WEDDING SPEECH,

Ladies and gentlemen, it was said half a century ago that in the future everyone on earth would get 15 minutes of fame once in a lifetime and I guess that this is mine. People have also told me to make these next few minutes escruciatingly embarrassing and to take vengeance of my enemies. Neither will happen.

When we visited Verona in Italy a few years ago we saw the one and only, the absolutely genuine (if you believe what they say) Romeo and Juliet balcony. It was just like this balcony between two floors that I am standing on, so how very appropriate for this romantic day.

On the other hand and staying with Shakespeare a balcony like this would be ideal for the famous 'friends, Romans and countrymen lend me your ears' speech, so perhaps you will do just that for just a few minutes.

So, a welcome to everyone up there in heaven and a warm welcome to everyone down there in . . on the ground floor, although rumour has it that there is a lower level to which those who drink too much are escorted never to be seen again.

When my mother was married in 1934 while the reception was taking place her family held a funeral service for her in her absence and never spoke to her again, for religious differences.

When Pilar and I married in Barcelona in 1982 not one member of my family or friends could come and our reception was a pizza for two in La Mama.

So you have no idea what a special, extraordinary pleasure to welcome you here today to a wedding as it should be and exactly as Zack and Lizzie wanted it to be. Pie and mash and all.