**Rookuizen Speech/Revised [EZ Speech No. 16257]**

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Remarks by Mr. Carl Rookuizen at the wedding of his son, Dereck.

GOOD AFTERNOON, everybody. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I’M carl rookuizen, AND I’M the proud and beaming father of [pointing to DERECK] that HANDSOME YOUNG MAN over there, MY SON, DERECK. AND I’M THE EQUALLY-PROUD FATHER-IN-LAW OF the sweet and lovely, salina MCMANN, WHO i can assure you is as beautiful ON THE INSIDE AS SHE CLEARLY IS ON THE OUTSIDE.

now, any of you fathers out there who’ve walked a SON down the aisle at HIS wedding knows the SWIRLING mish-mosh of emotions every father feels at THIS moment. on the one hand, you MUST face the stark reality that you’re finally and irrevocably losing THAT “CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK” — and there’s a certain sadness to this that only a father can know. of course, he’ll never stop being, at least in your mind, “dad’s little GUY.” but now he’s “all growed up,” as they say, a man in his own right, with a bright new AND INDEPENDENT life ahead of him.

on the other hand, you couldn’t possibly be *happier* than you are on this day, BECAUSE you realize that your son’s marrying the girl of his dreams, a woman you’ve come to know, love, and appreciate as a woman of substance who loves your son deeply, just as you’d hoped and PRAYED his wife would. and gaining such a wonderful daughter-in-law as salina MCCANN makes me happier than i can possibly express.

[turning to salina’s parent] YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC daughter, JANE AND IAN, AND BOTH Dawn AND I ARE *THRILLED* THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG woMAN OF YOURS IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

[to the bride and groom] one day, dereck AND salina, you shall become parents. and your children — may god grant them health — 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 daughter’s NUPTIALS. then and ***only*** then will you be able truly to APPRECIATE the joy, the gratitude, and the love that’s coursing through your father’s veins right now.

now as most of you know, my son, dereck, is a molecular biologist. he works as a research scientist at the curie institute in paris. his work helps find cures for diseases. salina dresses up like a clown[?] and visits hospitals to help patients recover from diseases. and you thought their professionas had nothing in common!

but actually, THESE TWO have a *lot* in common, beside a deep and abiding love for one another. LIKE, for example, they both love to eat; luckily, they both love to COOK. I’M NOT SURE WHO DOES THE SHOPPING. they’ve also both Got a genetic disposition toWARD wonderlust; THEY love to travel and do a lot of it. they also love people and are HIGHLY SOCIABLE. and of course, even they didn’t share all OF THE ABOVE, as humphrey bogart said in *casablanca*, “they’ll always have paris.”

[FACETIOUSLY] NOW, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS I . . . [CLEAR YOUR THROAT] . .*NEVER* GIVE ADVICE THAT ISN’T ASKED FOR. BUT IN THIS CASE, I shall VEER FROM THIS POLICY ONLY TO TELL YOU, DERECK AND SALINA, THAT THERE ARE TWO SIMPLE KEYS TO A HAPPY AND LONG-LASTING MARRIAGE. YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT THEY ARE? good. i’ll tell you. THEY ARE, NUMBER ONE, COMMITMENT; AND, NUMBER TWO, HONESTY IN COMMUNICA-TIONS. IF YOU REALLY MEANT THAT “TILL DEATH DO US PART” vow, THEN YOU KNOW THAT NO AMOUNT OF DAY TO DAY TRAVAIL, OR EVEN THE OCCASIONAL CRISES OF LIFE, CAN TEAR TWO PEOPLE APART who ARE truly in love with each and ARE deeply COMMITTED TO each OTHER’s happiness. AND I’M SURE I DON’T HAVE TO TELL either of you HOW IMPORTANT HONESTY is, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH EACH OTHER. AND REMEMBER, DERECK, THAT WOMEN *honestly* BELIEVE THAT THE LAST WORD IS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. DON’T MESS WITH THAT, SON, for YOU’LL DO SO ONLY AT YOUR PERIL.

AND with THOSE BITS OF profundity, i’d like to close my remarks with a SHOUT-OUT of thanks and appreciation to [name], dereck’s head groomsman for the wedding; TO [name], salina’s MAID OF HONOR; and to JANE AND IAn for all their help in making this event so special.

AND FINALLY, I’D LIKE TO OFFER THIS TOAST: [RAISING A GLASS TOWARD THE BRIDE AND GROOM] DERECK AND SALINA: 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 LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY ALWAYS, AND REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOU LOVED EACH OTHER RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.

AND FINALLY, MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. GOD BLESS THE TWO OF YOU!

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