**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RALPH GARCIA**

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 in the history of the Garcia family and we are particularly pleased to officially welcome Kaicee to our family as our beautiful daughter. Looking around this room tonight, I can’t help but notice how much care, time, preening, puffing, polishing, primping... has taken place 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 beauty of this moment.... and that was just **ANTHONY**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Son.... you **KNOW** I’m kidding... but let’s face it... when we look up “**metrosexual**” in the dictionary... welllll... that picture of **you** says it all!! (**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... is that your **new** **bronzer**??? (**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... 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 chip off the old block... **NOT**... I would always compare him when I was his age.... at **any** given age and I couldn’t help but observe how I was always in trouble as a young kid.  My wife and I worry more about him now as an adult then we did when he was a young child... oh how the tables have turned.... and now we have a partner in Kaicee.... someone to love, honor, respect... and **WORRY** about Anthony!! (**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 to receive a phone call during my shift from one of his friends while they were practicing, telling me to respond to the bike park as Anthony was about to be transported to the hospital by ambulance.  He repeatedly received injuries... and whether it was knocking his teeth out or breaking bones to needing numerous stitches, Anthony kept us **ALL** on our toes...  including the AFLAC duck... Luckily I had a pretty comprehensive policy for accidents.... Anthony... you really made that duck work for its premiums!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

.... And then, one day, along came Kaicee... or so we thought... and while the fates conspired to bring their paths to cross right here, in Florida, in earlier times, 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.  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 apparently paid off...again...  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.  Destiny really does work in mysterious, wonderful ways... These two were meant to be together... and we all know how they complement each other very nicely... in so many ways.

And now it’s official. Our son, the daredevil, 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.

(**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!!