**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RALPH GARCIA**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone. For those of you that may not know, I am Ralph, the very proud father of Anthony... you know... Kaicee’s new **husband**.... My wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so happy to be sharing this very special moment for the Garcia family and we are particularly pleased to officially welcome Kaicee to our family as our own daughter. Looking around this room tonight, I can’t help but notice how much care, time, preening, puffing, polishing, primping... has happened just to make sure every detail... every angle... every hair and fold of cloth was perfectly placed so that documentation of this wonderful day would **REALLY** serve to remind us of the incredible beauty of this moment.... Yes, **ANTHONY...** I’m referring to **YOU!!**  (**Wait for the laugh**). Son.... you **KNOW** I’m kidding... but let’s face it... when we look up “**metrosexual**” in the dictionary... welllll... you’re the **POSTER BOY**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Kaicee, if it’s even possible, you look more beautiful than ever and the combined glow from the two of you tonight lights up this room (**If you think it’s appropriate and funny, you can add**).... or Anthony... did you get the **deluxe** spray tan??? (**And wait for the laugh**).

I want to explain myself... while I may have teased a bit about Anthony and his devotion to his “look,” I wouldn’t be able to say those things if I weren’t sure of some non-negotiable truths.... Anthony has always been a wonderful person, a really well behaved and devoted son... and ever since I can remember, he’s been a passionate perfectionist... one with discipline, dedication, and drive.... a phenomenal athlete, a young man of “style” with a terrific sense of humor.... you know... a real handsome, caring, interesting, irresistible chip off the old block... well, okay... **NOT totally.**.. I would always compare him to myself when I was his age.... or at **any** given age and I couldn’t help but observe how I was never as together as Anthony... I was always in trouble as a young kid.  My wife and I worry more about him now as an adult than we did when he was a young child... how did we create this handsome, talented, irresistible human? Let’s say good genes in **REALLY good jeans**.... and now we have Kaicee.... someone to love, honor, respect... and **WORRY** about Anthony with us!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

My wife and I have always been proud of our children.... Anthony and his older sister, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have done their best to make us proud, thankful parents. As I said, growing up, Anthony was an incredible, fearless athlete. He was a phenomenal baseball player all through his young life, including high school.  He transitioned into becoming a semi-pro BMX Rider, competing locally as well as nationally.  He even competed in the DEW TOUR when it was held in Salt Lake City.  At the time, he was too young to travel alone so our daughter accompanied him when my wife and I were unable be there as guardians.  Of course, in extreme sports, anything can happen.... and it usually did... the funny thing you have to know is that I am a police officer and it was not uncommon, when Anthony was back home practicing, to receive a phone call from one of his friends telling me to respond to the bike park during my shift. They frequently had to let me know that while they were practicing... **OOPS**... Anthony was about to be transported to the hospital by ambulance.  He repeatedly received injuries... and whether it was knocking his teeth out, breaking bones or needing numerous stitches, Anthony kept us **ALL** on our toes...especially the team at (**Name the hospital**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ emergency room... he trained all of us to be ready for “the call”.... **including** the AFLAC duck... Fortunately, I had a pretty comprehensive accident policy.... Anthony... you really made that duck work for its premiums!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

.... And then, one day, **THEY** met... and while the fates conspired to bring their paths to actually cross right here, in Florida, in earlier times, it seems they were closer than any of us would have imagined... you see, Anthony and Kaicee were both born and raised in New York.  Unbeknownst to them, they lived within 15 miles of each other but had never met.  When I think about it, I wonder, were they ever in the same place at the same time.... not yet meeting... with fate testing their future connection and how their paths might finally cross? We’d watched scenes like that in the movies many times, but we never thought we would witness such destiny up close. Both of them ended up in Florida years later and happened to meet during a party at a local club.   Kaicee remembers how Anthony caught her eye as he “showed his moves” on the dance floor.... and wouldn’t you know?? Anthony’s dedication to grooming, slick moves, and precision timing finally **REALLY** paid off...  They began talking and soon realized they were both from New York and grew up in neighboring towns.  They also realized they shared the same month and year of birth.  I now believe that when something is meant to be, life really does work in mysterious, wonderful ways... These two were made for each other... and it is an honor to celebrate their union.

And now it’s official. Our son, that handsome, razor sharp daredevil, whom we’ve watched over, loved, cared for, and encouraged all these years, is about to embark on **THE** most incredible adventure of a lifetime, and now Kaicee will be by his side.... Kaicee, once again, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thrilled to welcome you to our family as our own and we cannot wait to cheer you on as the both of you take the wildest, craziest, most fulfilling journey. It’s hard to express the emotions I feel right now. Marriage is a rite of passage granted to those who truly **dare** to take the plunge... to live fully... to love with abandon... and to express and pledge the ultimate form of trust, with that **ONE** person who’s been chosen by fate to share all of the challenges, triumphs, curveballs and opportunities that will come your way.

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say**)

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

To Kaicee and Anthony... here’s to a long and wonderful life together... your paths finally converged and the future is **YOURS**... **TOGETHER**.... May it be filled with health and happiness... laughter and surprises... family, friends, good fortune, and more than you could ever wish for. Congratulations!! We love you!!! Thank you all!!