BAR MITZVAH SPEECH

FOR

DANA MUTKOSKI

Hello everyone!!! Thank you all for being here with us tonight at the event of the year. Or at least **we** think so!! I know everyone is anxious to get this party started, **…. especially ME!! ,”** **but as Matthew’s very proud mother-Matthew, you’ll always be my “baby”**. …Please stop rolling your eyes, Matthew**…. I’d like to say a few words…** We all know that a Bar Mitzvah is a significant part of Jewish heritage and signals a coming of age. We also know that with tradition comes modern ways of honoring traditions, so this may not be a typical celebration, but then again, we all know that Matthew is not your standard run-of-the-mill teenager, and we wouldn’t have it any other way. I wanted to take a few moments to express my feelings to my first-born son on this very special occasion….

Matthew…We should have known… All the clues were there, even before you were born. Did I shop too much during my first pregnancy? (**You can mumble under your breath, “Well….maybe…”**) Did Daddy and I indulge in the good life a little too much while I was carrying you? Did we seem at all impatient during those crucial months 13 years ago? Because let me tell you, once again, based on what we’ve been gifted with, namely **YOU**, our “high maintenance child,” we must have done **SOMETHING** to have created someone so special as you!!! Based on your skills and preferences, we had to have **really** been living it up while you were waiting to make your entrance!!

Since before you were born, you demonstrated a very special 6th sense-**IMPATIENCE**. …But it’s a good, endearing impatience!! We should have known, when you arrived three weeks early, that we were about to set out on the family adventure of a lifetime, and believe me, you haven’t disappointed any of us!! Your impatience is actually inspiring-it allows you to demonstrate your eagerness and your passion to discover, explore, possess, and it shows us how much you love life **and how you really appreciate all that Daddy and I have done our best to give you.**

I have to say, I love observing you and learning from you-yes, I do learn from you as you emerge with your own definite and very cool style. You’re transforming into a wonderful young man filled with curiosity about the world around you. Your father and I are inspired by your gifts of appreciation ….for the **finer** things in life, and we pray that somehow, some way, we’ll be able to afford to keep you…. just kidding!!! We love your kindness…. We love how you are a genuine and good soul, and your mind …you are definitely an independent thinker and you’re showing us what a young leader looks and acts like. We watch **with pride** at how you love your sports and whether it’s ice hockey, lacrosse, baseball-whatever-you play with **such energy and commitment that it’s a joy to watch you have so much fun**, and well, I could go on and on-**I’m sure since you all know Matthew, you get the picture**. Always remember, even though we tease you about being so high maintenance, we also know that you are caring and giving and would do anything for someone who needs you, and that is a very special gift.

I’d like to propose a toast. Here’s to you, Matthew. May you have a happy, happy birthday and may this celebration tonight show you how much you are loved, by your brother Dylan and your sister Sienna, by your grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins, by all of your camp friends and home friends and sports friends. May your life always be as exciting as a brand new pair of Airdunks (**This was the hot sneaker last week-hope it’s still hot in November!! If not, use the name of the new hot sneaker**). May you always get what you want when you want it (as long as it doesn’t drive your father and me crazy), may you continue to be the kind, caring, giving soul that you have shown us you are, and may you some day be able to have the best job in the world so that you can support yourself in the lifestyle you were born to live!! We love you very much and wish you health, happiness, wisdom, love and prosperity, and more than you could ever want for your entire life!! Mazel Tov!!