**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PETER HENRY**

Hello everyone!!! (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so happy to see all of you!!! Of course, it is wonderful to be here, together, tonight to celebrate and share in our joy for the marriage of our Chelsey to Foley. If any of you are having a “deja vu,” relax…. You’re not hallucinating… no one slipped anything into your beverage of choice… your mind is **NOT** playing tricks on you…. and **YES**… this is the **THIRD TIME** you’ve seen me up here, giving my **THIRD** Father of the Bride speech… Since “third time’s a charm and I think I’ve worked out **MOST** of the kinks, this should go fairly well!!! Of course, with Chelsey I’ve had time to practice….

A wise man once said, “Give me the child when he or she is seven years old, and I will show you the adult.” Welllllll, actually, in **THIS CASE**, let’s change that to “Give me the child when he or she … or more accurately, he **AND** she, are in **preschool** …..” For those of you that may not know…. This romance goes back…. **WAAAAAAAY** back to (**Name the preschool**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a certain “**pot stirrer**”….ummmm I mean teacher, named Miss Jan… **YES**…. we **STILL** call her “Miss Jan,” and by the way…. might I add, in an endearing and inspiring full circle moment… Cupid… I mean Miss Jan, is here tonight…. So when you meet her, remember to address her by **that** **name**… (**If you want, add**)… maybe shake her hand, “kiss the ring,” and she just might work some **magic** for you…. Or at the very least, get you some milk and cookies!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I digress… she played matchmaker for these two lovebirds…. Funny… I thought they were there learning their A B C’s…. Turns out they were getting a jump start on their I D O’s (**Spell that out and wait for the laugh**).

I’d also like to mention and welcome Foley’s parents, Jeff and Liz… of course it’s been a minute since we’d bump into each other at Miss Jan’s preschool events and parent teacher conferences, but I must say, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so happy to congratulate you, acknowledge you for raising such a fine son (**if Foley has a brother, you can say**)…. and Foley’s not bad either!!! (**and wait for the laugh**) and officially welcome you to our family.

We’ve all come a long way from Miss Jan’s preschool class and Chelsey and Foley, you two have spent the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years forming, growing, and nurturing your beautiful bond…. You learned by instinct that the best foundation for a healthy, meaningful marriage is one built on friendship, shared experience, mutual respect, an incredible dedication to one another and the beautiful family you’re building. Maeve is clearly a remarkable example of the best of you both, and we could not be prouder of all of you.

I was recently watching a video that posed the question, “What’s more important, love or career?” Most people interviewed said love, but one wise woman said, “Love, of course, but with love, with feeling seen, admired, respected, and “gotten,” someone also has the potential to take that strength and put it into career.” It doesn’t have to be one or the other….. with wisdom and love, we have the energy to build on our professional sides and you two are brilliant examples of that… I know we all admire how you’ve brought your passions to your careers as well. Bravo!!!

Chelsey, I am sure everyone here agrees with me when I say that you are an absolutely beautiful bride you have always had vision… you knew from an early age what you wanted…. Ummmmm… we’re **HERE**, aren’t we??? (**Wait for the laugh**) and that reminds me of how determined you’ve always been …. I remember the time we went out to eat. You said, “Can I have a cheeseburger?” …and when asked how you wanted it done, you very matter-of-factly declared, “**GOOD**.” Short… sweet… to the point… determined. That’s my girl!!

And Foley, I knew early on that you’d fit right in… those card games gave a **BIG** clue… grab a dictionary and look up “competitive and doesn’t like to lose,” and you’ll see pictures of the Henry family….and Foley… I heard in upcoming editions… there will be one picture, of course with you in it!!! I remember that conversation we had a while ago… we knew it was time to move on, to stop this extended juvenile adolescence (**you can add….** ) with all due respect, Miss Jan, (**and wait for the laugh**)…. and so you did!!! And **BOY**!! How they’ve moved on…. In the past year alone, you two have graduated from PT and medical school, moved to Bismarck, found a job, had a baby, got through Match Day, and if **ALL OF THAT** wasn’t enough, now you’ll be moving to Kansas City!!! … oh. And yeah… you got **MARRIED**!!! I’m tired just thinking about it!!!

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Chelsey and Foley….through a lifetime of friendship, you’ve grown together…. You’ve learned the power of the new math…. 1+1=**ONE**… and although you’re both individuals, you’re strengthened by each other. May you two and Maeve have all of the love, health, good fortune, and happiness you can possibly imagine, and may you continue to find strength, friendship, and partnership in each other…We love you!!! Congratulations!!