On behalf of Janine and I, let me say how wonderful it is to have you all here tonight, in such a beautiful setting to celebrate a most momentous occasion. We are truly blessed to have you all here tonight. Thank you so much for coming.

And the blessings don’t stop there. Tonight we celebrate Alex and Nathan’s declaration that they will spend the rest of their lives together. And that to many of us here, and especially the Brook and the Lenigas families, that is a very great blessing indeed.

So why am I standing here tonight?

To talk to you people? Most of you are already drunk so you won’t remember what I say anyway, so no, not primarily.

I’m wanting to share some things with the two amazing people who got married today, so this is for you Alex and Nathan. The rest of you can listen in if you want, or drink some more. Or both.

Nathan, you have just formally taken my daughter out of Janine and my direct care. And while that statement may seem very old fashioned to some, there is now a responsibility for you to care and love Alex. That very love and care is the basis of Family. It is the basis of what you two have now, formally, established today.

So who is the girl you married Nathan? Who is this new Mrs Brook, without an ‘e’.

Alex is a very loving person.

Some of the most wonderful memories of her growing up are when we would get up in the morning to get ready for the day and we would just sit for a few minutes and cuddle while she and James woke up. And she would hug me, but not just with her arms, she would, when I could still pick her up off the ground, hug me with her whole body, arms, legs and all.

Dressing up Jet in the pram.

Basketball.

Girl friends over.