MOTHER OF THE GROOM SPEECH

FOR

ROCHELLE EKER

Hello everyone!!! Welcome to this truly joyous moment in the Eker family!!! This setting is spectacular, you all look gorgeous, and I can’t imagine any place I would rather be than right here, right now, celebrating the marriage of my wonderful son, Jesse and his beautiful bride Jenn. I just have one nagging question that begs to be answered at least several times a day…. How did I get so lucky to be blessed with such a gift of a son?? I mean, really…. He’s smart, funny, caring, resourceful and compassionate beyond words…. and don’t tell me he only takes after his father!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

There’s an old maxim that teaches us, give me the child when he is seven years old and I will show you the man.” Actually, with Jesse, his integrity and character appeared much earlier than that. I remember way back in pre-school, there was a young child that was in his class. He didn’t speak a word of English and when the other kids left him out of activities, Jesse befriended the little boy with the exotic name and the ache to fit in. I remember that one day, as I went to get Jesse after school, he introduced me to his new best friend, Todashi. Later that week, Todashi’s mother met me after school with tears in her eyes and thanked me for raising such a kind, loving, and caring boy who accepted her son as a friend just when he needed it most.

As he grew up, Jesse had big shoes to fill but instead of complaining, he found the opportunity in every situation. Because his dad traveled so much for business, Jesse naturally became the de facto “man of the house.” He has always been intuitive and smart and his professional success and personal accomplishments show that he learned his lessons well. He was an observer and implementer even at a young age, and to paraphrase something Mae West might have said, “You can’t keep a good **entrepreneur** down…. at any age!!” (**Wait for the laugh**) I have to disagree with those who might say, “Having a son is not all pleasure.” Granted, childbirth was no picnic… (**Wait for the laugh**) but every day since he has been on this earth has been fascinating. From watching him take his first steps to hearing his first words…. which by the way, he’s turned into an admirable and enviable career (!!) … to witnessing him make his choices and develop his passions in life, I cannot imagine anyone that might better represent the standards and ideals we taught our kids from the earliest age. I once read about a celebrity who said this about being a mother… “The only man who as stolen my heart is my son.” (**Turn to Jesse and say**) Jesse, you may have stolen my heart, but the miracle of life is that **that** particular act of “theft” actually served for my heart to expand and grow and taught me to understand so much more about life-from your unique and enthusiastic perspective.

We’ve watched you over the years learn and grow and develop into the handsome, engaged, interested and **really interesting** person we see here today. And speaking of engaged, I have to ask again…. “**How did I get so lucky**?!?!” A mother may secretly wonder and fret about what kind of a girl her son might choose for his wife. The wondering flew out the door when we met Jenn! From the beginning of your relationship, I don’t think I exaggerate when I say that witnessing how well the two of you work together, and are willing to make your relationship work, fills me with admiration for both of you. Your partnership is an inspiration…. and this is just the beginning!!! We’re all so excited to be a part of this newly extended family. Jenn, I am proud to call you my daughter!!! (**Please acknowledge the bride’s family**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, congratulations and thank you for raising a young woman that clearly loves and respects my son so much. Married life is not always a walk in the park, but I know that these two will continue to inspire all of us with their commitment to each other and the beautiful family that has been united today.

To Jenn and Jesse, we wish you only the best of health, happiness, partnership and love. Congratulations! **(Do you want to say Mazel Tov??)**