**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**AMEE AMIN**

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know, I am Amee and I am the very proud sister of our groom, Avi. Weddings are great affirmations of life, love, family, friends, and continuity, and this one is **DEFINITELY** no exception!!! As we “officially” welcome Nisha, and as we congratulate and welcome her parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and her brothers and sisters, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to our wonderfully extended family, images and incidents of Avi’s life, our connection as brother and sister, and family memories come rushing back, so here we go on a little journey to reminisce about the handsome, charming, brilliant young man who, today, takes a bride.

Nisha, in case you thought you knew all there was to know about my brother.... **SURPRISE**!!! ... Probably not!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... and although you’ve fallen in love and married the man you **THINK** you know... **HOLD ON**!!! It goes **deeper**. There’s an expression I’ve heard used in childhood development... “Give me the child when he is seven years old and I will show you the man...” To that I respond with a variation on another classic one-liner.... “Take my brother... **PLEASE!**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). So what was “Avi the Younger” like as a kid??? .... well, to a polite crowd, I would say that Avi demonstrated a natural curiosity and an enthusiasm for just about everything that crossed his young path. Sounds intriguing, yes??? **Wellllll**, just between you and me, the kid **DID**. **NOT**. **SHUT**. **UP**. (**Wait for the laugh**). I guess the good news is, that natural curiosity led to a brilliant, straight A academic career and an even more rewarding professional career as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Back then??? We **COULDN'T** **ESCAPE**!!!! Like the Energizer bunny, he would just go on and on and on and on.... talking about anything and everything.... and like Superman, **NOTHING** would stop him... his mouth was **faster** than a speeding bullet!! His thoughts were **more powerful** than a locomotive.... he was able to leap tall buildings at a single bound... just to get back in your face and finish a sentence!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... back then we weren’t so close... mainly because I couldn’t get a word in edgewise... but through the years, Avi has mellowed... actually we both have, and as we’ve grown up, we’ve grown closer and are true good, close friends. I am so blessed to have him as my wise older (?) brother...

Of the other highlights in the life of “Avi the Younger” we cant forget his stellar self confidence. His “gift of gab” worked in his favor as he stood fast by his pledge to make **ONE THOUSAND FRIENDS** while at University of Michigan... his passion for extra curricular activities sparked the legendary quote (**Do you want to make a little joke and say**)... in fact, it’s safe to say that this would be his “Real Housewives tag line”... “That one time in band camp... “ (**Wait for the laugh**).... we associate that so much with Avi that, kind of like the Stockholm Syndrome, it almost feels like “American Pie” borrowed from **US**.... (**Wait for the laugh**) ... and of course, as I mentioned earlier, as Avi paved the way and reminded us that he is our own Superman, I would be remiss if I did not mention his stellar, legendary, blindingly impressive **SIX PACK**... Avi... it’s been **EIGHT YEARS**....**WHEN**??? (**Wait for the laugh**).

But with it all and through it all, my brother must have done something right, because now I have the beautiful, wonderful, Nisha as my **sister**. I remember the first time we met... Avi was a little nervous...and believe me, he let me know... remember, he’s never been short on self expression!!! When I met her, I instantly knew that she was a great girl. I called my family and told them all about her and let them know that she’s so sweet. We started getting to know each other and she turned out to be an amazing person inside and out. Nisha always pushes my brother to be the best that he can be and is always looking out for our family. Nisha, your initial fear of meeting our family has melted away and none of us can imagine our family without you. You’re there for us, in good times and in challenging times. As with Avi, you **FIT** right in with us, and thats the biggest acknowledgement and compliment I can give. I’m so thankful that you and Avi met. Welcome sister!!!

Nisha and Avi, you express your love and respect for each other in so many ways... both big and small... the sign of true devotion is when a person thinks more of their partner than him- or herself.... you’ve both demonstrated that selfless dedication... and whether it’s to celebrate with a night of music or to be there to console, your commitment is unconditional. I know this moment is bittersweet. I also know that the loss of our father,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ left an irreplaceable void in our lives, but Avi, he taught you well... he taught you to be strong and devoted.... to value family and to really appreciate and protect all of the blessings life has given us. I have no doubt that he is watching over us right now and will continue to watch over you and Nisha as you find strength in each other and build your family. I can’t think of anyone who could have or would have been a better brother... even **WITH** all the talking (**Wait for the laugh**) and I am just so genuinely happy for you and Nisha.

(**Do you want to propose a toast? If not, just skip those words**) Ladies and gentlemen, please raise a glass as I propose a toast...

Nisha and Avi, to quote Andre Maurois, “A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short.... “ Here’s to yours!!! Congratulations!! We love you!!