WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

ALINA SALVATORE

Hello everyone!! Today is such a special day for our family and I know I speak for all of us when I say that we are so happy to be with all of you on this occasion. There is a verse in a popular song that goes, “Some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this….” and I know there is more than a ring of truth to that line. True love is rare and to have the blessing to find it in one’s lifetime is a real gift. To our beautiful bride Farzana I know how special your relationship is with Fridoon and I am thrilled to have you as my sister. I am also so happy for Fridoon that he found someone like you.

Farzana, we can chat all about this wedding later and for many tomorrows, but today as Fridoon begins the next chapter in life with you at his side, I want to take a few minutes to speak to him… and to all of you so that my feelings for and admiration of this wonderful man is clear to everyone. Although Fridoon and I have been close for our whole lives…. yes-close enough for him to have those faint little “beauty marks” on his face…. alright, alright… I admit it; I really **DID** try to scratch his eyes out once when we were kids and only got the cheek… I **SAID** I was sorry!!! (**Say that with a little bit of a bratty attitude and wait for the laugh**), we have grown up to become the closest of siblings and I am so proud to call him my brother. And Fridoon…. you still remind me about that scratch from time to time… Why don’t you just tell people you got it wrestling with an exotic animal…. not that far from the truth…. Right? (**Wait for the laugh**). You were and are a great big brother. When we came over from Afghanistan you were 9 and I was only about 6. It was strange to come here and not really know anyone at first but I had you, my big brother. We may have fought and Mom and Dad may have threatened …more than once, to throw us out of the car to the side of the road on those “memorable” road trips, but somehow through it all we realized that blood really is thicker than water and love is deeper than blood. You’ve always had my back. As kids you helped me with my homework, encouraged me to play sports, and always inspired me by reminding me to reach for the stars. As we got older you were still there and when I really needed you, you proved time and again how devoted you were and are to our family and my kids. I will never forget how you cared for the kids and me during my tough times… your level of attention and generosity was demonstrated when you stayed with us to fix the townhouse when we moved in. That was really life saving on so many levels. Your intelligence, your sensitivity, your determination and your talents amaze me and I sometimes pinch myself and wonder, “How did I get so lucky to have this wonderful brother?” I really don’t know but I am sure happy I did and you deserve every happiness in the world!

To our parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I am also so happy for both of you today. Fridoon and I know how much you’ve sacrificed and risked to make sure we grew up here. Now that we are both older, Fridoon and I can really appreciate all that you did… from working two jobs to threatening, but never actually **THROWING** us out of the car during our fights, we thank you (**Wait for** **the laugh**). And I think it’s time you knew…. it wasn’t always **THAT** bad. When we shared a bedroom as little kids, we would talk for hours when the lights were out and we should have been sleeping… Please don’t yell at us for that now… at least not tonight… (**Wait for the laugh**) just remember that we love you both more than you know.

(**If you want to congratulate** **Farzana’s family, you can do that here**). I would also like to congratulate Farzana’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and (**name any siblings she may have**) and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. May this be the beginning of many exciting, loud and loving family functions!’

Fridoon, you’ve done a lot of creative experimentation in your lifetime… from the boat you built that almost drowned you and your friends in the Potomac …I bet **THAT** was a rush (**Wait for the laugh**), to the Porsche you painted in the backyard, to the house you constructed for us in Philadelphia (**If you want to make another joke you might say**)… is it true there are more relaxed building codes in Philly? (**And wait for the laugh**), you’ve shown time and again that you’re a combination of so many characteristics. You’re manly enough to sling a hammer but soft enough to appreciate a good stuffed animal or two… or three… or **TEN**… (**Wait for the laugh**). Your fascination for anatomy sent out warning signals to all of the little neighborhood frogs and birds… none were safe from your scalpel but you were hungry to learn… this might be just an afterthought but maybe you should have opened a couple of stuffed animals instead… or maybe we should have gotten you that game called “Operation?””” Just sayin’…. (**Wait for the laugh**)

I also want to say that being in this magnificent ballroom that you built says so much about you as a man and as a source of inspiration. This room is a monument to your strength, vision, talents and determination. It symbolizes how you really are the solid structure that holds all of us together and how your creativity embraces the future. As you and Farzana begin to build your life together, remember that we love you both and are so proud of you. We are thrilled that you found Farzana and we’re so happy that you have each other. Farzana, thank you so much for being so loving and supportive of Fridoon... you’ve been by his side from the moment you two met and we appreciate how you’ve embraced and accepted our family. Your exquisite beauty is only matched… and maybe topped… by your inner beauty!!

To Farzana and Fridoon, may this be the beginning of a long, loving, happy and **constructive** life for both of you!! Congratulations!! We **LOVE** you both!