First off, I want to thank everyone for coming today and making this beautiful wedding possible. I can’t imagine a more perfect day. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Shannon and I’m the older sister of the bride and the maid of honor.

I was so excited when Kaitlyn asked me to be the maid of honor. I’m grateful that we are as close as we are today. Because like most siblings, we didn’t always see eye to eye growing up.

We had a lot in common, but were also very different. Kaitlyn was always the hopeless romantic. I can’t even remember how many times I was forced to sit through The Notebook. I was always the skeptic, and she was the one who believed in fairytales and true love. Being the older sister, I figured that I knew it all.

Then Kaitlyn met Ryan, and I realized, for the first time ever, that I was wrong. From the first day that they met, I could tell that she had found her fairytale.

Kaitlyn and Ryan and complement each other perfectly. He takes her out of her comfort zone, and she has become so much stronger and braver with him. He makes her happier than I’ve ever seen her. And it’s obvious to see how much he loves her too. I no longer have to worry about protecting my little sister, because I know that he will. I have no doubt that they will have an amazing and fulfilled life together.

When I was working on my speech, most websites suggested that I end with a quote. I literally spent about three hours Googling the perfect love quote. I wanted one that didn’t sound too cheesy, which was pretty hard to find! But here it goes: Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning, and all fear of an end.

Kaitlyn and Ryan, I’m so happy that we’re all here with you today to celebrate the beginning of your journey as husband and wife. I love you guys, congratulations!

For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Shannon and I’m the sister of the bride and the maid of honor.

When I first met Ryan, I wasn’t sure if he could handle Kaitlyn. I’m not going to lie to you, we got into some pretty crazy adventures as kids. For legal reasons, I can’t go into too much detail, but let’s just say

We didn’t always buckle the seatbelts in our Barbie dream cars

At our local pool, sometimes we’d even walk all the way to the edge of the diving board, before turning around and climbing back down

There were even a few times at the mall where we’d walk around on our own, without even having to hold our mom’s hand.

I’m just surprised we’re not in jail to this day, and I hope Ryan knows what he’s getting himself into!

But seriously, I’m so excited to welcome Ryan into the family, he really is perfect for Kaitlyn.

Love doesn’t make the world go ‘round, love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

And marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other person is the husband.

To Kaitlyn and Ryan!