**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**HOWARD KLEIN**

Hello everyone! For those of you that may not know, I’m Howard, Daniel’s father. On behalf of my wife Pearl, I'd like to say it's wonderful to be here, especially for such an important moment. Chicago is a special place, made even more so for bringing all of us together on such a joyous occasion. It gives me great pleasure to be surrounded by so many family and friends… and **NEW** family. Weddings have a way of bringing people together and this one is no exception. Some of you have traveled from far and wide…. You've braved the elements…. the unpredictability of airline schedules and flight attendants’ moods, and yes…. even the fabled Chicago crosstown traffic… I'm talking to **YOU**, Levin Family!! (**Point their way and wait for the laugh**).

Weddings are also about expressions of love and legacy…. Of setting an example and passing wisdom from generation to generation. Because of that, It's an extra special blessing to have Daniel’s grandparents, Bobbie and Irving, here with us. They’ve been married for an amazing sixty-six years and show us what it means to have patience, respect, and the secret to a long and satisfying relationship. (**Do you want to add**) … or as Henny Youngman taught us many years ago, “The secret to a happy marriage is to keep it exciting… my wife and I make it a practice of going out to dinner at least two times each week… I go on Tuesday, she goes on Friday (**and wait for the laugh**). Daniel’s grandmother Miriam is also here tonight and although she has sustained a tough year, she is the living embodiment of unconditional love, resilience, and celebration…. Especially tonight. Mom, you look lovely… and we are inspired by your strength and beauty. Daniel, your Zadi Doodie is with us in spirit and his presence is felt all the time, especially tonight. As you know, he was quite the philosopher and one thing he used to say was, “The mark of a man’s success is in raising children better than him.” I think Zadi’s wisdom is clear and I couldn't be more proud.

Daniel and Amy, also keep in mind that your mom and I will be celebrating thirty six years of marriage while the Levin's have hit the thirty five year mark… collectively we represent over one hundred and thirty years of wedded bliss… you two come from hearty stock… marriage wise… and now it's your turn to join our ranks.

For those of you that may not know, Daniel was born in 1985 during Hurricane Gloria. Through the storm, there was a billboard outside of Transaxle, my company, that read, “**IT’S A BOY!**” I was prouder than Gloria’s strength and they had to send me home that day because I was giving away free truck parts to all of our customers (**wait for the laugh**). As we stand by your side at your wedding, some thirty two years later, it's safe to say that tonight we are the happiest parents on earth and the love and pride your mom and I feel for you and Amy dwarfs even a category 5 hurricane…. Irma **WHO**?? (**Wait for the laugh**).

Daniel, between hurricanes and tropical storms, you grew up to be a truly FINE young man. You’ve always been true to your passions… from your sports activities as a young boy to your genuine love of learning and books, it was always fascinating to observe you being so absorbed by books and study. Of course I also loved when, on Sundays, you would stay at home with me in order to spend the day watching and rooting for the Eagles. I've avidly followed your pursuits… from your internship at Transaxle… thanks for not giving away the inventory like I did (**Wait for the laugh**) to your world travels…. Truly a stellar accomplishment, especially since all that travel time gave you opportunities to read even more… to your pursuit of your studies and interests… your honors and degrees are well earned acknowledgements of your thirst for knowledge…. All of these come together to make you the unique and special man you are.

We knew it would take a pretty incredible person to be your partner, and the day you brought Amy to Florida for the first time, your mother and I knew she would be the love of your life. It's such a blessing to find THE ONE… a bright, beautiful, caring, intelligent, confident woman… one who would love, respect, and be by your side through life. Amy, you look absolutely beautiful tonight and Pearl and I are so happy to welcome you to our family as our daughter. With this marriage, you have been given the greatest gift we could possibly think of… our only son… and we are thrilled and happy and eager to see what the future holds for you together… as a truly dynamic team. As We have heeded the words of Zadi, we look forward to the day when the two of you have your own children to continue to prove the wisdom that a person’s truest success is in raising children better than they are. I'm quite sure I have the Levin’s agreement on this one! (**Wait for the laugh**)

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Amy and Daniel, Love each other every day of your lives like there’s no tomorrow. May you have health and happiness, may you continue to find wisdom and knowledge, and may G-d continue to bless the two of you. Congratulations! We love you! (**Do you want to add… as a little joke…**) okay, now who wants to meet me out back to get some truck parts?? **KIDDING**! (**Wait for the laugh**)