**Locker Speech [No. 15998]**

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Remarks by Mr. Kevin Locker on the occasion of his son, Steven’s, wed-ding to Janice [last name].

[after “clanging” the assembled guests to attention] well, thank you all very much for being here with us to share the joy of steven and janice’s wedding. i’m so grateul to all of you for joining us AT this happy event — ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO’VE HAD TO TRAVEL A BIT TO BE HERE. you know, We’ve contingents here from australia, brit-ish columbia, california, seatle, and minnesota — a couple more countries and we’d have the whole u.n. general assembly right here in [name of halll]!

i’d like to give VERY special THANKS AND welcome to rudy and vicky [last name], for helping us celebrate OUR children’s nuptuals together. [TO janice’s PAR-ENTS]. I’m sure you’re both as proud of your “grow-ed-up” little girl as carol and i are of our one-time black -belt son. janice is every bit as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. YOU’VE RAISED A WONDERFUL daughter, rudy and vicky, AND I’M so very glad THAT sHE’S NOW BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, AS WELL.

i’ve been told that the bridal shower that [full name], janice’s maid of honor, arranged went off beautifully and without a hitch. Thanks, [first name] for all your tremendous work and effort. so as our two families have now become united, i offer this toast to the newest member of the locker clan, [raise a glass to janice]: *to janice! let Our family’s love enfold you; MAY YOu count on it forever and be comforted in it.*

now i must say, that janice’s seriousness, compas-sion, good humor, and open-mindedness are all traits that she shares with jeff. but they’ll tell you themselves that — despite their many affinities — they’re almost polar opposites in other respects.

steven, for example, is a proscratinator. to him, deadlines are his friends. Give him three hours to complete a four-hour job, and he’ll be on it like a flash — and finish it with a couple of minutes to spare! Janice isn’t nearly as enamored of deadlines as steven is, and she doesn’t seem to require the pressure of impending doom to do her best work.

Steven is worrywart, and like all men of his breed, he spends *way* too much time fretting about things he can’t change. even at the age of 43, my dear son has not yet grasped the truth of what mark twain once said, namely that *“worrying is paying interest on a debt you might not even owe.”*

Janice, on the other hand, doesn’t fret about such things. And if and when a debt of any kind comes due, she pays it off right ***now*** and then moves on. [to steven] there’s a les-son in that for you, my boy!

Steven is a bit of introvert. Janice is more outgoing — one might say even say “bubbly.”

Steven’s pretty mild-mannered and calm — except, of course, when he’s in worrying mode. in contrast, janice can at times be a little more “in your face” about things, but in a *very* pleasant way, I assure you!

now, i must tell you that i know for a fact the marri-age between steven and janice was *not* made in heaven.

It was made on the internet — or at least it *began* on the internet thru [name of dating site]. but however it started, this marriage was undoubtedly ***designed*** in heaven! for i don’t think i’ve ever known two people so perfectly *made* for each other as steven and janice are.

and how’s this for a piece of what you might call an “intelligent coincidence”: when we met janice for the first time six years ago, we learned to our huge amazement and surprise that she was in fact the daughter of our good friends, rudy and vicky [last name], whom we’d known for years but with whom we’d not be in touch for a while. well, *hullooo* . . .

[to jeff and romy] one day, my dear children — and yes, you’re still our children! — you shall become parents. and your children will grow up all too quickly. and Before you know it, you’ll be standing at a table on a dias like this one, toasting your son or your daughter’s NUPTIALS. then and ***only*** then will you be able truly to APPRECIATE the joy, the gratitude, and the love that’s flowing through your parents’ veins right now.

[to the audience]: won’t you join me in this toast: [RAISING A GLASS TOWARD THE BRIDE AND GROOM] *“JEFF AND ROMY: MAY YOUR LOVE BE ADDED, AND MAY IT NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD MULTIPLY AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN AND YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE. MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.*

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