**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**BRIAN COPIN**

Hello everyone!! My wife, Norma and I want to welcome all of you to share in our joy as we celebrate the wedding of our daughter, Caroline, to the love her life, John. This day is so special on many levels and I can think of several more that really make this one for the books. We’re so happy to see all of you, and especially those of you that have traveled from far and wide to be with Carrie and John today. On behalf of Norma and myself, we would also like to extend congratulations to John’s parents, Mariejean and Paul. Welcome to our newly extended family!!! We cannot wait to share continued, happy, momentous events with you!

For those of you that may not know, not only is Carrie an only child, Norma and I waited until we were in our late thirties to have children…between building our careers and hanging out with friends on weekends, we did our own “special” kind of parental prep!!! But let’s face it, everything happens at the right time and for a reason, and when Carrie finally arrived, **BOY**!!! Were we ready! I will never forget being in the hospital, leading up to what would be the birth of the light of our lives… I remember the obstetrician, after working so hard with the delivery, as he turned to us and said, “It’s a **HUGE** girl!” And then, as he held one foot in one hand and one foot in the other, it was **UNDENIABLE** that she looked like a good sized king crab caught by a pretty strong Alaskan fisherman!!! I also remember in the hospital room, one of the nurses was doing her best to be official and concerned with safety… and she noticed our parents…. joyous and eager to see their granddaughter… they couldn’t get close enough…. But **OH**!!! That nurse!!! She had no idea what she was dealing with when she said the grandfathers would have to move out of the hallway in case of fire…. They asserted their rights as proud new grandfathers and politely advised the nurse that they would be sure to let the nurse know if, indeed, there **WAS** a fire!!! There was a lesson in that…. Maybe a couple…. We’re all here to surround and protect our precious Carrie, and…. Don’t mess with our joy!!!

I want to believe that as she was growing up, Carrie lacked for **NOTHING**…. She was a loving, loved, and gifted child… and when I say “gifted….” **NOTHING** was off limits for our fantastic daughter… guitar lessons, soccer, swimming, cheerleading, dance classes, ballet, gymnastics… whatever we could think of for Carrie, we offered…. I remember how we bought all the soccer gear but **SOMEONE** didn’t want to play… anyone need any first rate soccer equipment in mint condition??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Oh. And then there were the pets… Carrie likes animals and since she was our only child, we wanted to make sure she had the **FULL** childhood pet experience… you know… teaching love, responsibility, bonding, nurturing…. **WELLLLL**…. we got her every type of pet - fish, frogs, rabbits…. which we bought ……. and took back to the Pet Smart store - they charged a $10 reshelving fee.  I really think that store made it on the restocking fees alone!!! Just from us!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Carrie also had a parade of dogs and cats, and who will **EVER** forget Hammie the hamster…. He was a keeper… for as long as he lived… and to prove his place in Carrie’s affections, he **DIDN’T** get to see the inside of Pet Smart again!! No restocking fees for Hammie!!! And, of course, there were hermit crabs…. Can’t forget the hermit crabs.

I remember Carrie also had about 90 Barbie’s…. At one point, we noticed something suspicious… we saw that her Barbie’s were missing their fingers and we thought that maybe she was biting them…. It took a while but we eventually found out it was Sam the Weiner Dog secretly chowing down on Barbie’s delicate, manicured hands … I mean, I’ve heard tough guys in movies speak of “knuckle sandwiches,” but I never thought of Carrie’s sweet little dachshund as a **thug**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). That episode almost bought Sam a one way return ticket to Pet Smart but we granted him a pardon… he was really cute!!

Carrie, we lived through many adventures with you as you were growing up, and your mother and I are beyond proud of the woman you’ve become. (**If you want to make a little joke, you can say**) …And unlike our little Sam, you’re way too wise to bite the hands that care for you!! (**And wait for the laugh**). You’ve had lots of experiences and met so many people, but none would compare to the moment we first heard about a man named John…. One look at John and you **KNOW** that Carrie is in **GOOD HANDS**!!! Norma and I always wished for someone for Carrie who was strong and caring, respectful and motivated… someone that would be her best friend and other half for life, and I think it’s clear that our prayers were answered!! John, we want to welcome you to our family and we are proud… and inspired… to call you our son.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Carrie and John, this is really just the beginning of the rest of your lives together…Relationships aren’t stagnant…. They are living, breathing entities. They grow as you grow… I know this because I can honestly say that after thirty years, your mother and I have become more than husband and wife. I can honestly say we are best friends. The thing I admire about the two of you is that you already **ARE** best friends, and I know this marriage will grow richer and stronger every day, so here’s to the two of you… may you continue to laugh together and love… may you experience the best of everything… good health, great fortune, unbreakable partnership, and more than you might ever wish for… Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you!!