**FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**BARRY LEVY**

Hello everyone and thanks for being here to share this really joyous occasion with us. Weddings are always special, emotional, and exciting times, and when I think of all of the time, effort, travel and stress invested in making this ... hopefully... the most wonderful, special, and unforgettable day of my beautiful daughter's life, it takes me back and ignites so many different trains of thought.....all leading back to one massive conundrum...."Why wasn't I a travel agent and where have they all gone???? **(Say this with a broad gesture and wait for the laugh)**. All jokes aside, there are people from so many parts of the country here with us to celebrate. We know what an effort it is to travel these days. Two ounces of this and only one bag of that....delays, complications... hidden fees and vanishing leg room, so we want you to know that we **REALLY** appreciate you making it here in time to be with all of us..... Yes, I'm talking to **YOU**, Alyssa and Matt!!! **(Wait for the laugh**). Really though, we're all so happy for the both of you, for the way your joy inspires us, for your future together, the lives you share..... And the real triumph.... Your luggage made it here too!!! Let's face it... You're a modern, vital, globe trotting couple, always on the run, always finding the next great opportunity to add to the excitement of your lives. On behalf of Rabbi\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(name the officiant)**, we want to express our gratitude for having you both here in the same venue, at the same time, for at least a few hours!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

The Russian novelist, Fyodor Dostoyevsky once said, "We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken." I think we can guess that is what happened when Alyssa met Matt. First of all, who besides Jack Tripper, the lead in that 70's sitcom "Three's Company," would have thought to have platonic roommates of the opposite sex? Well, Alyssa, you've always been a quick thinker with the ability and vision to plan well into the future....maybe this is why you're "chronically early" so often? (**if she doesn't tend to be super punctual, maybe you can change to "efficient")** **(Wait for the laugh**)... But I digress...however, I don't even think YOU could have predicted or prepared for the ultimate outcome when you wound up face to face with that mysterious and devilishly handsome friend of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s. **(If you want you can say this**) Some may call it an amazing coincidence. Some may say it was a "meet cute." .... Do people even SAY that anymore? but back in your grandparents' day it would have been called "bashert." For those of you that don't know, that's a Yiddish word that means "destiny." Every day we all walk our paths in life and on rare, beautiful, unexpected occasions, those paths cross to link our destiny and seal our fate. And we as your family and friends who love you want you to know how happy we are that you found your bashert. **(If you want you can say**) Of course we're also really, REALLY happy that Matt ~~took his sweet time~~.... I mean really thought this one through.... For FIVE years, mind you, to be certain the two of you would be there for each other to build that life you both dreamed of.

Albert Schweitzer taught us, "in everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out....it is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being." Of course from what I read about life in LA, that might also mean that the other person might have been cooking up some "funny stuff."...... I've seen some clips of "Breaking Bad..." We get cable in Baltimore!!! **(Wait for the laugh**). But what I want the both of you to know is that it's clear your mutual chemistry keeps the love and light alive in the both of you, no matter where circumstances may find you. Everyone in this room is elated for your happiness and I know I speak for all of us, most importantly as your father, when I say that you are wonderful couple who have been blessed to find each other. Matt, I want to welcome you and your family to our family and we look forward to many wonderful times with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s and Levy's.

Without getting too "cinematic" on either of you, I will resist the urge to quote from "Father of the Bride" .... Of course the Spencer Tracey version.... Or "Fiddler on the Roof" .... Or "Goodbye Columbus," all of which touched on wedding themes. Instead I will just say Mazel Tov, we love you, and may you both live and be well in love, humor, prosperity and mutual respect for 120 years. Amen!! L'Chaim! Thank you all!