**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ALEX FINSTEIN**

Hello everyone! I’m Alex, Jenna’s sister. This is a great moment in the Finstein family as my sister marries Dimitre, her champion, her “other half,” her best friend, her true love. I don’t know if any of you can imagine just how special this is.... as young girls we played and fought a little, got into trouble... a little, and had dreams and plans... ALOT... and here we are, my big sister is truly living **HER** dream and I couldn’t be happier or more proud of the woman she has become. Jenna, you look absolutely stunning and although I know every bride is beautiful, you are radiant.... it’s really a reflection of the love you and Dimitre have for one another and I am sure I speak for everyone here when I say that the joy you two are have is contagious...

Although I want to express to the world just how much I love and respect my sister, organizing my thoughts has not been easy... I could go on for hours... but don’t worry- I won’t (**Wait for the laugh**) ... Jenna has **ALWAYS** been there... no...**REALLY**... she’s my sister.... we couldn’t get rid of each other.... and we didn’t want to! She’s been there for the ups and downs.... the mischief and the plotting and all of the craziness that makes our family so special. As my older sister, Jenna has been my best friend, my confidante, my partner in crime...oh... the stories we could tell....

Growing up together, we were always close.... sure we had our occasional arguments... especially when we shared a room, but our closeness and love of one another saw us settle fights and be besties in two minutes ... if that much. What did we debate about? You know.... the **IMPORTANT** stuff... like who was the messiest? ... I’m pretty sure I won **THAT ONE**...no contest! We may have fought on and off, but when we agreed, magic happened... When we were younger, we decided to get matching tattoos saying, “You are my confidante, my sister, my best friend, and my crazy other half.” Yes, **THAT** was a bit of a crazy decision, but here we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years later, and those words are truer now and they really express how I still feel about you to this day **(If you want to make a little joke you can say**) plus they’re **TATTOOS**... they’re **permanent**... we **BETTER** still love each other, because I’m not planning to visit Dr. Tattoff!!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

Yes, Jenna, you’ve been right there, by my side, guiding leading, giving great “big sister advice....” I **CANNOT BELIEVE** we’re all here and you’re getting (**you’ve gotten? Please fix if you’re speaking after the ceremony**) married!!! It seems like only yesterday that we were sneaking out of Mom and Dad’s basement, filling Dad’s $200 bottle of tequila with water.... **WOOPSIE**!!! Sorry Dad.... we didn’t know how expensive it was (**Do you want to add... a little bratty....**) and besides.... She **MADE** me do it... (**and wait for the laugh**).

And let me tell you... there’s **NOTHING** like having an older sister like Jenna.... especially when report card time rolls around, and you **KNOW** things could have gone better...ah... who am I kidding... I used to **FREAK OUT** because I **KNEW** my grades were bad...but.... oh **THAT** Jenna....she would take our report cards and “play doctor...” She’d get on that computer, retype, and magically those C’s became B’s.... she was very handy in so **MANY** ways... like impersonating Mom while calling the school to say we were sick and then receiving the best medicine... a day at the mall... Boy, we were living the Ferris Bueller dream!!!! Thanks, Jenna!!!

As the years went on, we learned more and more about life and each other, and I got a close up view of Jenna as she grew up into the beautiful, intelligent, kind hearted, caring woman she is today. Jenna, I am so proud of you and so happy that you found your match... someone who compliments you, who loves and appreciates you, someone who is a family oriented gentleman but also loves the slightly crazy side that makes all of you shine.

When I first learned about Dimitre, I was curious yet skeptical.... who wouldn’t be? I mean, who was going to be “good enough” for my sister? But Dimitre, getting to know you through the years has shown me how kind, loving, and calm you are. Your relationship is so strong because of the respect you two clearly have for each other. It’s great to see how you treat my sister like a princess and it’s so reassuring to know that chivalry is alive and well! I don’t think I’ve ever seen Jenna happier than she is with you...

Jenna and Dimitre, you two truly compliment each other. It’s been amazing watching the two of you grow as a couple and you really do bring out the best in each other. Dimitre, I want to welcome you to our crazy family and let you know how happy I am to be gaining another wonderful brother. I also have to confess that I tried to write down my thoughts at least fifty times for this toast, worrying about whether or not it would be perfect enough to say what I really mean.... the truth is, you two **KNOW** how much I love you, and sometimes the greatest emotion is unspoken.

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass to this beautiful couple:

To Jenna and Dimitre, May you have all the best of love and happiness, health and humor, respect and partnership, and more than you might ever wish for... here’s to a wonderful life together! Congratulations! We **LOVE** you!