**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**THOMAS HOLMES**

Good evening everyone!!! For those of you that may not know….. **yet**… who I am, I am Tom Holmes, and along with my wife, Alicia, we are the proud parents of David. On behalf of Alicia, we would like to say how happy and grateful we are to share this wonderful occasion with all of you, and to celebrate the marriage of David and Danielle. Alicia and I would also like to take a moment to thank Danielle’s parents, Dan and Lisa, for hosting this terrific reception… and for raising such a lovely daughter. It’s clear that the Harteau’s put in lots of love and care into everything they do, and along with David and Danielle, all four have made this a real moment to remember…. Even more so than it would have been!! We are so happy that our son has found such a wonderful life partner in Danielle and we warmly welcome her, and all of the Harteau’s to our blended and extended family…. If this is an indication of the times we’ll all spend together, bring it!!! I’m in !!!

(**Turn to your son and say**)…. David…. This is the part you’ve been waiting for… **RIGHT**??? Don’t worry, I’ll go easy on you !!! (**Wait for the laugh).** So… Where was I?.. Ah, yes…What was David like as a little boy??? To paraphrase the filmmaker, Michael Apted, “Give me the child and I will show you the man…” David was…. and **is**… very talented and curious.  He was fascinated in the workings of objects and even at a young age, he invested time and effort to figure things out. He was always willing to spend hours constructing things using cardboard, paper towel rolls, string, and tape.  He also displayed a fascination for the wetsuits and diving equipment at our lake house…. Go figure… At just 4 yrs old, he suited up with an adult wetsuit, boots, gloves, snorkel and goggles.  He tipped himself over into the water to see how they worked….. **THAT** was somewhat ambitious… and **concerning**, as you might imagine… and rightfully so…. As luck…or lack of it would have it, his remote control tank broke.  Let’s remember, we’re talking about a **FOUR YEAR OLD**…one that disappeared for and hour or so…. In an **ADULT WETSUIT** that was **TOO BIG**, with a **BROKEN TANK**… we discovered he had found my tools and disassembled it into a 1000 pieces.  He claimed he was trying to fix it. Looking back, I realize there are several lessons to learn about that incident:

1. David… we see you… we saw you… we heard you… I hope you now realize that there are more efficient ways to get our attention… (**Wait for the laugh**) …
2. It never hurts to have spare, **working** equipment around, especially if they’re **essential** and **life saving**…. and…
3. Danielle, I don’t mean to butt in at this early stage of your marriage, but if I were you… **HIDE THE TOOL KIT**!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).
4. I’m pretty sure Alicia agrees with me … and probably Lisa and Dan as well, that we, and you and Danielle will be blessed with the next generation of Harteau- Holmes’s, because you **KNOW** what **THEY** say about **PAYBACK**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Throughout our lives, Alicia and I have been so grateful for our blessings. We have two wonderful sons… we were so happy to see Alex marry Luke last year, and now, we get to dance at David and Danielle’s wedding. We always had high hopes for David, and we always prayed he would **swim** through life… no matter how **faulty** the equipment…. **NO**, David, I’m not gonna let that incident go so easily!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… Alicia and I wondered who he would pick for his bride? What would she be like? What would her personality be like? Where was she born and raised? How would she fit in to our family?? Would she understand our quirks and traditions??? And then, when David met this wonderful young woman, it all became clear…. His talent for analysis… his curiosity… his unabashed joy in figuring out how things work, led him to find his soul mate. (**If you want to make a little joke, you can say**), … Fortunately, she didn’t come with a broken tank… (**and wait** **for the laugh**). Actually, she’s pretty much perfect…. for David, for us, for the future. I remember we first met Danielle when the four of us met for dinner at a restaurant.  We were charmed that night, and as we got to know Danielle, the more Alicia and I felt in our hearts and guts that she was the one.  Danielle, it’s obvious that you truly love and care for David.  You are beautiful, loving, caring and we are confident that with love, partnership, respect, and a healthy dose of humor, this marriage will go down in the books as one of the “greats.”

When you marry someone, you gain family….. everyone joins the mix… We love you and welcome you to our family with open arms. David and Danielle, marriage is a fascinating adventure, full of surprises, twists and turns.  As someone who has been married close to forty years, Alicia and I are still on this exciting, unpredictable journey, and I have to add, it never gets old being married to the one you love, your best friend, your “ride or die,” your “**snorkel or sink**???” (**Wait for the laugh**). All right… I’ll stop with the diving jokes… A truly successful marriage consists of a few very basic points…  Love one another, pay attention to each other, don’t take your partner for granted, and learn to put the other first…. Oh… and one more thing… **DON’T EVER FORGET YOUR ANNIVERSARY!!** Get the date tattooed on your wrist if necessary!! Just enjoy!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Here’s to a lifetime filled with more love, health, happiness, and laughter than you could ever wish for… Congratulations!!! We love you!!

**Blessing**:

(**Not sure how religious you want this to be, so please modify as needed**).

Dear Lord, we thank you for the countless blessings that abound on this day, for the meal we are about to share, for bringing these two wonderful people together, and for watching over, providing guidance and solace, and for allowing us to appreciate all things that are good in this world. Amen.