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Good morning everyone. Thank you all for coming to this celebration of the life of my Helenie, Helene Golden. We all have endearing memories of the time we spent with Helene. Because that's who she was and that's what she did. She endeared herself to everyone.

I'm standing here because I think there may be a few things in my 28 years of being married to Helene that you would find interesting. For one thing, what made those 28 years so special. Well there's a one word answer to that question and that answer is Helene. Everybody she came in contact with was better for it. And I was blessed with 28 years of better for it. So if you think about it we had a relationship that couldn't fail unless I messed it up. So my role was simple. Don't mess it up

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Helene celebrated her 90th birthday last Halloween. So I've only known her for the last third of her life. But 28 years is a pretty long time and you pick up a few things. We all know the most obvious ones; She was smart and she was beautiful but she seldom played the smart card. She was happy to provide help and support to whoever she worked with. That was very helpful to me because I was the kid that got Ds in "Works and plays well with others".

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And Helene and I worked and played very well together. We wrote books together and packaged them and loaded them in my pickup truck and delivered them. You probably didn't know that Helene was a truck person, but she was. I had a Toyota long-bed pickup truck and she loved it. And furthermore, that truck didn't have air conditioning. So I knew I was blessed with a really special gal here. We played make believe that we were Franchesca and Robert in Bridges of Madison County.

And we loved to read to each other. We would pass the book back and forth critiquing the writer. Helene was a really good editor too. She was a stickler for proper grammar and had no tolerance for bad spelling.

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And then there were the cruising years. From 2001 to Covid Helene Hosted travel groups on snazzy cruise ships and I got to go along for the ride. Those cruises gave her the opportunity to really strut her stuff and she was magnificent. She was a schmoozer. She made each guest feel great and welcome and valued. And she did the same for me. She was my muse and confidant.

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She picked me up when I was down. What I did well she got me to do better. How do you find somebody who can do those kinds of things? I don't think there's much point in looking. Finding a Helene is pretty much a gift from G_d and throughout those 28 years, I thanked G_d for my Helenie every single day.