**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SIMI CROOS**

Hello everyone!!! For those of you that may not know…. And in **THIS** crowd, there might be a few of you…. I am Simi and I am Sibin’s sister. It’s so great to see so many of you here, from so many chapters and adventures of Sibin and Anju’s lives. I suppose one might say that I, as Sibin’s older sister, have been there, observing, since the **prologue**… Sounds pretty theatrical, **NO**???? That’s no accident!!

Many of you only know my brother as the cool, dashing, man about town… some people have even been known to call him **Mr Bollywood,** however, he wasn’t always that way. Such suave, cool, colorful sophistication (**use other descriptions of your brother that may describe him better if needed)** takes quite some time to cultivate!! The **presence**!!! The **magnetism**!!! The **star quality!**!! **THAT’s** a **BIG ONE**!!! Please understand… for almost six years of my life, I was the only child and I very much begged our parents and prayed for a sibling. When **FINALLY**, our Mom and Dad managed to bring home a brother for me, you would think I would be thrilled, **RIGHT**??? Well… without getting into too many details, let’s just say my little brother still has a bunch of scars from my jealousy and dislike towards him when he was just an innocent babe…. There’s an age old tradition that when you get a new car, you kick the tires to make sure everything is in working order…. So, as a concerned six-year old, my logic was simply, “Why would a new baby brother be different??? (**Wait for the laugh**). I had to give him a **test run**!!!

Guess what?? **SURPRISE**!!! Be careful what you wish for… Growing up, he was the typical annoying, whiny kid and mostly I remember he cried all the time….. and **NO** … I never **REALLY HURT HIM**!! It wasn’t me!!! I mean, I was just **a little kid myself**!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Sibin and I have a cousin, Jitu, and our favorite game was to pin down Sibin and wrestle with him. Of course he always lost. Some may think that was mean… let’s “**reframe**…” We were actually teaching him to be in touch with his emotions… to feel.. to find compassion… to find strength… **RIGHT**??? Now that I think of it, Dad’s side joke was that whoever lost and cried would get punished by Dad. Something must have worked right because, **TRUTH**…. We wouldn’t **DARE** wrestle him now!! Sibin took the lesson and ran with it!!! Man, those wrestling sessions trained Sibin well!!!

I guess what I’m trying to say is, as much as it was probably a rocky start for the two of us… well, **MAYBE** for **ME**, I learned the lessons of a lifetime. Being your sister really taught me… that we share a special and unique vantage point and I saw and **SEE** what it means to have a sibling…… one that’s caring and cool, strong and smart, lovable and loving… As I learned the meaning of unconditional love thanks to my annoying I mean **FANTASTIC** little brother, I can see that you two, Sibin and Anju, **ALSO** see that what you two have is that true unconditional love for each other as well. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) …. Of course, as adults, I don’t recommend the wrestling part…. But that’s up to you!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

I really mean it when I say that I'm so grateful that my little brother found the love of his life. Sibin, Anju, seeing the two of you together, knowing how much you adore and respect one another, always makes me smile. I can't help it. You are a perfect match for each other.

And now, Anju, I finally, **OFFICIALLY**, get to call you my sister. I want to welcome you to our family…. and I must say…you’re absolutely beautiful, kind, fun, strong, honest…but most of all you’re very generous. You **FIT RIGHT IN** to our family!! (**Wait for the laugh**) …And I’m not just saying that because you’ve promised all of us gold coins as a dowry…but just remember… we **WILL** be waiting for that tonight…no pressure, but know that I still remember some of my classic wrestling moves… **KIDDING**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

It took the Bollywood classic, “Mohabbatein” to teach us, “Life is about giving and receiving love… and nothing else.” Sibin, Anju, clearly you two “got the memo.” I know I speak for everyone here when I say that I wish you a long life together, filled with happiness, health, lots of love, family, friends, good fortune, and more than you might ever wish for. Congratulations!! We love you!!