**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ROBERT FOGEL**

Hello everyone... friends, family, and our **NEW** family, the Kazam’s, welcome...in case anyone hasn’t yet discovered this, I am Robert, Samantha’s happy, emotional, and very grateful father. My wife Nancy and I are thrilled to share this special moment with you ... and we are both so thankful that, in years to come, as we look back on this wonderful evening... as we reminisce while gazing at the images and videos, that we could not have asked for a more beautiful or enthusiastic crowd to with whom to share our memories.... thank you.

It is always a miracle when two people meet, really discover each other, and fall in love. I believe in destiny, and I believe the fates were listening when I made that final furniture delivery to Samantha’s **third floor walk up** the last time she moved apartments... I reminded her that I was still healing from hernia surgery after her last **TWO** moves to walk ups, and I thought it was time to for her to find her Prince Charming before her **next** move... the fates conspired to oblige and **MIRACLE**!!! **Answered prayers**!!! She found an **ELEVATOR BUILDING**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).... oh.... and she met Aaron... her true prince and the love of her life. Two beautiful, brilliant, vital young people found each other, and a **good, strong, sturdy dolly**...it was very **MOVING**... (**Wait for the laugh**). In all seriousness though, Samantha, you are our heart... you and Adam are our pride and joy... all your mother and I ever wished for was your happiness, and we **KNOW** you’ve found that with Aaron...

And Aaron, you’ve found your muse... your best friend... and she **CAN COOK**!! (**Will Samantha be okay with this? I tried not to draw too much attention or tease her**) Nancy, Adam, and I are so happy to welcome you to our family as our son. I admire your intelligence, integrity, and your incredible eye for detail.... which did **NOT** get lost on me... I will never forget that, as we looked for venues for the wedding, you were involved... aware... fiercely observant of every detail, particularly the **EXIT** signs above each doorway.... did it make me a little nervous? Possibly... Was he looking for “a way out”... so **EARLY**??? **NEVER**!!! He’s an architect who cares about every last shape and stroke... he wanted to make sure each picture that captured the sweetest moment in his and Samantha’s life were beautiful.... there’s no way they **WOULDN’T** be, Aaron, and we love you for it.

I want to welcome Aaron’s family, Ariel and Eleanor (**is this correct? Please fix if not**) and (**Name the brother and sister**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ours, and I want to acknowledge two other very special people we are blessed to have here tonight.... they are two beautiful, strong flowers ... one is Grandma Daisy, and the other Grandma Lily... both are survivors of Holocausts... one from Iraq, the other from Europe. When I think of the expression to “count one’s blessings,” it all starts with these two examples of grace, determination, and goodness.

Samantha and Adam, the two of you now join the ranks of “the married folks.” There will be new boxes to tick, new salutations to use, new taxes to deduct... (**Wait for the laugh)**..... but never lose sight of the love you have for one another. Remember that when times get challenging, there is perseverance and determination built into each one of you, thanks to those two flowers that showed us the way...

(**If you want to make a toast, you can say**) I’d like to invite all of you to raise your glasses as I propose a toast:

To Samantha and Aaron, Here’s to a life filled with health and happiness, purpose and peace... may your dreams become realities... capture and hold close every precious moment.... and remember... G-d is in the details... go with the flow... live in the moment... and if necessary... **crop the exit signs**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... congratulations!! We love you!!