**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DONOVAN WALLACE**

Hello everyone!! It’s so great to be here, to honor Bria and Luther, and to **FINALLY** celebrate making their union official!!!! The delays were “interesting,” but we have proof that true love and determination prevail. We’ve always heard, “Everything is bigger in Texas,” and honestly, I can’t imagine having a bigger smile or more love for these two than I feel today!! (**If you want to acknowledge your wife, you can say)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and have watched, nurtured, and waited 32 years (**Bria’s age?)** and I must say, the dream…. the expectations….. of who our baby might become…. how she would make her way in the world… and who she would love has **FAR** exceeded our wildest imaginations. How in Heaven’s name did we get so lucky???

Bria, I have no idea what your mom and I did to be so blessed with a daughter like you. From Day 1, you were a gift… a real treasure. We thought we did really well when (**name Bria’s older brother)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was born….. AHHHHH !!! A **SON**!!!! An heir!!!! The Wallace line will continue!!!! We thought that ***maybe***….. we shouldn’t push our luck, but then **YOU** came along, and our blessings multiplied!!!! Finally, a daughter!!! As the years flew by, we got to really witness the wonder that is Bria Wallace, now Mrs. Luther Banner III. Every step you’ve taken in life, every chance, every test, every experiment, has led you to this moment. And every moment demonstrated who you are and how you’ve evolved into a strong, smart, loving, wise, compassionate, beautiful human being. In all honesty, however, there was **ONLY ONE TIME** you got into any trouble, and you and I handled the situation and never told your mom…. **UH OH**!!! Guess I’ve got some explaining to do!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

If there’s one thing these very strange past couple of years has taught us, it’s that true character is revealed in the most challenging of times. For you, we’ve witnessed how your intelligence, patience, tenacity, determination, and most of all, love, rule your actions and attitudes, and, my dear, you’ve showed us **ALL** how to find the way, dodging those curveballs…. which occasionally became **boulders**… with incredible grace and common sense. Quite simply, you’ve **always** made it a joy to be a father… **YOUR** father, and you did such a great job at “**daughtering**” that your mom and I decided to be bold and chance our luck, and more blessings abounded!!! You’ve proven again, and **AGAIN**, that you’re a treasure… **AND** a magnificent older sister as well!!! Isn’t that right, Asha and Hailey???

For those of you that really know me, you know I’m …. hopefully… a good guy… I honor my commitments…. I care deeply for my family…. I work hard, try to set a good example for everyone I meet, and I’m the most **discreet** person I know….. unless… I’m **NOT**. I will **NEVER** forget that afternoon… December, 2018… in Macy’s coat department…. shopping with our youngest, Hailey, when I got “the call.” It was Luther, calling to ask me for Bria’s hand in marriage…. The conversation ended and all I can remember was yelling out, in the middle of Macy’s, “**MY DAUGHTER IS GETTING MARRIED!!! MY DAUGHTER IS GETTING MARRIED!!**!” Of course, Luther had asked me to keep this a **secret**, and there I was, shouting at the top of my lungs, my declaration of joy, in the middle of a **MAJOR** department store, but then again, it **WAS** in the **COAT** department, and it **WAS** in California, so the damage wasn’t as great as it might have been had we been in a more “**cold weather**” Macy’s location…. (**Wait for the laugh**)…. Luther…. I’m belatedly asking for your forgiveness… I mean, now that you’re **officially** part of the family, it would be great…. **THANKS**!!

Bria and Luther, the two of you met at MIT….. and we thought getting an incredible education would have been enough!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Since that day, you’ve shown us the power of friendship, love, commitment, and true partnership. You two make a wonderful team and we are so proud of you and the ways in which you honor your bond, and whether it’s while exercising together…. It **NEVER** hurts to have a caring spotter!!! … or if you’re cooking together, dining out, caring for animals, the way you both shine within each other’s light is an inspiration. (**If you want, add**) Luther, you’re a fine young man and I am sure your parents are looking down and smiling, so happy at the man you have become.

As a father, at this point, I should be handing out some fatherly advice, but you know what??? You two are doing **GREAT**!!! You teach **US** what real love looks like, and I couldn’t be prouder. Just continue to **LOVE, HONOR,** and **RESPECT** one another, and there’s **NOTHING** you won’t be able to conquer together!!

(**If you want to make a toast, you can say)**

I would like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Bria and Luther, here’s to a life filled with love, health, happiness, prosperity and partnership, many adventures, and more than you might ever wish for!! Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you!!