End Stage 5 English student work sample – Grade B

**My Best Friend? Getting Married? No Way!**

It may seem that this 1997 hit romantic comedy is just another fluffed up fairytale repackaged with some big names, but it is quite the contrary. My Best Friend’s Wedding is packed with witty charm and elegance, without the clichéd, mushy fairytale.

Julianne Potter (Julia Roberts), a New York food critic, receives a call from her former boyfriend and now long-time best friend Michael O’Neal ( Dermott Mulroney). Rebellious, outright redhead Julianne believes he’s called to collect his glittering prize: her hand in marriage. The pair made a deal to walk the aisle together if neither of them had done so already by the ripe age of 28. With Julianne’s 28th birthday just around the corner, she eagerly awaits his proposal, only to be stumped by an invitation to his wedding in 4 days time. She realises that this down to earth sports journalist is the man of her dreams, and dashes off to Chicago to break up his relationship with fiancé Kimmy Wallace (Cameron Diaz) and claim what is rightfully hers. George Downes (Rupert Everett), Julianne’s gay editor, acts as her conscience and advisory.

Kimmy is portrayed as bubbly, lovely, sweet and perfect. Diaz perfectly capturing her character with her dazzling talents. Julianne, on the other hand, is depicted blandly, like a shot of bitter medicine forced down the throat, and is a waste of Roberts’ talents. Everett gives us a smashing performance, fresh and full of life. Mulroney delivers an average performance, lacking flair.

Julianne’s antics to split the pair fail and backfire, much to our amusement. The movie is intelligently built with edge, rather than swirls of sentimentality, making it one of the very few romances that are easily swallowed. It is one twisted romance: never is there a predictable moment; or a slugfest of pace, instead it exemplifies romance in a new light. There is room for better sets and brighter lighting, but overall, a fresh invigorating romance guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

**Grade Commentary**

Kim has demonstrated a high level of competence in composing a film review. The response is well structured, and opinions have been confidently and fluently expressed. Kim has covered the film’s narrative and characters in some detail but would benefit from greater depth of analysis in other areas.

Kim’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade B standard at the end of Stage 5.