**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ELAN SIEDER**

Hello everyone!! … I know… I should really be saying “Aloha!!!” I think that all of you probably know who I am by now … I mean, seeing as how Jason and I met so many years ago… it’s like we’ve been in each other’s lives since almost the very beginning…. And that’s a really good thing… anyway, I am Elan and I don’t know how this day could ever get better… best friends… sun… surf… love… not necessarily in that order…. Life is **good**…

Yes… to get into some details… Jason and I have been friends **FOREVER**!! …. Don’t believe me??? We met at Mommy and Me classes when we were barely more than babies!! …And not that this is a promotional appearance for the program, but let’s face it….. those classes were supposed to help with early socialization…. Looks like Jason and I **got the memo**!!! **THEY WORKED**!!! Twenty odd years later (**mention the correct amount of years if you want**), and here we are!!! I’m not about to start handing out free ideas, but wouldn’t it be funny for them to have Mommy and Me Bar Mitzvah and wedding refreshers?? Nothing like a good brand extension!!! After all, not everyone is as socially adept as Jason and me…. Thanks to our early childhood development!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Yes… Jason and I go waaaaaay back…. You might say… (almost) “womb to groom!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). As far as I’m concerned, regarding our friendship, I’m in it for life, so brace yourself, Kelli!! Yes, Jason and I have been very close friends since we were kids…. From those early play groups to school…. to all sorts of adventures beyond…. we’ve been each other’s buddy, partner, comic foil…. Of course there **IS** the point that Jason had a tendency to egg me on ….**OF COURSE**  he would laugh at everything I did but **ALSO OF COURSE**, he had more self control which served him in school, so **NATURALLY,** I would always be the one to get kicked out of class. It’s funny… now that I think of it, my name, Elan, as a word, has a special meaning… energy… style… enthusiasm… as a name, it means, “friendly.” Maybe if I knew that back then, I would have been smoother and Jason would have gotten kicked out a few times!! … **ALWAYS** happy to share, Jason!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Oh… and to even things up… I checked the meaning of the name Jason… it means, “healer… he that cures.” … I wish you worked some of that magic on the teachers that threw me out of class!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

The magic of our friendship has continued throughout the years, and as we get older, our bond continues to grow. We enjoy surfing together …. Good thing we’re here… and i could not have asked for a better friend, a truer ally, a wiser sounding board, than Kelli’s new **HUSBAND**… Jason is just simply a thoughtful, kind and wonderful person… and really, aren’t we all so lucky to have him in our lives… I’m also really lucky that Jason picked a perfect wife and life partner in the beautiful, understanding, and enthusiastic Kelli… and **THANK GOODNESS** she gets and enjoys our light hearted humor. Let me tell you…. That inspired a **BIG** sigh of relief when I saw how much Kelli and Jason mean to each other… Kelli gets the jokes ….. cough… **CYNTHIA**… cough… and shares the laughs with us… and… side bar… **she** **NEVER** got me thrown out of class!! Not that she **COULD** have or **WOULD** have…. But still good to know!! Thanks, Kelli!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Jason… now to the good stuff… you’re more like a brother to me… you’ve always been there for me, and it is a privilege and honor to have been able to stand up for you as Best Man for your wedding to Kelli. The two of you show all of us just what true love and unbreakable connection looks like, and I couldn’t be happier for the two of you. This location… this spot… your wedding… shows each one of us just how good life can be and it’s been great sharing this with you.

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Kelli and Jason… may your life together be filled with love and laughter, surf and sun, good health, great fortune, incredible family and friends, and more than you might ever wish for!! Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you!!