BIRTHDAY SPEECH

FOR

TOMASITA BACA

Hi everyone and welcome to Perry’s Fiftieth Birthday Blast!!! What a night!!! … And what a treat it is to see so many of you here in one room… or I should say one **HOTEL** to celebrate a person who is so special to all of us. (**As an aside you can say**) I apologize if it seems that I might be speaking a little loud. It’s because I’m just trying to encourage our birthday boy to stay awake!! (**Turn to Perry, wave and coyly say…. “Hi Honey!”)** (**Wait for the laugh**) Don’t worry, I won’t spend the entire night ribbing you… maybe just a few minutes more…. just remember **who’s the boss**…. Anyhooooo, you all look great and the energy filling this room is fabulous!!! Perry, you’ve been a great friend to many, wonderful father to two of **MY** favorite people in this world, an incredible husband; you’re **passionate** about so many things in life, from your work to your kids, your pals to paddle surfing, your family to … oh heck…. I gotta say it again… **rest hour**…. (**Wait for the laugh**). We love you for the way you grab life by the **CASHEWS** (**I just made that up as a euphemism for balls-trying to keep it somewhat clean-do you think it will work? BRAZIL NUTS? MACADAMIAS?)** and we love you for loving life and all of its challenges and thrills.

Of course several of you … well maybe more than **SEVERAL** … I’m talking to YOU, Pdiddy, John T, Britt, and probably Mark, Dave, Stephen, Brian and all of you….. go back far enough to the days when you were… how shall I put this… a **RAGING FREAKING MANIAC**… I don’t want to give anything away, but I have heard that some of those guys know where the bodies are buried… if ya know what I mean…. **Good Times!!** … And here you are hitting the ripe old age of **FIFTY**, making that space in your wallet for your shiny new **AARP** membership card…. (**As an aside you can say**)… I know… I was too young to know what it meant when I first heard about it… Yes-Perry was a real cradle robber (**Wait for the laugh**). And you know what’s really funny, and at the same time really great??? You probably thought you were the **SH!T** (**or mumble this**) back then, but honestly, you’re **BETTER THAN EVER** now!!! Between being an avid exerciser, an extra healthy eater, and … who would ever have guessed… an **EARLY BIRD**, you are showing us that 50 **really is** the **new 65**!!! (**Wait for the laugh… but if you think that’s mean, you can also say, the new 40-I think it would work either way).** Of course you’ve also become an incredible homebody, and that’s really great, but honey, every once in a while, do you think you can… **GO THE HELL OUTSIDE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR?!?!?!** (**Wait for the laugh**)…Jeeez…Love ya… mean it…. But sometimes you drive me nuts!!!

BUT…. if you **DO** decide to go outside, do me a favor… watch the driving!!! Did I hear a few giggles out there??? What’s the matter… we don’t like to hear the words **PERRY** and **DRIVING** in the same sentence?? **Not surprised**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). No judgments about the way you drive but… show of hands… how many people in this room would get into a car with Perry behind the wheel??? (**Hopefully no one raises a hand**) **AHA!!!** Just as I thought!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I’m not really saying you’re motion challenged, but let’s face it, it was really sweet of you to buy Stella that bike… but who taught her how to ride???? (**Smugly and slowly raise your hand and wait for the laugh**)

Perry, I suppose your raging party boy ways have matured into forming the Perry we all know so well and love so much. Now you make **life**, or at least dressing or it, an extreme sport. When you love something, you go all out… and as the old Jordache commercials once sang…. “You’ve got the look we want to know **bettttt-ter**…” You love skiing? You have 20 pairs of skis. Having a blast paddle boarding? How do you figure out which of the zillion paddleboards to use? I swear I think you choose them to go with your outfits… and speaking of…. does any human **REALLY** need a hundred pairs of tennis shoes? Do you even **PLAY** tennis? Perhaps in your **dreams**… uh oh… there I go again!! Perry even though you’ve proven that you love having things in multiples… let’s get one thing **VERY** clear…. **ONE LIFE…. ONE WIFE!!! (Wait for the laugh**)

Honey, I know I might have been a little rough on you with some of these zingers, but you know, and I know, that you are my best friend and the love of my life. I am so proud of you for all that you’ve done and all that you will do. You’ve accomplished so much in this short wild ride for the first half of your life. I know that when you were younger, it must have been really tough to make it in this world without the love and guidance of your mom, Stella and your dad, Bert, but look at you!!! What a guy!! I know they’re looking down on you and **KVELLING** (**that’s Yiddish for bursting with pride**) I’m sure your great relationship with Donna, Roy, and Jeff, your brother from another, Dave, and of course your wonderful, generous and loving, Norby, who was there when you needed a male role model, all contributed to the great Perry we know and love today. And I know two people that probably are **CERTAIN** that you are the greatest human being on earth. Of course I’m referring to our beautiful Stella and our wonderful, spunky, adorable, Ben, and I know they would like to say a few words too:

* Stella: “Daddy I love you very much even if you can’t ride a bicycle. I also love you because you’re such a great daddy and you make a lot of money…. (**Make like you’re pushing her away, and say, ”Where’d she learn THAT?” and wait for the laugh**)
* Ben: “Daddy, I put my hand in my pants just like you. **NOW** what do I do? (**Then nudge him aside and wait for the laugh**)

Perry, you have a heart of gold… even for the Jets, those poor losers…. and I wouldn’t trade you for all of the sneakers in the Adidas factory (**or name his favorite brand**). I love you and our life and I wish for you a hundred times more than anything you might wish for yourself. As ole blue eyes sang many moons ago:

“That's life

That's what all the people say

You're riding high in April, shot down in May

But I know I'm gonna change that tune

When I'm back on top, back on top in June”

May you keep getting back on top “wink wink”.. And don’t wait til June!!! (**Is this too racy?)** and may you have one hundred and twenty more happy, healthy, love filled birthdays! Mazel tov! I love you!