**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**STACY KUHN**

Phil, here we are, standing before one another, and although our loved ones are with us to witness this rite of passage, to me... in this time and place... **right now**, all I can see and think of is you... you’re the **ONE**... **MY ONE**... and this road that we’ve been on together has been long... it’s been winding... it’s had its twists and turns and rocky parts, but the **ONE** constant has always been **YOU**.... and I cannot imagine being on this road, or any other, without your love and support... your smile and your patience... your laugh and your partnership... your thirst for knowledge and your passion for using your hands... and it doesn’t matter whether those hands are forging metal or working wood... nurturing plants or holding one of the hundreds of books you’ve devoured since we met, gesturing in one of our endless conversations or pulling me close and dragging (**gesturing? Which do you prefer?**) me across the street, your hands hold the key to our connection...

Although we’ve been together for many years, today really marks the beginning of the rest of our lives. Shakespeare said, “it’s not in our stars to hold our destiny, but in **ourselves**.” Some others say that we don’t find the meaning of life on our own or alone...we find it **within another**.... I know that I have found that meaning, for me, in **you**. I know that no matter what, I am at my most authentic when I am with you.... and that doesn’t come from being in majestic scenery with planned, significant moments.... our connection transcends circumstance.... it needs no itinerary...that’s been proven time and time again... it’s as powerful on our morning walks... in our silence... in this beautiful setting.... and yes... even in **COSTCO**... (**Wait for the laugh**).

Phil, today we **formally** join hearts and hands and families, and while we have been partners, best friends, companions, and commiserates, today we grab each other’s hand for the ultimate leap... with love and faith and confidence in our future.

Edgar Cayce said, “A soulmate is an ongoing connection with another individual that the soul picks up again in various times and places over lifetimes. We are attracted to another person at a soul level not because that person is our unique complement, but because by being with that individual, we are somehow provided with an impetus to become whole selves.”

You are my strength and my conscience... my backbone and my teacher... my buddy.... my friend... my sounding board, my mirror... my companion... my **EVERYTHING**.... and as we take each other’s hand, as we exchange these vows, and as you place that unbroken circle, that symbol of eternity, on my finger, I will know in my heart, as I’ve known all along... since we met... that **YOU** are my **ONE**. I love you.