**SCHOLZ SPEECH [EZ Speech No. 15424]**

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Toast by Mr Will Scholz honoring his bride at their wedding.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN — OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND ALL OF YOU CHERISHED GUESTS WHO’VE JOINED US TO CELEBRATE OUR WEDDING: IT’S JUST SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU ALL WITH US THIS EVENING! MY PURPOSE TONIGHT IS TO GIVE A LONG AND UNABASHEDLY LOVING TOAST TO MY BRIDE, TERI; BUT BEFORE I DO SO, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE THAT I SIMPLY MUST THANK FOR MAKING MY LIFE , MY HAPPINESS, AND THIS NIGHT POSSIBLE.

FIRST, I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE. I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAD TO TRAVEL QUITE A WAYS TO JOIN US THIS EVENING, and FOR THAT, I’M ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL. I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY WONDERFUL AND CARING PARENTS, WHO HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ME ALWAYS, AND WHO HAVE LOVED ME UNCONDITIONALLY THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MY ROLLER-COASTER LIFE. AND FINALLY, I must EXPRESS MY DEEPEST gratitude and APPRECIATION TO JUDD AND CHERYL [LAST NAME], TERI’S DAD AND STEP-MOM, FOR HOSTING THEse CEREMONIES here THIS EVENING.

[SHORT PAUSE.]

ON JULY 4TH OF 1939, THE NEW YORK YANKEES’ FAMOUS FIRST BASEMAN, LOU GEHRIG, MADE ONE OF THE MOST memorable SPEECHES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SPORTS. IN LESS THAN two YEARS, HE WOULD BE DEAD FROM THE DISEASE THAT WAS LATER TO BEAR HIS NAME, *LOU GEHRIG’S DISEASE*. BUT IN THAT SPEECH BACK IN 1939, DESPITE THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS DYING, HE DECLARED TO THE SOLD-OUT CROWD AT YANKEE STADIUM: *“TODAY I CONSIDER MYSELF THE LUCKIEST MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.”*

WELL . . . WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO MR. GEHRIG, THERE IS NOW A NEW CANDIDATE FOR THAT TITLE. FOR ON THIS NIGHT OF [DATE AND YEAR], I, WILL SCHOLZ, OF [CITY AND STATE OF BIRTH], CAN TRULY SAY THAT ***I*** AM THE LUCKIEST MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AND WHY DO I SAY THIS? BECAUSE I HAVE THE UNBELIEVABLY GOOD FORTUNE OF MARRYING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, THE MOST SUPPORTIVE, THE MOST GENEROUS, AND THE MOST GENUINELY COMPASSIONATE PERSON I’VE EVER KNOWN: MY GORGOUS WIFE, TERI, WHO — ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT — ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE VERY BEST FRIEND I HAVE IN ALL THE WORLD.

YOU KNOW . . . FATE IS A FUNNY THING. TERI AND I MET AT A CHRISTMAS PARTY BACK IN [YEAR] ARRANGED BY SOME MUTUAL FRIENDS OF OURS, AND AS WE LATER FOUND OUT, NEITHER ONE OF US ACTUALLY WANTED TO BE THERE. I CAN’T EVEN REMEMBER WHY; BUT THE FACT IS, IF IT WEREN’T FOR THE INSISTENCE OF THOSE FRIENDS, NEITHER ONE OF US WOULD’VE PROBABLY SHOWN UP AT THAT PARTY. BUT WE BOTH *DID* SHOW UP, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, OUR LOVE AFFAIR BEGAN — ARE YOU READY FOR THIS? — WITH SWEAT! *MY* SWEAT.

YOU SEE . . . I’VE NEVER BEEN A PARTICULARLY ELEGANT OR INTELLIGENT DRESSER, [GESTURING TOWARD YOUR MOTHER], JUST ASK MY MOM. BUT I WAS AT LEAST SOMEHOW AWARE BACK THEN THAT DRESSING IN “LAYERS” WAS ALL THE RAGE. SO I DRESSED IN LAYERS. LOTS’ OF ‘EM. I’D PUT ON A TEE SHIRT . . . A REGULAR SHIRT . . . A SWEATER . . . AND A JACKET.

WELL, I DON’T KNOW HOW MY LAYERING CAME OFF AS A FASHION STATEMENT, BUT IT SURE DIDN’T COME OFF TOO WELL AS BIOLOGICAL STATEMENT; BECAUSE ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT I ENTERED THE HOUSE WHERE THE PARTY WAS GOING ON, I BEGAN TO SWEAT LIKE A STUCK PIG! THE HOUSE ITSELF WAS HOT AS HELL TO BEGIN WITH, AND

ALL THE PEOPLE FILLING ROOM MADE IT EVEN HOTTER. TO ME, IT FELT LIKE I’D JUST WALKED INTO A SAUNA!

BUT DID I HAVE THE GREAT GOOD SENSE TO GET RID OF SOME OF MY LAYERS? OF COURSE NOT! LIKE I SAID: I WASN’T TOO SMART ABOUT DRESSING BACK THEN. THEN ONE OF TERI’S FRIENDS, LOVELYN [LAST NAME] — [IF SHE’S THERE, NOD IN HER DIRECTION AND SAY: WHO I’M THRILLED IS WITH US TONIGHT] — SIDDLED OVER TO TERI AND SAID, *“DOES THAT MAN* ***ALWAYS*** *SWEAT LIKE THAT?”* TO WHICH THE EVER-CONSIDERATE TERI REPLIED, “NO . . . THE POOR GUY JUST DOESN’T KNOW HOW TO DRESS.”

I’M NOT SURE TO THIS DAY WHY THIS WONDERFUL, CARING GIRL CAME TO MY DEFENSE, BUT SHE DID, AND I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THAT WAS THE EXACT MOMENT I BEGAN TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HER. IT WAS JUST SUCH A COMFORTING AND COMPASSIONATE GESTURE FROM SOMEONE WHOM I REALLY DIDN’T KNOW ALL THAT WELL AT THE TIME, IT JUST MELTED MY HEART. I DON’T SUPPOSE THERE ARE MANY MAN-WOMAN RELATIONSHIPS THAT BEGIN WITH SWEAT AND END IN MATRIMONY, BUT OURS CERTAINLY DID!

strangely ENOUGH, CLOTHES AND DRESSING HAVE CONTINUED TO PLAY SOMETHING OF A INTERESTING ROLE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. FOR ONE THING, GIVEN MY OBVIOUS INEPTITUDE WHEN IT COMES TO CLOTHING CHOICES, WHEN PACKING FOR TRIPS NOW — EITHER JUST FOR THE TWO OF US OR WITH OUR WONDERFUL SON, JACK — IT HAS BEEN MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ME THAT I’M SIMPLY NO LONGER ALLOWED TO DO THE PACKING. THAT HAS BECOME TERI’S EXCLUSIVE REALM, AND I CAN’T SAY I BEGRUDGE HER HER DOMINANCE IN THIS DOMAIN at all.

I DON’T WANT TO SAY THAT CLOTHING AND I ARE ENEMIES, BUT CLEARLY THERE’S A MENTAL BLOCK SOMEWHERE IN MY HEAD ABOUT CLOTHES. LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, AS WE WERE SETTING OUT ON A EUROPEAN VACATION, I SOMEHOW FORGOT TO BRING THE GARMENT BAG FILLED WITH ALL MY SHIRTS AND SOME OF TERI’S GORGEOUS FORMAL GOWNS. JUST LEFT THE DAMNED THING AT HOME. DIDN’T DISCOVER I’D LEFT it TIL WE REACHED [FIRST STOP OF VACATION].

WAS IT A MENTAL BLOCK OR SIMPLE FORGETFULLNESS? I’LL LET YOU DECIDE. BUT AT ANY RATE, IT GAVE TERI A WONDERFUL EXCUSE TO GO CLOTHES SHOPPING IN [CITY], AND FOR ME TO *TAKE* HER CLOTHES SHOPPING IN [CITY], WHICH — PERHAPS UNLIKE MOST HUSBANDS — I

ABSOLUTELY *LOVE* TO DO! I MUST ADMIT THAT IT GIVES ME A KIND OF VOYEURISTIC PLEASURE TO SEE THIS GORGEOUS WOMAN TRYING ON ONE BEAUTIFUL OUTFIT AFTER ANOTHER AND BEING TOTALLY UNABLE TO TELL HER TRUTHFULLY WHICH ONE I LIKE BEST. WHAT A DILEMA, EH . . . ?

i could go on and on, obviously, but i’m sure you’re aleady tired of hearing my voice. so let me just close by telling you the top five reasons that i love teri so dearly, and why marrying her has made ***me*** the luckiest man on the face of the earth.

first, she’s one of the most beautiful women i’ve ever known. she always looks amazingly gorgeous, and tonight’s no exception. there isn’t a man in the world who wouldn’t feel honored to have such a woman on his arm.

second, she’s always incredibly positive. there were many times when i doubted my abilities to venture out on my own, but she encouraged me and stood 100% behind me, and has always been my staunchest supporter.

third, she’s a tremendous partner and helpmate. whatever problems come our way, i know teri will do her share and contribute to the solution. she does so much to keep our househld together and maintain the wonderful unity of our family.

fourth, she’s got a heart of gold and will drop anything to help others. teri is one of those amazing individuals who puts others before herself — from handing out bottled water to parched panhandlers in Phoenix to volunteering for any number of worthy causes and organizations.

and finally, ladies and gentelemen, there’s just no one else like her in the world. she’s got a sense of adventure that matches my own, and is always ready, willing, and able to try new things, new adventures, new friendships, and new possibilities of any kind.

and that, my friends, are the reasons why i love teri so much and why i want to spend the rest of my life with her.

so now, ladies and gentlemen, won’t you please join me in raising a glass [gesturing toward teri] to my dearly beloved bride, teri scholz.

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