To: Mr. Mills

From: EZ Speechwriter: Pete

 July 7, 2022

Speech Title: **A Conversation with our Guests**

Mr. Mills,

 Thank you for the opportunity to earn your business, and I enjoyed our conversation.

 Before the beginning of the speech, I am going to make some suggestions regarding your presentation. You may be very experienced in addressing a group, and if so, then these will just be some reminders. My suggestions, as well as occasional comments throughout the speech, will be in Purple font color.

 Whether you are at a table, or on a raised stage, stand up and allow the group to see you standing. No need to tap a glass with a spoon, or something similar. Your guests know you’re the father of the bride, and when you stand, they will give you, their attention. If there is a microphone hold it up to the level of your face, do not bend down to it. If you have notes, that is fine. Do not lean over into the notes either. Put them on a surface where you can see them without squinting. If you prefer, hold them in your hand, with your hand lower than your chest. As you speak, speak slowly. It may seem too slow, but it is not. Pretend you are having a conversation with the audience, the same as you would have a conversation with a group of friends. Project your voice, but don’t yell, or raise your voice. Make eye contact with the room as you speak. If that makes you nervous, then pick a spot in the back of the room and speak to that spot. It can be a door, a picture, a window, just focus on that, the audience will think your looking directly at them. And when you mention your daughter, your new son-in-law, his parents, or anyone by name, look them right in the eyes.

You can certainly make any changes you want to speech, but don’t overthink this. Practice your speech three times. Try and practice it when you’re alone. People mean well, but they can be a distraction. Your last practice should be the day of the speech. Once you read it out loud to yourself several times, it will become second nature.

This is a joyous occasion; it is meant to be fun.

 Begin:

 \*\*\*

“Good afternoon everyone, good afternoon, welcome, welcome. I am so overjoyed to be standing here today, the day a father sees his daughter off to a joyous new life. And the pleasure in knowing our family has a new and separate branch, that of **Ivy and Konner**.

 \*\*\*

Most of you know me, I am Russ Mills, more importantly today, and for the past twenty-three years, I am Ivy’s father.

First though, I would like to acknowledge our hosts here today at this event hall. Not only for their hospitality and courtesy this afternoon, but for the professional way they assisted in the planning for the event; Thank you.

 \*\*\*

 Many titles have come to mind for my speech this afternoon, yet no single one completely captures what is truly inside of me. So, I am going to speak from the heart, and talk to you as if it were a conversation with family and friends, because that is exactly what we’re having.

 \*\*\*

 I want to acknowledge and welcome the groom’s, Konner’s, parents, Jason, and Kathy. We have become more and more acquainted as the relationship between Konner and Ivy has grown. They have been more than gracious in extending their friendship to us, and we look forward to an even closer relationship as the years go along. **Look at them**. Thank you both for your genuine friendship, and thank you for such an amazing son, as well as a fine young man.

 \*\*\*

 And to my beautiful wife, and Ivy’s mother, Kim. Without you Kim, none of this would have happened. Now, one look at both Kim and me, it becomes obvious where my daughters get their beauty, and it sure didn’t come from me. Laughter But, more importantly, Kim also helped our girls develop their beauty from within, their intellect, their spirit, and most importantly how they treat other human beings. And my wife did this, and more, while also running her own successful business. Kim taught Ivy to be bilingual, she taught Ivy respect for not only family, but for all humankind. And might I add, when the girls, Ivy, knew that if they did something not exactly to our liking, when it came to discipline, I was the path of least resistance. So, Kim would step in. I knew we had family rules, but one tear from one daughter, would melt my rulebook. Kim’s rulebook was, and still is, Rachael, waterproof. **look at Rachael and smile**

 Light Laughter

 \*\*\*

Konner is an exceptional human being, and Jason and Kathy, again thank you for the man you raised. Konner is confident, courageous, respectful, a young man of character, poise, confidence, and initiative. Every father has thoughts on their child’s partners and spouses. All those thoughts and questions have been answered for me, because of how Konner, through the years, has treated Ivy, my daughter, and now his wife. He protects her as in such a case as the tanning salon creep, and he reassures her when life throws challenges at her, or at them both. And in today’s world of ever-changing habits and customs, he remembers his manners, holding doors, as well as waiting for Ivy to safely get to their car. In the world of marketing, he will set new standards of honesty and achievement. Both Konner and Ivy are prepared for this world. Konner will respect Ivy as his wife, his partner, and his friend as they chart whatever waters they decide for their lives together. And one more thing Konner: If the tears start to flow, don’t call me, call Kim. **Laughter**

 \*\*\*

So many emotions come to mind when I realize I am the father of the bride, and those sentiments run deep.

Ivy, you have answered my prayers, my wishes, my ever hope and dream for you. I am so proud. I know your mother did everything right, but at times I wondered if I held up my part of the bargain. As I look back on twenty-three years, the most frightened I have been in my life was when you were having some difficulties when you first arrived in this world. Then, thankfully, with the assistance of the medical staff, you began to breathe with the color of life. From that very first moment on, you have brought your father happiness. Every minute of every day I wanted more for you, than I ever had. I wanted you to achieve, and I know that at times I was very demanding. As if yesterday, I can picture the camping trips, gymnastics, vacations, watching your favorite Disney movies over and over, and weekends roughhousing at home. The college visits, my pride in watching you cheerlead, and now, continuing a family tradition, a degree in Nursing from Seattle Pacific University. And I am so very pleased, as well as inspired, by your spiritual beliefs and devotion to the Lord. And may I add pleasantly, how after many years of accepting some of my beliefs, political or otherwise, without a moment’s hesitation, you delivered a solid and accurate critique of my political persuasions. That still stings, **(look at her with a big smile),** but in a bittersweet way. I will keep an open mind for future debate, although, between you and me Ivy, you’ll probably be right again.

 \*\*\*

I could go on and on here, so much to say, so many emotions. But my heart knows the time has come for me to gently let go and allow you to happily stand next to your partner for life. I’ll be here for a father’s love, and advice for you both when the need arises.

Allow me to start you off with this: Remember it is the quality of life. While tradition is wonderful, do not feel confined by boundaries. Life is not a dress rehearsal; it is the feature presentation. Stretch your imaginations, see the world, experience the universe. Some opportunities may present themselves that seem out of the box and require a leap. Do your research, and if it feels right, take it. Your legacy will be your happiness, the things you have experienced, the hearts you have touched, and those who have touched your hearts.

 \*\*\*

 Ivy, you have made your mother and I so very proud. As a child, as a girl, and now as a woman. We love you so very, very, much.

 I raise this glass, and I invite the room to join me.

*‘Ivy and Konner; As you travel endless horizons together, may you have joy, a spirit of adventure, and foremost, a lifetime of inner peace. God bless you both, CHEERS!*

 **Pause for a moment:**

 **\*\*\***

I look forward to Kathy and Jason, also expressing and sharing their words with us here today.

Later, when all is said and done, please know we thank you all for being part of this occasion, and please be cautious and safe to your destinations later today.

Thank you.”

**Raise your hand as if in a slight wave to the guests, stand for just a second more, smile, then sit down.**

Finished