WEDDING SPEECH FOR

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Hello everyone!! It is so wonderful to see all of you here, celebrating this beautiful moment with Julia and James. Although I am not naturally comfortable with speaking in public, I am so happy to see my daughter so radiant …no pun intended... and so full of joy that I want to express my feelings to all of you…. and if I have any problems or feel like I might faint, heaven knows, there are plenty of doctors present right here to revive me…if needed!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). (**If you want to continue with a little humor, you can say**) Come to think of it, no matter what might happen to me, I’d be in good hands…. if I need my vitals checked, we’ve got a family practice doctor…what if I fall and hurt my foot? We **know** there’s a podiatrist present! I don’t think fainting would necessitate a liver transplant but hey…we’re covered there too!! If I am confused or if I question my stability and why I fainted and fell…there’s a psychiatrist, we have a physicist present who could probably analyze the velocity with which I hit the ground, but if I have to sue the restaurant, just tell me…do we have any lawyers here tonight??? (**Wait for the laugh**)

Tonight is about love, celebration and **second chances**. It also teaches us a beautiful lesson, and that is, what is meant to be **is meant to be**. I have always been a proud mother. Julia is a wonderful daughter and although we have all had our challenges in life, Julia grew up and blossomed into the beautiful, capable, smart and compassionate woman that we all know and love. (**Turn to Julia and say)** Julia, sometimes I don’t express myself as much as I would like to. You know that as doctors, we are dedicated to more concentrated and cerebral pursuits. We devote our lives to study and research and probably a more isolated existence-most of the time, but today is my opportunity to really celebrate your happiness, let you know how much I love you, and, for lack of a better word, **KVELL** as a proud mother. For those of you who may not know, the word **KVELL** is an obscure Hippocratic term for “Burst my buttons with love and pride!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Julia, I have been there, as your mother, for every step and milestone that has happened in your life. I nurtured you as a baby and as a child, I tried to guide you as a young girl, and I remember when you first met James. We may not have known how life was going to evolve back then, but clearly someone has a master plan. The two of you met and dated in college, broke up, met and married other people; each had your own families and separate lives, but what is meant to be **is meant to be**. There is an expression-and I think one that serves the wonderful interfaith tapestry present tonight, and that is, “We make plans and G-d laughs.” We now know that in some cases, like yours, that is a good thing. I’d now like to think of revising that quote. I think we can now say “We make plans, G-d laughs and then pats himself on the back!!” (**Wait for the laugh**)

As I said, life is about second chances and finding the right mix, or recipe for happiness and fulfillment. As doctors, we clearly are dedicated to the concept of second chances. Whether through a liver transplant or a foot operation, successful radiation treatment or astute diagnostic skills at the family practice level, we have all devoted our lives to the quality of others’ lives. Julia and James, you have really earned this second chance at love, happiness and mutual commitment. A happy life is all about the mix or recipe. James, you may prefer r**avioli** and Julia, you may savor **pirogi**, but one thing is for sure, and that is together, you have the ingredients for lifetimes of happiness. With your combined brood of Max, Niki, Francesca and Juliana…and the bundle of joy on the way… and your mutual love of and respect for one another, you already have all that is needed to go into the future together as a happy, loving and caring family. Julia, I want you to realize that as your mother, I have an instinct to watch over you and as a doctor; I am trained to look for signs and signals to see how someone is doing. When I observe the two of you and the children together, all I can feel is pride and joy that you have found your place in life with James. The two of you are truly interested in what each other does and says, and the way you love your children is really an inspiration that reveals so much about the two of you and what truly good souls the both of you are.

Julia, I know that your father is also very proud of you and he is so happy for you and James. I also know he’d probably be just about as nervous to get up here and say a few words, so I would like to invite him up here to propose a toast to the two of you. (**Wait for the laugh**).

(**Ask Julia’s father to join you**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, please join me up here….

(**Julia’s father says**) Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to my wonderful daughter and her husband:

To Julia and James, seeing how great the two of you are together makes me realize that love, respect and happiness really are the best medicine for the heart, soul and spirit. May the two of you only know contentment, good health, respect and love for each other and your beautiful family for 120 years! Amen!! We love you!!

Congratulations and thank you all for sharing our joy!

(**If Julia’s father does not want to get up and speak, then you can propose the toast instead**).