**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**EDWARD KHALAMEIZER**

Hello everyone, it’s clearly a great joy for me to be here to celebrate my daughter, Jane and her new husband, Tyler. It’s wonderful to feel the love that’s in the room and to stand…. and sit with so many people who are so truly happy for the bride and groom. I’ve imagined this day for my entire life…. Or at least for the portion after Jane was born. I wondered what it would be like to officially witness my eldest join hands with her soulmate. I tried to manifest the emotions…. I pictured the crowds all resplendent and cheering….. I thought of so many possibilities… and then I realized, one can be in a room with **ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE** … or even more….. and **ONE** is your father and **REALLY** believes in you…. Nope… I **NEVER** expected I would be **this** emotional… nor did I **EVER** think I’d be paraphrasing Lady Gaga on this auspicious day… (**Wait for the laugh**). All the other people in the room right now look great, they’re happy and jubilant, and are here for you both, but these next few minutes I dedicate to you two, Jane and Tyler….. By the way, knowing how Tyler and I have bonded over our love of bourbon, I would like the both of you to have a little “pre-toast”…. Let’s have the three of us take a sip… or **gulp** … of a little “schnapps”… in celebration. (**Raise your glass and say**)… besides…. I’ll sound **A LOT** funnier with this in our systems!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) Here’s to the two of you… and a lifetime filled with more than you could ever wish for….

Okay… let’s get down to “business…”

Jane, Jane, Jane….what can I say??? If I looked in the dictionary and checked the word, “adorable,” there you’d be in a full color image… vivacious… full of life and laughter…quick on the uptake and quicker with a pun or clever witticism…. I tend to say, and **really** believe, that you are just “perfect…” of course, I wasn’t around much during your teenage years…. Hmmmm … I wonder if there’s a correlation??? (**Wait for the laugh**) ….And while it seems I won’t get to say, “My child the doctor”…….. **yet**…. (**As an aside, you can say**)…. I have a couple of back ups to work on… (**and wait for the laugh**), I **CAN** say that everything you do seems to turn to gold…. Am I prejudiced? Maybe slightly, but from my point of view, your list of accomplishments and talents is **EASILY** longer than a sales receipt from **CVS**… (**Wait for the laugh**). I’ve already said you’re a wonderful daughter…. And I can’t say that enough. You’re also a fantastic older sister to Abigail, Gregory, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You’re a super, considerate friend, an excellent, enthusiastic, conscientious professional, your baking and cooking is out of this world, and not only do you ride horses, you also now know how to ride a bicycle…. And you **know the difference**!!! **KUDOS**!!! It would have been a little awkward to have a horse on campus when you attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Everyone that meets you loves you….at least that’s what we hear…. And if they don’t, well, who **ARE** they… **REALLY**???? I love the way you and Frieda, my wife, have such a genuine, supportive friendship, and your kindness and appreciation of family doesn’t stop there!!! It’s so nice to have Frieda’s mother, brother, and his family here celebrating tonight.

Tyler… your turn!!! **WELL**!!!! Welcome to the family!!! We are all blessed to have you as our son and you’re proof that Jane has magnetic charm and fantastic taste in humans… and **HUSBANDS**!!! Today the transition became “official,” but we have all seen for quite some time the wonderful chemistry you and Jane have… that could warrant a “**L’Chaim**“ and another sip of that bourbon!! You’ve brought so much to Jane, this family, and me in a relatively short time. Over the past few years, you’ve inspired me to play…. the guitar.. there’s nothing in the world like reconnecting with activities and hobbies that meant so much when we were younger. In a way, you returned me to my youth, and that is so sweet… I keep wondering what it sounds like to Frieda and the kids… on the up side, she hasn’t kicked me out yet, so that’s a plus (**Wait for the laugh**). Between the bourbon, the guitar, and our bonding over video games, I’d say Jane made a wise choice!!! And together with Jane, I can’t imagine better examples for Abigail and Gregory to admire. Thank you both for being such good, kind, fun people.

Jane and Tyler, you might not have thought about what I’m going to say in quite this way, but I hope you both realize your wedding has become a global event!!! We all had such an amazing time in Israel a few years ago. Grandma\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Grandpa\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kvelled til their cheeks hurt, and although they couldn’t be here in person, thanks to the miracle of modern technology, in a little while, they’ll be joining us to share a few words….. virtually.

So, you too, today is literally the first day of the rest of your lives. I’m honored to be your father… to observe, learn, and laugh with you…. To savor life’s sweetest parts… especially if Jane makes them, and to have a glimpse of what’s going on as seen through your youthful, optimistic filter. What a gift.

I’m gonna raise my glass one more time to both of you…. Here’s to a life filled with love, laughter, health, happiness, and prosperity… may your dreams become reality, and may you enjoy a dialogue that lasts 120 years…Amen…. Mazel Tov!! We love you!!