**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**TRAVIS BUTCHER**

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know…. And I would imagine at this point, that would be **no one…** seeing as how this great moment has been a long time coming…planning… plotting… wondering… replanning…. But I **digress**… I’m Travis, and I am Taryn’s proud, happy, and slightly overwhelmed father. (**If you are married, you can say**) My wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome all of you here today. We know it took a great deal to be here with us, and whether you’ve traveled from near or far, we are so happy and thankful that you made it, in person… just like the “**good old days**”… (**wait for the laugh**) to share our joy.

I will never forget that day, back on (**name Taryn’s birthday**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, when our lives changed forever. Back then, although we had a comprehensive short term plan… keep her fed, watered, rested and happy… (**wait for the laugh**)… we had more than several “flash forward” moments…

Some that even attempted to wonder what this day would be like. Back then they were, well, kind of **abstract**…. Over the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, as Taryn grew up and evolved into the incredible, beautiful young woman she has become, those visions became more frequent… more real… so many times, we wondered, “What will this day be like?” Now we know, and I cannot imagine a more perfect place to be than right here, right now. God is definitely good…. And although there are tests and trials along the way, sometimes, if we’re very, **VERY** blessed, we get to live through and share the unexplainable joy that comes with the honor of being a father.

I’ve been blessed with experiencing some amazing moments in my life… some as the subject… some as the witness. That day of Taryn’s birth was filled with so many emotions, but the one that I remember most, the one that rises again today, is the utter, unabashed joy in seeing my daughter born. At the time, technically, we named her Taryn \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I knew it…. We chose it… it was a good name. To some it was historical… biblical.. it’s been said that in Hebrew it means, “she will sing,” or “she will be full of happiness.” Some interpretations tell us it means “of the earth.” I have to confess that **NOWHERE** have I read, or did I know of, a transliteration for the name that came close to, **BOO BOO**…. (**Wait for the laugh)….** I will **NEVER** forget when she was around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old, **BOO BOO**… I mean Taryn…. I mean our bride… realized her name actually was and **IS** Taryn…. And she **INSISTED** that I call her by her given name…. (**Turn to Taryn and say**)….. but you **KNOW** you will always be **BOO BOO** to me….

I’ve had so many thoughts, memories, flashbacks come to me in preparation for this day…. This event…. This small tribute to my daughter, as she goes on to the next, greatest chapter of her life. A father/daughter relationship is the stuff of legends. Taryn and I have built so many meaningful memories over the years…even the seemingly smallest moments… they come back to me and serve to confirm how blessed I am to be her father. We played games…. “Heavy Spider,” “Walking on the Ceiling,” “The Squisher….” Ahhhhh **THOSE** were the days!!! And there were the tough times too…but having Taryn light up my day made things so much better… like the love I received when I was in the hospital…. Taryn… you climbed into my hospital bed to comfort me…. I **NEVER** imagined a **BOO BOO** could be so therapeutic!!! I remember the pride that filled me just standing with her on Football Friday and on Senior Parents Night. And I remember feeling anxiety too… as I got a phone call one night…..

It was from Cris (**is this the groom’s name? I searched the couple…. If not, please change)**…. It’s a call that every father dreads yet looks forward to… it’s complicated being a father!!! He wanted to meet… for **COFFEE**… Had more **OMINOUS** words **EVER BEEN SPOKEN**??? (**Wait for the laugh**). I admit… I wasn’t totally surprised…. I anticipated by this point that he wanted to marry her… and while even **MORE** thoughts and memories flooded my mind, I remember my anxiety transformed from that to happiness as my own father comforted me by reminding me everything was going to be okay…..talk about a “circle of life” moment… Now, I can honestly say that what I feel is pure joy… joy in experiencing this great day, and the joy I feel for my daughter knowing that there is someone in this world that loves her as much as I do. Cris, you know how much I cherish my daughter, and how much I want the best for her. I want to welcome you to the family, congratulate the both of you, and let you know, in front of God and all of these guests, that the next time you call me up and ask me to join you for coffee, I won’t be even **HALF** as anxious as I was that time!!! Congratulations to Taryn and Cris… Here’s to a lifetime of love, happiness, health, partnership, adventure, and more than you could ever wish for!! Thank you!!