**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LINDA VAN DOESBURG**

Hello everyone! As I am sure most of you know, I am Linda, the proud mother of our beautiful bride, Gail. We want to thank **EVERYONE** for being here and sharing our joy, and we would especially like to acknowledge those of you that have come to be with us tonight from far off places. We really appreciate the time and effort involved to travel here and your commitment to our friendship and family multiplies our happiness. Today is a very special day for the entire Van Doesburg clan...and we are all excited, anxious and overjoyed to welcome Glen to the family as our son. We’d also like to congratulate Glen’s parents (**mention his parents and any siblings if they are there**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thank you for raising such a wonderful young man. Let’s celebrate our new extended family ... we look forward to sharing many more memories with all of you!

Oh. And we have very special announcement... for the first time **EVER**, we... that’s Lionel, Gail’s father and I, will be empty nesters... at least we **THINK** that’s the plan... this is all new for us, so we’ll be placing a suggestion box right outside the door....(**you can point to the exit sign**) each one of you will have a chance to vote.... does Gail’s room become...\*\*an Air BNB preferred rental? \*\*\*shared Co-working space? ... **I hear these are** **very popular now**... \*\* **MAN CAVE**??? \*\*\* **SHE DEN**??? \*\* Gail and Glen’s remote closet???? So many decisions... **TOO MANY** decisions... (**Wait for the laugh**) Gail... all jokes aside... you’re our first to be born... our last to pack up and leave. We... **ESPECIALLY** I, will miss you around the house. It just won’t be the same. (**Do you want to say?**) I’ll miss the pitter patter of those dainty feet... **oh wait**. That was a **few years ago**.... I’ll miss those long talks we’d have... (**Name any other action(s) or reasons why you’ll miss her... laundry? Cleaning? Cooking anecdotes??**) We know you’re not going **THAT** far away, but we’ll have some adapting to do without you living under our roof... I just have to ask you **ONE** favor... can you **PLEASE** give us a good rating on Yelp and Air BNB??? **THANKS**!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Gail, I once read somewhere that, ”Good daughters make good mothers.” If that’s the case, we **BOTH** did a wonderful job teaching and inspiring each other. You provided my first exposure and earliest training for the greatest privilege of my life, and thanks to you, I **KNOW** that a mother’s love for her daughter transcends time and lasts forever... **EVEN** when she moves out and gets married. I have so many vivid, precious memories of you. You were the sweetest baby who grew into being a determined child. Your father and I always marveled at your persistence and we were and are so proud as we observed you conquering whatever you put your mind to... whether it was athletic pursuits like all those years you played community and school basketball.... **AND** volleyball... to excelling at school and at NAIT, you showed all of us just how special and focused you were and are. You’ve taken that determination and blossomed into the consummate professional and we are so proud of you!

Your sense of adventure has also served you well. That was some trip you took to Australia to visit your cousin Judy.... your curiosity took you to new sites... literally...we might even call some... or **ONE** episode an “interesting” **SOCIAL** experiment, but **THAT ONE** only lasted a day... we can’t say the same for that exotic trip, just three years ago.....

Yes, the wanderlust bug struck again, and off you were to Cuba with friends. As if that atmosphere wasn’t colorful enough, there was a young man... staying at the same resort... it was fun while it lasted... well... **MORE** than fun, and although you thought “What happens in Havana (**or name the town where the resort was**) stays in Havana,” destiny was already plotting and planning, and here we are.

Glen, what can I say? Thanks for visiting Cuba? (**Wait for the laugh**).... we are truly happy to welcome you to our family... we love how you love and care for our daughter- you two are a great match! Your calm, easy going manner complements everyone with whom you come into contact, you know how to “get the party started” with your wit and sense of humor, and of course, why be shy? You’re **IMPRESSIVELY** handy and you **REALLY** know your way around a tool kit!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... if Gail hadn’t fallen in love with you, I’m sure your new father-in-law would **STILL** have welcomed you into the family!!! But thank goodness, it **ALL** worked out

Gail and Glen, although your father and I will be there to laugh with you, guide you, probably feed you, I wanted to leave you with a little bit of marriage wisdom. It’s from a man named Mitch Albom who wrote a book called “Tuesdays with Morrie...” he interviewed his older, respected college professor and here it is... its simple, sweet, and crucial to establishing a long, successful marriage:

* If you don’t respect the other person, you’re gonna have a lot of trouble.
* If you don’t know how to compromise, you’re gonna have a lot of trouble.
* If you can’t talk openly about what goes on between you, you’re gonna have a lot of trouble.
* And if you don’t have a common set of values in life, you’re gonna have a lot of trouble.

We are confident that you two have all the elements needed for a happy, healthy, loving union... Here’s to the **TWO** of you and a wonderful married life. Congratulations!! We love you!!