**WEDDING SPEECH - REHEARSAL DINNER**

**FOR**

**DEBBIE BERGER**

Hello everyone!!! I don’t think I can overstate the obvious.... and that is, it is **SO GREAT** to be here with all of you on this very happy occasion for Melissa and Alex. Some of us have waited for well over a year to get to this day... some of us have waited even longer.... (**clear your throat and say**) **Ahem**... Melissa, from the day you were born, I’ve dreamed of what it would be like for you to grow into a beautiful, vivacious, talented young woman ... we knew early on that we’d have **THAT** covered.... I wondered who you’d marry and what your wedding might be like... and here we are!!! You and Alex found each other and the rest is history... Of course my dreams didn’t include provisions for surviving a global pandemic.... **WHO KNEW?!?!** (**Wait for the laugh**) but thank goodness, we made it through.... **love wins,** and on Sunday, you marry and I gain a second son named Alex!!!

I know we have probably all heard the expression, “Life is not a dress rehearsal,” but in some cases, for instance, in preparation for a wedding, it definitely comes in handy!! Tonight may officially be called a rehearsal... a practice... a chance to find our places in the procession of the wedding, but it’s really so much more. It’s a chance to share a moment.... to be with all of you who mean so much to Melissa and Alex. It’s a chance to bond and reminisce, to strengthen existing connections to the bride and groom that have made it through the years, the challenges, and the strangest of times, and to make new memories.

I want to welcome Alex’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and thank both of you for raising such a wonderful, caring son. To the wedding party, (**do you want to name them?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, maid of honor, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bridesmaids, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ best man, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , groomsmen, you’re about to stand up for for Melissa and Alex and witness their bond and union. It’s quite an honor for all of you, and I know having all of you close to them for love, support, laughs.... all of it, means the world to them.

Tonight is just a small taste of the celebration we will have on Sunday... what a great opportunity to practice sharing such joy!! Thank you all!!

**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DEBBIE BERGER**

Hello everyone!!! We **MADE IT!**!! We’re finally here, celebrating the wedding of Melissa and Alex. It’s been more than a year filled with stops, sort of starts, more stops, and incredible determination, perseverance, patience, planning, and praying. On a positive note, it’s given all of us time to process, plan, and think.... “do I **REALLY** want to wear **THAT**???” (**Wait for the laugh**) to... “Nope... **DIFFERENT SEASON!!**” ... Back to “That’ll work!!” But the most important thing is that Melissa and Alex are married.... they’re happy.... and the “legend” and mystery of “How to Plan **ANYTHING**” During a Global Pandemic” has been resolved. Some day, we will all look back on this time and we’ll recall what it’s been like... **three** postponements... surviving shortages... adapting lifestyles and habits to suit the times.... but one thing is certain... love **endures** and these two showed us how strong their connection is and will be.

I want to thank **ALL** of you for being here and sharing this wonderful moment with us. Whether you’ve come from near or far, I am sure we are all just grateful to be together and to have a reason to celebrate. It’s been a tough several months but I think we would agree that with all of the uncertainty and challenges we faced and endured, we realized where our priorities are placed. We all got behind Melissa and Alex and saw what a little “magic,” in the form of love and commitment can accomplish. I am very proud of these two.

Melissa, you have **ALWAYS** been a light in our lives. Ever since you were a little girl you showed us exactly who you were, are, and will be.... the life of the party.... especially **THIS ONE!**! Your way with a word... with people... friends.... the kids you’ve taught and the teams you now supervise... we are all so blessed to be on the receiving end of your passion for life. I couldn’t have conjured up a more terrific daughter if I tried....

And then there was Alex.... Dare I say that when they met, the air was **ELECTRIC**??? Can I say I saw the **SPARKS** fly when I first saw them together??? Is a mother allowed to make some **MOM** jokes??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes Alex.... you made it so easy for us... First of all, I didn’t have to guess at the spelling of your name... what are the odds that I would have **TWO** sons named Alex?.. ... But I do and I couldn’t be happier. I see the way you honor my daughter.... I mean your **WIFE**... and that speaks volumes to me. You two truly complement each other and I am touched to see how devoted you are to Melissa and how she just absolutely adores you.... I’d like to congratulate Alex’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and acknowledge you for raising such a sweet, earnest, good soul.

As many of you know, we are originally from New York. Sometimes, being out here in Dallas, even after so many years, I would find myself wondering, “How did I get here? What are we doing here?? What’s the grand plan??” And what I realized is that **THIS** was the grand plan... in Judaism, we have an expression... actually, just one little word... **Bashert**... it means “meant to be....”. **Destiny**... when I look at Melissa and Alex, I understand the meaning of the term.... these two have met their destiny in each other, and they were open enough, bright enough, and curious enough to enter into each other’s worlds.... and wouldn’t you just know it.... their love and respect and devotion to one another just keeps growing. I am so happy for the two of you.... actually the **THREE** of you... I’m so happy today, I’ll even wish Aria a **MAZEL TOV**!!! ... But Melissa... you can tell her.... I know she’s probably really busy at boot camp!!

Melissa, Alex.... here’s to a happy, healthy, beautiful, love filled, long, and successful life together. May it be filled with more than you might ever wish for!!! Congratulations!! I love you guys! Thank you!!