**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**TERRY LEITCH**

Hello everyone... I’m Terry, Alex’s mom, and I also am her biggest fan. Knowing those two things, you can imagine that I can go on for **HOURS** about how great my daughter is, but apparently I’ve been given five minutes to squeeze in all that I have to say so ... I’m going to have to talk **really fast!!** (**Wait for the laugh**). Al, you are the most beautiful bride in the world and you make me feel so proud and special... not only as your mom, but as your sparring partner too!!! Al and Jarrod, you are truly two of my most favorite human beings (**Do you want to add...** ) I figure, maybe if I butter them up they’ll give me extra time??? (**And wait for the laugh**).

Alex, it’s so exciting and heartwarming that here we are, dancing at your wedding. It has really taken us a lifetime to get to this point and your dad and I have cherished every step of the way. For those of you that may not know, Alex, our beautiful, poised, smart, accomplished, kind daughter had more than her fair share of challenges and hard knocks growing up. She had open heart surgery when she was just four years old. Al had to get braces. She had to move to Winnipeg in grade twelve for her final year... and there were other tests, and yet she never once wondered... at least out loud, “Why me??” In twenty-eight years, she never commented that life was unfair. She always did and still does find time to share with me and remind me of so many things.... like that I have a hair on my chin or my roots need to be colored...yep... Alex is the **ONLY** person on earth that can get away with **THAT**!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... (**Do you want to add**) and while some may find that to be a little “ nit picky,” I applaud Alex for her **incredible** eyesight!! When it came to her sister, all she ever did say was “**WHY DIDN’T IT HAPPEN TO JORD?**” ...But as long as Jord had **SOMETHING** going on, Alex had confirmation that the planets were aligned!! Al, from the moment you were born, we’ve had a bond that went far beyond mother and daughter. I promise you, there’s **NO ONE** in this world that can make me laugh so hard and in the next breath make me want to **KILL** ... in a sweet way!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Ever since you were little and sang that song, “Emotional Girl,” you’ve worn your heart on your sleeve. You love hard and have such high personal expectations that sometimes mere mortals... like us... can let you down... and I mean, of course, Jarrod had never met your mama!! ... but that’s what makes you so special. ... And so does your zest for life. The laughter... the singing... on road trips... for hours and hours and **HOURS**... (**Wait for the laugh**). Every moment with you becomes a big fun party. Alex, you may have been born into a family of “serious” thinkers and talkers, but you bring joy.... when you were born, my life literally changed forever... in the best way possible and I am so proud to be your mother.

My husband and I agree that our two daughters are the light of our lives and they are the gifts that continue to give Andy and me such endless happiness. One of the most wonderful things that I’ve grown to love... and it may seem odd, but it’s true, is when I wake up in the morning and see **FIFTY-SIX** texts from a thread with just the **THREE** of us.... and I’ve been **sleeping**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Believe me, I’ve learned that with a doctor and a nurse in the family, especially with night shifts involved, for sanity’s sake I turn off or at least silence my phone!!

And Jarrod... **AHHHHH** Jarrod... I **KNEW** I would love you from the moment you and I almost had to fight those guys in the parking lot of my Canadian Tire Store!! You showed me you’re courageous and brave, and maybe even just a teeny bit **HOT** **HEADED** ... just like your mama in law!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And aside from that first incident, you bring a kindness and sense of calm to our family and everyone you meet. I want you to know that makes all of us want to be better people. ... and even though in this lifetime, I was “blessed” with just these two crazy girls, I always thought that if I had also been blessed with a son, that he would be someone just like you.... I think that may be why it’s always either you or I who win the **FUN AWARD** on holidays... and here you are... today, you’re officially our son. (**Do you want to add**) Of course, now that it **IS** official, you **DO KNOW** that I get to win **EACH** time now, **DON’T YOU?!?!** (**Wait for the laugh**). Marla, Bev, you did a great job with this guy!!! **PLUS**... now there’s someone that Al can get **more** angry with!!

Al... Jarrod, I know I speak for everyone here when I say that your dad and I are so happy for the two of you. Your dad always told you that “life is a journey, not a destination,” and you two really prove that point. The last few years have been quite an adventure... filled with so much joy and so many challenges that most young people don’t have to go through... from Fence and Deck builders to hospital and home care from your mom, Bev, and Logan, to dog sitting and delivering TV’s and fridges to your hospital room, we may have all showed you how much we love the two of you and how much you mean to both of us, but even more than that, you went through **ALL OF IT ... TOGETHER**... with love, respect, laughter, and open, honest communication. ... and to prove the strength of your characters and commitment to one another, it made you stronger... it brought you **CLOSER**. That’s the true sign of what marriage is. It’s also a testament to the kind of people you are that you have such loving, loyal, dedicated friends and co-workers. All you have to do is just look around this room at all of these people... and your friends in your wedding party have lovingly stood by your side today, but I know they are also there for you every day.

I know my time is probably up by now, but in closing, I just want to say again how much we love you, how happy we are to have Jarrod in the family, and I **KNOW**... mothers **KNOW** these things... you’re going to have a great life!!! Just keep loving, laughing, and caring for each other!!! Thank you!!