**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LISA ROSEN**

**REVISED 8/20/23**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I am Lisa, and I am the happy, proud, emotional mother of our gorgeous bride, Rachel, I just gained a truly excellent son-in-law with my new **son** Jared, and yes, that makes me Apollo’s grandma… I know… **I** **KNOW**… I ask you, does it get much better than this?? I want to thank all of you, on behalf of Bob and myself, Barry and Kendra, and Ron and Mary… along with Josh and Danny, Rachel’s brothers, I am happy to be a part of a growing, extended family and tonight, all of you are part of our family too.

Rachel, the day we dreamed about, wondered about, and tried to anticipate for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years (**Rachel’s age)** is finally here and as wonderful as it is, it’s also so surreal. From the moment you were born, with eyes wide open, an alertness that was infectious, and a head full of spiky hair that would definitely have given Mr.T a run for his money… and don’t even **MENTION** about the **heartburn** I had from that hair…. (**Wait for the laugh**), we loved you **ferociously** and marveled at the way you grew up and blossomed into the incredible young woman you are today, so curious about life, so happy about discovering everything, so committed to your friends, family, and all you meet, and, of course, completely passionate about dance. Even as a kid, you did 4 years of competitive poms in high school and your team won many awards. We know what kind of determination and discipline that took, and while you focused on keeping your eye on the prize as you bonded and shared those moments with your team, it was also obvious that in the process you learned valuable life lessons, among them, respect for your contemporaries, dedication to a cause, and commitment to declaring yourself and keeping your word. All of the work… and play you did growing up contributed to your ultimate professional goal, that of immersing yourself in your career in order to really help and support people. Your dedication was clear in good times and in challenges… your calmness and level headed handling of situations was apparent at a really early age….. which was certainly remarkable, not only to you but to those around you. To give back to others and really make a difference in this world, first as a child life specialist and now working at a large counseling practice, is a gift… for all who know you. It’s not possible for me to be prouder or more in awe of you as a person, and most especially, as my daughter. You know, I’ve heard it said, “Show me the child and I will give you the person,” and you, my dear, are wonderful.

And then there was that moment in St Louis. I think it’s safe to say at this point that baseball **DOES** serve **SOME** purpose in life, because if it weren’t for that, we may mot all be here, together, in this celebration. As most of you know, Rachel met Jared in St Louis …. rooting for America’s favorite pastime, I mean baseball… and the rest is history… although sometimes **histrionics**…. depending on whom you’re rooting for. (**Wait for the laugh**). It reminds me of the first time meeting Jared. We went out for dinner and I was amazed at Jared’s genuine nature and the ease with which our conversations flowed. It was also undeniable how I noticed Rachel’s smile that never left her face. Things took off from there, and here we are. Of course, **ANYONE** that knows Rachel or Jared or both, are very aware that they share an intense devotion to tonight’s fluffy, charismatic ring bearer, their dog Apollo… (**You can add).** This a fantastic group but honestly, take note… we should all be so well behaved!! (**and wait for the laugh**). Much like the stars the admire so much, these two pretty much shine bright on their own and as a reflection of each other, but even in their individuality, one thing is for sure and **non-negotiable**…. both Rachel and Jared have independently said they would unquestionably run into a burning building or jump into treacherous waters to save Apollo!! And not that it’s official, but Apollo is an **influencer** in his own rite… yes…. He inadvertently got the last woof on the chosen wedding venue… it **HAD** to be dog friendly…. (**Turn to Apollo and say**)… Apollo, I hope you’re aware that there’s big bucks to be had for endorsements like yours?? Ahhhhh… my grand-dog the influencer… Apollo, we **WOOF** you!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

Well, Jared it’s official. I am thrilled to welcome you into our family and I do so with open arms. I also want to acknowledge Ron and Mary for doing an extraordinary job in raising such a fine human. Our newly extended family will be a force and I cannot wait to make new memories with all of us!! I’m so happy for the two of you, Rachel and Jared, as you “officially” start your married life together, and I know I speak for everyone here as I invite all of you to raise a glass to toast to a lifetime of health, happiness, partnership, and pride, for this gorgeous, newly married couple.

To Rachel and Jared, when children find true love, parents find true joy. More accurate words have not been spoken. Here’s to your joy and ours from this day forward. We love you!! Thank you all!!