**14389, Kevin Jose, Brother of the Bride-Engagement**

Good Evening Everyone,

For those of you who don’t know me, I am Christina’s brother, her older brother. So, I hope you’ll understand if I’m just a bit protective of her. That’s my job, after all. I remember growing up with her, there were times I could hardly keep up with her. If she wasn’t excelling at school, she was excelling at basketball. It was down-right embarrassing having a sister who could beat all my friends at their own game. Then, in addition to being beautiful, she was the smartest girl in school, especially in science and math. Then she grew up to follow in our father’s footsteps and become a pharmacist. We are all very proud of her.

I remember when she first went away to school I was concerned about her since I wasn’t around to watch out for her. But, she proved herself admirably and made a lot of friends while she was at it. The best friend she met turned out to be Naveen, her fiancé. I was pretty hesitant about him when she first brought him home to meet us. But, after spending time with him and getting to know him we all quickly learned to like him and gave her our approval. We watched them together and found out that they are always there for one another.

We were very pleased to learn that Naveen’s parent’s works in very similar jobs to our parent’s. I mean what are the chances that both our father and Naveen’s father are both pharmacists. Then, our mother is a nurse and his mother is a nurse practitioner. It’s been good to have the same background in both families. But, having similar careers is not the only thing our two families share. We also share a common faith in God. While we talked and got to know Naveen we learned he had similar experiences growing up in church that we did, volunteering in church activities and worshipping God. That is a great foundation to have and to pass on when we marry and make our own family.

Tonight we celebrate their engagement and the fun begins. I know the next few months are going to be filled with lots of planning and shopping. I plan to stay as far away from that as a brother possibly can. But, for tonight I’d like you to all join me now in a toast to my favorite sister (even if she is my only sister), and her groom-to-be.

To Christina and Naveen,

May you always remember that God blessed you with each other

May you always pray for one another daily

May you be reminded of the love you share today… at just the moment you are about to lose patience with each other

May you always be there for one another, just as you have been during your courtship

May your shared faith grow together as your relationship grows together and as your love for one another grows

God bless my little sister and her groom-to-be

Thank you