A Maid of Honor Speech

by me (not a maiden)

Jelena's Maid of Honor Speech

[Greet the crowd]

I feel like I'm here today to do two jobs… well three if you count owning the yard you're all standing in. I'm here to be Nina's maid of honor, but for me at least, it feels like much more than that. Nina's family couldn't be here today, for obvious reasons, but even if they were, I think I'd feel the same way I feel now. Nina is our family… I guess that's what everyone says at weddings right? "We're family"… But what is a family really? "People who love you?" Yeah. That's an important part. But more importantly, I think your family are the people who can see the best in you, even when you're at your lowest. They remember who you are, and stay loving you.

Which I guess means Nina is everyone's family. Everyone she meets, she sees the very best in them. Sometimes more than they can see themselves. I've known Nina for seven years. She came to live in our home as a nanny, to help us raise our children, but she became apart of our family. Like a sister to me, and sometimes like a daughter to my husband, [insert husband's name]. And a second mother to my children. My own son called her "mommy". Which I was happy to share with her, because I knew he really meant it, and she had truly earned it. Once when I took my sister to the airport so she could fly back to Serbia, we got into a huge fight just before she was about to get on the plane. Nina forced us to make up, she literally pulled us through the airport back to each other and made us say we were sorry. That's who Nina is. She brings out the best in people… sometimes by force.

Now, sometimes Nina can be a bit too trusting, and maybe too willing to see the good in people, even though it might not actually be there. It's one of the things we fight about. And for someone who's so willing to believe in the best in people, she scares really easily, like the time she thought my son was a raccoon hiding under our stairs. [Pause] But there were times I worried about Nina, I worried about people taking advantage of her. But from watching her over the years, I've come to believe, more than ever, that believing in others, and believing in goodness is rewarded. Maybe not right away, and maybe only after a few tough lessons, but eventually you are rewarded, and that's a lesson she helped teach me.

I just want to wish Zach and Nina the best of luck in their new life together. No one person is perfect, and marriage is a collaboration. I know you'll both help each other grow together and become the best versions of yourselves. We're so proud and happy for both of you. And I also just want to say… congratulations.