**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**HOWARD KLEIN**

Hello everyone!! On behalf of Erin’s mother, Pearl, we would like to welcome all of you to this very special moment for Erin and Andrew. Weddings have a way of bringing people together and clearly this one is no exception!!! It’s wonderful to see so many of you here tonight, and to those of you that have traveled from far and wide, welcome!!! Your presence has made this occasion more special, if that’s even possible!!... I also hope those of you that have made the trip have slated in some extra time to enjoy yourselves at our gorgeous beaches, world class golf courses, and... hopefully.... sublime weather... not that I want to give it a “Kunna hurra...poo poo poo...” if you know what I mean... (**Wait for the laugh**). We may be modern down here in Florida... we may be “living the life...” but trust me... we still believe in protecting ourselves from..... you know... (**Wait for the laugh**) ... as a legendary father of the bride once said... **TRADITION**!!

While there are some very important people who are not able to be here with us, I want to say that I am thrilled that my mother, Bubbie Miriam, is celebrating with us tonight... Mom, you look as beautiful as ever. Two very special people who weren’t able to travel to physically be with us are Erin’s grandparents, Bobbie and Irving. Irving is 97 years young and is resting in Montreal... but I promise you, these two are very much with us in spirit and send their love and best wishes (**Can you FaceTime them and have them say hello while you’re speaking? Just a thought.... maybe a relative or neighbor can help them?? It could be a special treat. If so, you can say...**) ... in fact, here they are now!!

I think all of you will agree that this wedding has been done beautifully, and for that, we have Pearl, Andrew’s mother Marcia, and of course Erin to thank. To all of the attendants that accompanied, escorted, and lent their own special charms .... especially to our adorable flower girls and page boys... thank you for doing such a magnificent job!!! ....this evening has truly been magical for Erin and Andrew to begin their long, happy life together.

A lot has happened in our family in the past sixteen months... Daniel and Amy got married, we were blessed with beautiful baby Davie who is now two months old, and here we are... over the course of that time, Pearl and I became Bubbie and Zaydie... I know... I know.... hard to believe that two such energetic... youthful... **power** golfers (**If your wife doesn’t play golf, you can add her favorite sport... shopping? Something else?? And say**) and **power** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ... could be grandparents... (**Wait for the laugh**)... and we’re very proud that on the Schreter side of the family, Erin, batting clean up.... is the last of **SEVEN** grandchildren to marry.... the pressure is **ON**... Davie.... don’t worry, we’ll give you about twenty years or so to get up to speed.... (**Wait for the laugh**)

Erin, I have to say, I’ve lived and seen a lot in my life, and I think that, as I recall, there have only been three times when I’ve been absolutely speechless... the first time was when I laid eyes on your mother all those years ago... the second was when I saw you today, looking absolutely stunning in your wedding gown... and the third was when I found out just how much this **EXTRAVAGANZA** was going to cost me.... (**Wait for the laugh**)... but let’s face it, Erin, you and I both know how special our relationship has been.... and it’s worth every penny...

I remember so much of it... like it was yesterday... when you were just one year old, you came down with chicken pox **AND** pneumonia... it’s so hard for a parent to see a child that sick... you just laid like a latke on my shoulder... quiet... miserable... somehow fighting your way back to health... and I knew.. even back then... that my little girl had strength... you were a **TROUPER**... and would be able to beat any challenges life threw at you... and you did, and you have. I remember when you were six years old. You visited your brother Daniel in camp and wanted to stay... at **SIX**!!! While other kids would have cried at the thought of leaving their parents, you knew **EXACTLY** what you wanted... you showed your independence and determination... that hasn’t changed either.

... and how we loved hanging out at sports events!! Playoff games... hockey... football...boy did we have great times walking around the park and the bleachers... bonding... “chewing the fat...” and the hot dogs... the popcorn... those were **OUR** times... it didn’t even matter that a game was going on... Erin, we’ve always had that special connection... and I always cherished your openness.... even when you let me in on the “girly” stuff...

I remember when you were in high school... you had your “pack...” nine of you, all best friends, which meant nine mothers too... or eighteen opinions on what to wear and who to date...it seemed like every day there was **SOMETHING...** always lots of mishigas and you, Erin were the voice of reason... always an incredible friend, a good listener, and all of them could depend on you. Erin the peace keeper, the born leader, knowing not to sweat the small stuff... always there to settle an issue, when friends needed you, and those friends were and are there for you too, still friends today and forever. (**Do you want to name any of them that will be there?**) Here’s to you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Erin, I watched as you decided to go to college in Boca Raton... you really applied yourself, and when you graduated Summa Cum Laude, it was one of the proudest moments of my life.

And here we are... and you, my daughter, are a married woman, joining the ranks of your legacy.... from Grandma Bobbie to your mother, and now you...three generations of strong, beautiful, determined women. I’ve known your mother since we were just fifteen years old. I’ve witnessed and admired her more and more as she inherited the grace of your grandma, and I see those traits shining in you as well.... and it’s really beautiful to watch. This life grants us many blessings, but to appreciate the beauty in one’s own family... that’s the ultimate. While it’s like seeing life go full circle, it’s even better knowing that our family and heritage goes on.

Andrew, I want to officially welcome you to our family and I am proud to have you as another son. Every father wants to be assured that his daughter chooses the right partner in life, and I know that you and Erin are, and have been “bashert” for many years. You’re a great guy who clearly loves our Erin and obviously makes her very happy. I think you two have known each other long enough to know what you are getting yourself into by joining our family... we are thrilled that you are part of it... and now we can get serious... about fixing the slice in your golf swing, - scramble tournament - your drive my short game. (**? Please clarify**). To Marcia and Ron, when I look at Andrew, I see a real mensch and that is a reflection of the way you raised him. Welcome to our extended, blended family... Pearl and I are thrilled to welcome you too and we look forward to sharing many happy memories in the future.

I’d like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast...

Erin, Andrew, I am confident that together, you have a great future and I know the two of you will always take care of each other. Here’s to a life filled with love and health, happiness and partnership, and a conversation that never ends... congratulations!! We love you!