**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ILYA BIALIK**

Hello everyone!! On behalf of my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we want to thank all of you for being here and sharing in the joy of the moment. Today is really all about Lindsi and Alex, and to tell you the truth, I want us to really focus on **THEM**... so for any of you that may not know who I am, I’m **not telling**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).... (**Congratulate the bride’s parents if appropriate**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to congratulate you on the marriage of our children... Here’s to sharing many happy extended family moments thanks to Lindsi and Alex!!!

What can one say about a wonderful young man...one who is intelligent, compassionate, talented, open-minded, caring... and devilishly handsome??? I’ll tell you what... He **takes after his father**!!!! (**Say that with animation and wait for the laugh**). Truth be told, Alex has always been an incredible son, and as he’s grown up, he’s also shown the world... and his family, that he is a wonderful student, a dedicated doctor and now, a loving husband. And he does it all with a wicked sense of humor.... Let me just say that ever since he was old enough to get the concept of a joke... We’ve both had built in foils... partners... put the two of us in a room and watch out!!! ...

What do two people do when they are determined to play tennis together... no matter what? And what do they do when, at the same time, Mother Nature chooses to test their “legendary” collective sense of humor? Well... you play... you laugh a lot... and you get completely **SOAKED** as the ball pummels you with water with every whack it receives. When I say that Alex and I had a **BALL**... as usual, believe...!!! And then... ah... Lake Hopatcong... We might say we are “partners in crime,” but there was that **time**...back in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we realized. “Partners in **GRIME”** would have been more apt. (**Wait for the laugh**). We were doing our best to wrestle down a 42” Northern Pike (**Is this correct? It’s a fishing trip? If not, please correct**)... Talk about **WORK**!!! We **BOTH** looked like we just cleaned out a septic tank in the neighborhood... and what did **WE** do??? We laughed and were proud we had yet another shared, treasured, father and son experience... not unlike the “fish that **DIDN'T** get away, Alex’s mother has learned to just go with the flow and to stop resisting our collective silliness which we both treasure... and speaking of... Lindsi... Get ready!!! Now that you’re **OFFICIALLY** “**one of us**...” buckle up and prepare to be very entertained... but you **KNOW** that already!!

Yes, Lindsi, it’s true... and (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ welcome you warmly to our family. Thank you for loving and appreciating Alex.... today... this evening... this wonderful celebration is all about the two of you and the promise for the future that you represent... as vital individuals and as a strong, devoted loving couple. Today, the two of you are the complete objects of all of our collected affection. But come tomorrow, after the last joke has been told... after the last speech has been made... after the caterers and wait staff **FINALLY** get to sit down.... (**Wait for the laugh**).... the two of you will resume the business of life... of bringing your compassion to your professions, your dedication, experience and insights to your patients, and your love, admiration, and respect to each other. ... Sounds like a pretty great life to me!!! Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “....To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.... This is to have succeeded...” The two of you are on the right track... and we are very proud of the both of you.

(**If you would like to propose a toast, you can say below... if no toast, just say the sentiment**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Lindsi and Alex, It was Oprah who said, “I don’t think you ever stop giving. I really don’t...” unfortunately... and apparently, Oprah seems to have misplaced my address... but I digress... (**Wait for the laugh**)... Married life is about love and partnership, giving and receiving, health and happiness... compromise, shared goals, and laughter... lots and lots of laughter... Here’s to a life together filled with more than you might ever wish for... and maybe a nice little something from Auntie Oprah... (**Wait for the laugh**). Congratulations! We love you! Thank you all.