WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DARREN WOLPERT

Hello everyone!!! … And they said it would **NEVER** happen… some thought it could not possibly come to pass…. what were the odds? How much did **YOU** bet? But here we are… and it has finally happened…. the moment has arrived… a true miracle… and we are living proof that it’s possible… in this crazy mixed up world of ours…**YES**. It’s possible to get my mother Hazel to take a break from bridge for a couple of hours to squeeze in this wedding… (**Wait for the laugh**). Of course we almost had to set up the room with lots of square folding tables just to keep her attention…. but here we are and I want to thank Mom and all of you for being here to share the joy that Alissa and I can barely contain. Marriage is a celebration of life and love, family and tradition, partnership and hope for the future. I waited a lifetime for the right one to come along and I have to say that I cannot believe how blessed I am to have met this beautiful girl (**Would you rather say woman- use what is comfortable for you**). I don’t have to tell **this** crowd that life has a way of **dealing** us all sorts of hands… and I really lucked out on this one!!

As Alissa and I begin the next chapters in the rest of our lives together, and as I look around at all of you, of course I am touched and moved by the importance of family and friends in our lives. Look at this crowd!! What an expression of love and celebration fills the air!

The reporter Charles Kuralt once said, “The love of family and the admiration of friends is **much more important** than **wealth and privilege**.” Will someone remind me to mention that to the caterer before we have to settle the bill? (**Say the bolded words with emphasis and wait for the laugh**). But in all sincerity, it is thanks to my family that I can appreciate all of the blessings so obviously in abundance here tonight. (**Make a brief mention of your father**) Although it’s been several years since my father Myer passed on, I know he is watching down on us and smiling. (**Mention something that reminds you of him**). On occasions like this I am reminded of his kindness and love of his family and I look forward to bringing his spirit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the home Alissa and I share.

To my mother, Hazel, what can I say? You’re brilliant… you’re nurturing… you’re my best friend and you’re a **WINNER!**! It was one of the highlights of my life to have won a silver medal in world championship mixed teams bridge with you and it was through your inspiration that I was able to recognize and appreciate the privilege and blessing of finding a strong, beautiful, loving partner like Alissa. Mom, you taught me well. To Gavin, in a clan filled with “**playahs**” I am proud to be your brother and friend. You and Jenny and, of course Danielle, Brandon and Ryan demonstrate the joys of family. Your kids are the light of our lives and I’m not just saying that because I expect box seats when Brandon makes it in pro baseball…. But I’ll remind you every few years till his spring training starts that, after all, I **AM** his favorite uncle… (**Wait for the laugh**).

To all of **my** aunts and uncles… you **KNOW** who you are (**do you just want to mention their names**?) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_… thanks for being there when we needed you and thanks for being **HERE** to share this amazing moment. I would like to acknowledge one special relative by simply reminding all of you that from **MY** point of view, **LES** really is **MORE**. (**Wait for the laugh**). Uncle Les, you are like a second father to me and I have learned so much about life from all that you have shared regarding the **true** meaning of family and what is important in life. There are **no accidents** in this world. When I look at you I see a wonderful example of what it means to be blessed. Your family, your successes, and your outlook on life have always inspired me.

When I think of Alissa and her family I am so happy to be a part of their clan, but first…. let’s remember I just said, “**There are no accidents** ….” Wellllllllll maybe **one**… I will never forget the first time I was about to meet Alissa’s parents. Nervous??? Who??? Me??? Let’s just say this…. I knew she was the one… I knew I would do anything for her…. It’s true. I would even “**go to the wall**” for her…. I just didn’t expect to go **THROUGH** the wall… (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes… me… the calm, cool, poker faced “intellectual.” … Got into Alissa’s car… yes, the **DRIVER’S SEAT**… and **BACKED** it into the wall at my condo. You know how you don’t really know someone until you go through some “adventures” together? While she could have gone “**ballistic”** on me, she handled herself with poise and patience, understanding and grace…. and that was when I knew I had a great girl by my side (**If you want to make a joke you can add…. “With a REALLY comprehensive insurance policy…” and wait for the laugh).**

Alissa, you know this already, but I have to say, you’re the only girl I have ever truly loved. Your heart is as big as your beautiful eyes and your generosity and caring… for all of those you love…. makes you even more beautiful and lovable. I mean, let’s face it… who ever expected little old me to find someone…. and then along you came and blew **THAT** theory right out of the water!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… And what could **POSSIBLY** be better than having a beautiful, loving and caring wife? … Having in-laws that are just as terrific!!

To my **mother-in-law** Barbara…. Congratulations!!! Now you can officially worry about **ME**!!! … But only when I’m driving a car **in reverse** (**Wait for the laugh**). To Bob, my **father-in-law**, thank you for your optimism and positive attitude. You and Barbara have raised a wonderful family and I am proud to now be a part of it. As if all of this wasn’t an embarrassment of riches, I get three new and great brothers…. To David, Steven, and Michael, each one of you is special in your own way….. but the “jewel” in the crown of this family has to be its most recent member…. no… not **ME**… **LUCY**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) I know both Lucy and I are the newest additions to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family, but let’s keep things in order…. she’s the licker (**or mention whatever cute habit she has**) and I’m the poker player…(**Wait for the laugh**).

Alissa… this is it… in for life… and I couldn’t be happier. Like the song says, “Don’t change a hair for me… not if you care for me…” While some of you may think this is me being romantic, it’s really code for…. “Please, Please, **PLEASE** let me keep my regular poker game schedule… **Please**? (**Wait for the laugh**).

I think I’ve said enough… It’s time to finally live the dream of being Alissa’s husband!! Alissa, I love you!!! Let’s celebrate!! (**Do** **you want to raise a glass? If so, make the gesture and toast the crowd**). To life, and love, family and friends. Thank you all!