WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

MIKE KHAYAT

Hello everyone!! I am Saad’s father, Mike and I am thrilled to be here as we witness the wedding of my son to his beautiful bride, Sherri. Thanks to these two people we all have this wonderful opportunity to commemorate love and celebrate the timeless union of two souls finally and officially joined for their lifetime. As we know Saad and Sherri are a couple of really great people… and thanks to their love of each other, their families, friends and life, their bond is joyously shared with all of us.

Some wise man once said, “If you wish to succeed in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your counselor, caution your brother, and hope your guardian genius.” Fortunately for me, I was blessed with a son like Saad who taught me many things about life, and how to see from different perspectives. I look at him as a groom now and I see the qualities that were nurtured and sprouted when he was a child. He has grown into a thoughtful, smart, patient, easygoing, and caring man and now he begins the most meaningful chapter in his life as he and Sherri “make it official.” The French author Victor Hugo reminds us, “Son, brother, father, lover, friend. There is room in the heart for all the affections, as there is room in heaven for all the stars.” Because of us, Saad’s family, he learned what it meant to be a caring son and a devoted partner. Thanks to Sherri, he is gallantly inheriting the other roles... soul mate, lover, partner, and hopefully soon… he will learn of the miracle of fatherhood.

And because of his connections to so many of you, he really sharpened his skills as a friend. I don’t have to tell you that this man, this groom, this new husband, is quite a guy. He is as easy going as he is loyal and he’s as patient as he is smart. He would have to be…. given how detail oriented he needs to be for his career! I think it’s safe to say that Saad is well aware of the consequences of “**getting his wires crossed**!” (**Wait for the laugh**). Because of that he’s a great buddy, an intense soccer player, and a person who knows how to seek just the right balance in life.

It was fairly clear that night in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when Saad met Sherri at (**Name the bar where they met**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at their friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s birthday party **(If the friend is at the wedding, just say the friend’s name if most people know that person**) that there was some kind of chemistry… or to be more precise, **electricity**. Playwright Boris Pasternak once advised, “If it is so painful to love and to be charged with this electric current, how much more painful must it be to a woman and to be the current, and to inspire love?” Well, I think for Sherri, who is someone who is also smart, composed, thoughtful and considerate, it probably wasn’t painful at all. A woman has the great gift of intuition and Sherri is a person who knows her own mind and is as devoted to her studies and her profession as she is to Saad. She too, knows the power of research and especially of the human condition. Their meeting was a case of two complementary souls converging and coming together thanks to two people who were aware and appreciative of each other’s gifts and blessings.

We are proud of Sherri as she has just graduated from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and has begun her full time career as medical researcher. We know she will make a significant mark in the world of medicine as she focuses her concentration on the functioning of the human brain and in particular the area of Alzheimer’s Disease. Saad, I think it’s safe to say that you have **REALLY** met your match… and somewhere within the brilliant minds the two of you possess, there is clearly a great harmony and understanding as each of you feeds and fuels the other to be even greater at work, love and life.

Saad and Sherri, I know the two of you know each other very well and fairly long, after all you lived together for two years before this part of your journey begins, but there’s something I would like to point out and it’s part of some of the advice I would like to share with you for your marriage and future well being. Sherri, remember when the two of you took that trip to Nova Scotia? What a trip that must have been… Incredible scenery, breathtaking sea views…. some may think Nova Scotia’s slogan is “Canada’s Ocean Playground,” but I think after your trip you might want to change it to “Nova Scotia… So **ENGAGING**!!” The way the legend goes, the two of you were on this trip, enjoying the scenery, and before you knew it, Saad was on one knee presenting you with a small but precious ring box… Apparently you said yes, which was great news for all of us, but what did you learn from that heart stopping, unforgettable moment? What was the lesson you took away from that dream frozen in time? I’ll tell you, because I think there are a few points to consider: 1. Try not to turn your back on Saad…. ever!!! He’s clever…. he’s quick…. and I think you would agree he’s got really good taste in jewelry… (**Wait for the laugh**). 2. Allow yourself to be surprised… don’t think you know each other so well that you become set in your ways and don’t get complacent… keep room in your heart for each other to grow and for your relationship to continually expand and evolve…. because that’s what happened in Nova Scotia…. and 3. Pay attention to each other… listen to what the other one is saying, and remember to be patient, respectful and open with one another.

Now you are husband and wife and the real adventure begins. Sherri, I want to take this opportunity to officially welcome you to our family even though you have been an important part of our lives for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. **(Should you mention Saad’s mother? If so say her name**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome you to the family as our daughter. (**If Sherri’s parents are alive and present, acknowledge them here**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to offer our congratulations to you (**If Sherri has any brothers and sisters, name them here**) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, today our families have not only grown, they have grown together. On behalf of our family, we look forward to sharing many occasions and memories and much happiness with all of you.

Sherri and Saad, I’ve almost finished…. **almost**…. but I would like to share a little more advice with the two of you for your marriage… As you both enjoy sports, you both understand what it means to be a part of a team. And whether one prefers soccer and the other loves hockey, it doesn’t matter. What matters is to celebrate your uniqueness and don’t lose the connection to your “Number One Teammate” - each other… because now you have a team of two, and soon hopefully, your roster will grow and be filled with lots of adorable little recruits, but in the meantime, don’t ever lose sight of the teamwork it takes to “make the dream work.” Keep communicating…the worst thing you can do is shut down and not explain what might be bothering you, but on the other hand, remember that communication involves balance. It is usually the one thing that you don’t want to say that must be said, but find the way to say what you’re feeling to empower the other person and not anger or frustrate them. It’s important to give each other space and consideration. While giving each other that space, also keep in mind that the two of you are **NOT** attached at the hip. It’s okay to have your own interests, in fact it’s healthy…enjoy your friends and indulge in your hobbies, they will keep you interested and **interesting.** Just make sure to keep each other as a **priority** throughout all of the phases of your lives.

Learn to address and handle issues together and not to attack one another. You’re in this for life so make it work with respect and partnership.

Remember that life is way shorter than anyone of us realizes and the precious gift you have… that of one another… is not guaranteed forever. Say what needs to be said. Honor each other. Make time for each other. Remember to have regular “date nights” no matter how busy you might be. The two of you have found something very rare and that is **true love**. Take care of that love. Feed it. Nurture it. Respect it.

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say the following**) I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.

(**If there is no toast just say**)

To Sherri and Saad, you have shown us that a great flame is ignited by a little spark. May the light of your two souls burn brightly together as one beacon to guide you through a happy, healthy, loving and fulfilling life together. Congratulations! We love you!

Thank you!