**I am the mother of the bride giving the only parent speech or thank you at my daughters wedding.**

**Any humor would be lovely to weave in. There will be 80 guests attending a wedding taking place in gilbert Arizona.**

**This is what I have so far:**

**My daughter Yoshie is very head strong, type a, and bossy (even as a child she got all top grades except with “playing well with others”)! She always has wanted to be very tough and loves adventure (camping, biking, horseback riding – basically anything that would make me worried sick she does as much as possible)**

**One thing that even Brent may not know about the wild tomboy he’s married is that she used to have a blankie until she was 13 (she may even secretly have one still!). I thought it was endearing she had this secret sweet and vulnerable side. It typically comes out in her being very affectionate and lately we really see it in her love for Brent.**

**I told her for years when she packing up for large camping trips and I noticed her blankie that I was going to sew a piece underneath her wedding dress. I am so pleased this long anticipated day has arrived. I’m sure Monique Lhullier never planned on this type of alterantion to her couture dresses!**

**As a single mother, I realize that, I put my nose where it sometimes shouldn’t be, give more like my four cents to every part of Yoshie’s life when she probably did want my two cents in the first place… but with a fearless daughter I’ve always felt like I had to be very loud to keep up with loud and wild spirit.**

**Brent is a lot like Yoshie. Maybe too much. I’m hoping they will be able to balance each others strong wills. If not I want Brent to know truly see him as my son. And I wont hestiatie to give him a piece of my mind, but in, get hung up on, and love him unconditionally either.**

**Every few months the kids do something to give my mild heart arytmia.**

* **A few years ago when Mexico was considered not the safest place for American tourist the decided to go wine tasting there with Jack and Wisam as their first vacation together. I didn’t even know there was wine in Mexico.**
* **After that this adventure didn’t stop, weekends to new York for photo safaris and to see remmington,**
* **a week long beach party in Mexico (are Karl and Niko here?),**
* **A food crawl through new england with Melanie and Kathryn for calamari and lobster rolls – they don’t have lobster in LA?**
* **even an obscure post card to her Granny stating they had taking the dogs and were going to death valley for two weeks? Who wants to go to death valley? And then they wonder why the dogs have such issues.**

**The two of them recently moved to Arizona for their biggest adventure yet! The bought a house here in Gilbert and are pioneering new lives for themselves. Brent passed the his second bar exam in Arizona, and really enjoys the rigor of work at Steptoe his new law firm. I’m starting to think he’s really starting to enjoy working on the weekends. I asked yoshie how its going at Banner and she commented “My boss is ACTUALLY really smart” Which is a shocking admission from Mrs. Ivy-leagues brats. I’m happy they are finding rigor and challenge in their professional lives! They also seem to have found a good balance between making new friends in Arizona and keeping up with the old all over the world. I could be prouder.**

**Typically with weddings people only think of the larger family that is joined by the two bride and grooms family coming together. One thing that I have learned from Brent and Yoshie, as I look around this room is an even bigger family, comprised of great friedship, has come together. I would like to remind all of you in this room (all the extended family) that regardless of being in the ceremony or not you have a real role to play tonight in the wedding. The purpose of a wedding a tradition to acknowledge the right of passage of two people becoming one. You are all invited to be witnesses of this union and participate ACTIVELY in the evening. So I would challenge all of you to be active and paticipatroy guests:**

* **Just when you think you cant eat another bite, have a some cake**
* **Just when you think you cant dance another step, find the kids on the dance floor and “break it down” one more time**
* **And just when you think its time to call it a night, have one cocktail for the road (because then it again it is an open bar!)**

**Thank you all for coming, and thank you Brent and Yoshie for being the children a mother could ask for!**

**If you could all raise your glasses!**

* **Yoshie and Brent**
* **Mazel Tov,**