MOTHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

FOR

TAMI CHRISTOFF

Hello everyone!!! I want to welcome all of you here to this very special occasion in our family. Berit and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are married and although I know that given the same wonderful situation and blessing, every mother must feel and say similar things, I want all of you to know that I am overcome with love, pride and emotion at how beautiful Berit is, how handsome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is, and how happy they both are to be together, in love, and celebrating their future as Mister and Mrs. I’d like to congratulate (**Acknowledge the groom’s family**) the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s and welcome (**Groom’s mother and father and any siblings if appropriate**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This beautiful and rustic setting is the perfect place to celebrate our joy. Being surrounded by nature reminds us of just how awesome life is, and as we celebrate this marriage, we realize that this ancient ritual of joining husband and wife together belongs out here, in the open, literally in **God’s** country.

So much has been said and written about the joy of having a daughter and I have been blessed enough in this world to have two!! Our “Dynamic Trio” consists of Berit, her sister Keeley, and of course, me, **MOM**. This has proven to be a winning combination throughout the years and believe me, time has tested us and I can tell you about **some** of the adventures we’ve been through together. For those of you that have known Berit or Keeley or me for a while, you know that the saying, “Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing,” goes for us…and believe me, it wasn’t **nothing**! We’ve had our share of challenges throughout the years but the bottom line that I want all of you to know is …. Just look at my gorgeous, wonderful daughters!! That tells you everything!! I once heard an old Danish proverb that said, “A rich child often sits in a poor mother’s lap.” Well, I have to say, thanks to some circumstances we faced in life, we had that one covered!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I guess that’s why my girls are so rich in so many wonderful ways today. We may have been handed some lemons, but look at us! We found the way to laugh and love each other and make an adventure out of even the trickiest of situations. We feasted on the lemonade we learned to make together and our fun with and admiration for each other grew. Of course it helped that Berit is outgoing and witty, beautiful and smart, yet she knows how to play her hand and doesn’t tend to reveal what may be bothering her-which could come in handy during emergencies… (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) (**Groom**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, my suggestion to you would be…. don’t play poker with her!! (**Wait for the laugh**) She may not always reveal how she feels, but then there are **those** times…. I can remember back in the day, when our furnace was preparing to die. Each morning we would get up and try to get it to kick in, and as we waited and watched we thought, “Will it??? Won’t it??? And the joy we felt as the darn thing turned over and we did the “furnace dance.” Come to think of it, were we relieved, or were we cold or were we just so happy to have each other? That dance was truly a celebration of our family and our love and respect for each other. Like the Three Musketeers, “All for one and one for all!” It didn’t matter if there was or wasn’t a male presence at those times-we learned from each other, loved each other, and laughed with each other. I taught them how to **TP** houses … don’t tell!! I drove the getaway car when we were in danger near speed traps… better not say anything more about **THAT** one!! And the special moments go on and on and on…let’s just say I am very grateful for our very special family. It may have seemed that we lacked resources, but like the proverb says, I could not have asked for a more rich and precious gift than my daughters.

And now that “Dynamic Trio” has become the “Fantastic Four!!” I want to welcome (**Groom**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to our family. (**Turn to the groom and say**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, remember what I said…. this is a package deal!!! You’re not just marrying Berit; you’re getting the whole team-including Boonie!!! We can’t wait for you to help with the furnace!!! And the plumbing!!! And the yard work!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, you’re a breath of fresh air and a welcomed addition to our family…just don’t forget to laugh!!

So here’s to Berit and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. As you go off together in life, the stories of your adventures and the memories you’ll make and share will go a long way to warm my heart and keep me company. With God watching over you and a strong and healthy mutual respect and a sense of humor, I know you two will live a rich, happy and healthy life together. May you have everything you wish for in life and don’t forget some treats for Boonie!! I love you both!!!