**FATHER IF THE BRIDE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RICK NESS**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I’m Rick, Lindsey’s proud, awestruck, sentimental, and emotional father. (**You didn’t mention if you are married. I don’t want to either leave something out or add something that’s not appropriate. If you are, please acknowledge your wife. If not, please skip this sentence**). On behalf of my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , welcome to this joyous celebration. While I know that young people get married every day.... that fathers get all choked up seeing their daughters transform into visions of beauty and promise of hope and all things good and positive for the future, to **ME**, this is a real “once in a lifetime moment.” Lindsey is a gorgeous, sweet, generous, kind, thoughtful, and accomplished young lady.  I have watched her grow from a tiny baby in my arms ..... well, more like a **frog**... to a precious daddy’s girl to a precocious teenager.... and ultimately, now, today, to a beautiful bride.  She has found a man that I discovered can “keep up with the best of them,” is quiet but smart, thoughtful, and has **incredible** taste in young women (**Wait for the laugh**). I am honored to welcome Jason into our family. (**Do you want to acknowledge Jason’s parents?**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you raised a terrific son and I know that Lindsey could not have picked a better guy.. It’s a pleasure to watch our family grow and we look forward to celebrating many happy occasions together in the future.

We’ve all traveled to this beautiful part of the country to witness and honor the marriage of Lindsey and Jason, and without getting too corny, I just want to express some thoughts about how much I love my daughter and all that I wish for her and Jason in the future. Of course, I’m not the first father that has, well, turned to a “sentimental softie,” but I realize it’s a privilege to have these feelings at this time.... Lindsey is exceptional, and no matter what stage of life we’ve endured together... baby frog... adorable little girl.... adolescent... teenage ninja... **IDONTKNOWWHAT**.. ... possibly abducted by aliens... **THOSE** were the **FUN** years... college girl... young professional.... and now **WIFE**, I have always been in awe of the magic that comes with having a daughter. William Shakespeare said, “It is a wise father that knows his own child.”... Uh... don’t tell Bill... I’m **STILL** figuring this out, but I can’t imagine a more fascinating or gratifying journey.

To paraphrase a wise man, “A father is always making his baby into a little woman. And when she is a woman, he wants to turn her back again...”. I know the feeling. (**Give me one or two short anecdotes of Lindsey as a baby, toddler, or a young girl, and I will place them in here**) I will never forget \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Lindsey went through all different stages of her young life but to me, she will always be “Frog.”

As she got older and started exploring and finding her way in life, there were phases.... experiments...interesting developments... (**Name 2 or 3 amusing examples and I will add them here**). Who can ever forget the time that Lindsey \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Or how about the surprise we got when??? I eventually realized that we all go through “changes...” growing pains..... moments of self discovery.... and of course, the pivotal events... like **THOSE** years... I sometimes think of them as the “**HUH??? What just happened??**” Era.... from thirteen to twenty... honestly, I didn’t know if I should contact Ghostbusters or the Space Force, so I just sat it out, learned patience, and eventually the aliens returned my frog to me... a little older... a little more seasoned... but as beautiful and sweet as she ever was....

And then one day.... their friend Eric channeled Cupid... or so I was eventually told.... and I was introduced to a young man named Jason. We met at the river...Lindsey didn’t think I was aware of what was going on... that they were “ dating...” but a father knows these things... especially if said “father” manages to “socialize”... fairly “enthusiastically” with that young man.... but it was all good. Jason and I got along great... I found him to be a really good guy.... quiet... smart... Big Boston fan... I didn’t hold that against him... (**Wait for the laugh**).... but most of all, I saw my daughter blossom in his presence.... after she put him through some hoops... Lindsey... I heard about that time Jason had a birthday party and asked Eric to invite you... and you chose to stay home and watch a movie... was that clever strategy or the aliens checking in on you??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Whatever it was, here we are, and I could not be happier for the choice these two have made... for each other.

Lindsey, a man named John Gregory Brown once said, “There’s something like a line of gold thread running through a man’s words when he talks to his daughter, and gradually, over the years, it gets to be long enough for you to pick it up in your hands and weave it into a cloth that feels like love itself.” We’ve had lots of words... conversations... shared thoughts... big plans... some knots and tangles along the way, but I hope you know that every word we’ve exchanged is precious and golden because it connects us and gives us our history... and now there’s a cloth big enough to envelope you and Jason, and, of course, Tater.

I don’t think it’s possible for me to be more proud or more in awe of you than I am tonight.... I see my Frog, as you take JBuff’s hand, and I know the future is bright for this beautiful new family.

**(If you want to propose a toast you can say)**

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to ask you to raise your glasses as I propose a toast:

To Lindsey and Jason... here’s to a life filled with love and good health, humor and partnership, family, friends, wonderful discoveries, and more than you could ever wish for... Congratulations! We love you!

Thank you all!