BAS MITZVAH SPEECH

FOR

LAURIE HIRSCH

Hello everyone!!! It’s so great to see all of you here today to celebrate this very important occasion. We’re thrilled to share our joy with all of **you**, our friends, family, and Alexa’s friends…I want to welcome all of you to the moment we’ve all been waiting for…. and kind of dreading…Alexa’s Bas Mitzvah!! Of course I’m joking about the second part… sort of. I am so proud of Alexa and so honored to be her mother, but let’s face it, (**Turn to Alexa and say as a little joke**) and Alexa…. easy on rolling your eyes-in the olden days, grandmas and great-grandmas would have said your face might freeze in that position… but you’ll always be my little baby… even when you’re older and even more fabulous and have conquered the world!! You conquered my world the second you were born, and I have thanked my lucky stars for you every day since. I may not tell you all of the time just how I feel about you, but I’ll say it now… in front of all our friends and family and in the presence of G-d (**Say this if you want**) **and the caterers**…you really do mean the world to me…(**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) … and not just when you’re all dressed up, looking gorgeous, and doing a fantastic job reading your portion of the Haftorah!! By the way… excellent job!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

In all seriousness though, you are my inspiration. You’re only thirteen and I already have so many precious thoughts and memories stored in my heart. I just cannot imagine my life without the joy you bring to it. You may be strong willed, but your curiosity about life and your determination mean that you are more special than you can imagine. Sometimes you show us wisdom beyond your years and whether you realize it or not, my closest friends like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ really and truly love hanging out with you….you’re **THAT** special.

When I think of you, all I can do is smile… my heart bursts with love and pride for you-who you are, how you’ve grown, and the woman you soon will be. You’ve done an amazing job in school and now that you’re in middle school, we all can see you showing the potential to really make a difference in this world. I’ve heard the expression that some people that are unique are “born with the loaf of bread under their arm,” meaning there are a special few who are destined for greatness. We know you’re one of them. (**If you want to make a joke you can say)**…. but no pressure!!! Tonight is about celebrating… you can conquer the world next week or during your summer vacation! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Now that you’ve achieved your goals and made your Bas Mitzvah, it’s time to set your sights on the next adventures you choose to conquer. Never give up… believe in yourself and do your best. That’s all anyone asks of you. I want you to know that we believe in you and I am confident that you can do whatever you put your mind to… and I will always be right by your side…or behind the scenes…. or at the other end of the phone-wherever you want me to be. I believe in you more than you will ever know and I know that you will make us all very, very proud. You already have!! We love you very much… thank you all for sharing this very special day with us.