I would be in a ditch somewhere if that were me. She always tells me that one day when she grows up she wants to be like me (I’m a doctor that owns a few medical practices) but the truth is I strive to have her outlook on life and finding the brighter side of things and just to be a better person in general.

My first memory of Stephanie is her walking on this 3-4 ft wall that I put her on, she was about 3-4 years old. We were playing in the front yard of our grandmas’ house in Globe and I wanted to help her walk across this wall. I was about 7 yrs old and got distracted and let go of her hand. She fell off the wall and got a huge gash in her forehead. We were both freaked out by all the blood. She still has the scar and blames me for it all the time, especially now that it is making her forehead wrinkle deeper. I went with my dad to the local drug store to buy some butterfly bandages. Looking back she really should have probably had 6-7 stitches. You have to be in a bad way on my dads side of the family to go to the hospital; apparently cracking your head open at a young age is not one of them.

Fast forward to when she moved to Phoenix from Las Vegas about 9 year ago we have been inseparable ever since. Over the past 9 years I have watched her grow into the beautiful person she is today, taking on new challenges and growing as an individual. I’m so proud of you.

I love our getaways together, just her and I. WE joke around that they are our romantic getaways. We go to wineries, eat at expensive restaurant and just party together over the weekend. We always take time out for one another if we are going thru a tough time or just need some girl time. She is truly a great friend and not just to me but I see her that way with all of her friends. On one of our recent trips to Sedona we were walking back to our room late in the day from the spa, in the dark, drunk and couldn’t find our room, we literally almost froze to death outside. Who gets drunk at the spa after a detoxification?…we do! Lucky a golf cart drove by and took us morons back to our room. Actually, looking back these types of scenarios occurred quite often.

I have too many favorite memories to share them all.

My advice is to Shane is to watch out for Stephanie paying her speeding tickets and getting suspended licenses. Some might not know stephie spent some time in las Vegas finest housing for this. About a year or two ago I got a call from her to pick her up that they were towing her car. AGAIN. So, I’m happy now that Shane will be fielding those calls. As we were leaving the officer she turned around and wished the officers a lovely day, and actually meant it. That’s just who she is, never wishing ill will on anyone. And Shane, don’t ever ever ever expect Steph to be on time, ever. But when she does show up she fills the room with smiles, so you can’t be too mad at her. And more importantly to love her as much as your heart can withstand.

I have to say Steph you picked a good one. I know Shane will adore you. Knowing him the past few years he has made it very obvious to the family how much he loves you. Especially after watching the video interview of him at your bridal shower, good job Kayla. Shane, there was not a dry eye in there as you spoke about your relationship with Stephanie. It was so beautiful. I think all the girls in the room wanted to marry you that day!

7) I want the audience to feel the joy and love I have for her. I want them to know how much I admire her strength and perseverance.