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andersontopia

by Kristine Miller Anderson





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Well, welcome to my blog. I've been using to try to keep record of events of the Darik & Kristine Anderson family . My blog began around June of 2006 and this book includes all entries through December 2007. I've included pictures beginning April 2006 until my blog began. I'm so glad that Blogger and Blurb could make this awesome blog book happen. And I wanted to say thanks to my friend Hilery Somers for convincing me to blog in the first place.

I have recorded Ellie's first year in detail in her own scrapbook, I expect this will take the place of those from now on, but if you'd like to see her baby pictures that's where they are. This book starts with a few months of pictures for scrapbooking until I started to blog. I really can't think of anything more to say in this intro right now, except -- enjoy!















LITTLE DID I KNOW

at the start of June how crazy the next four weeks would be. Here are pictures of life back then - it was simpler and less complicated.

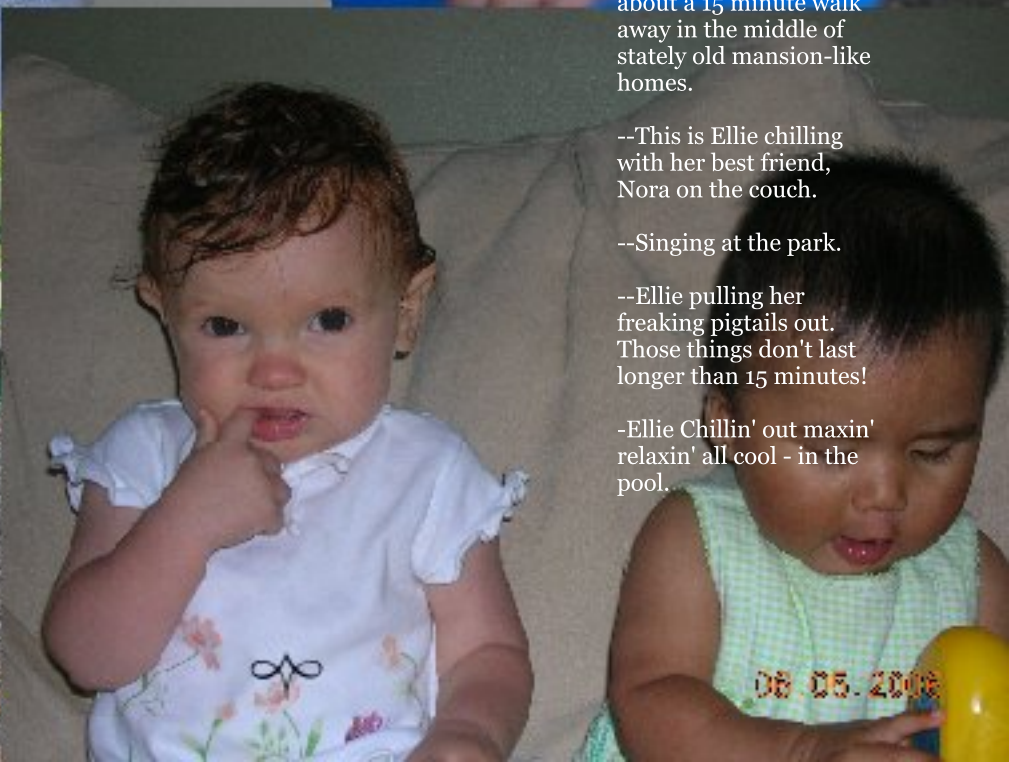
--Ellie was swinging and, I guess, decided to figure out what that nasty dirty cold metal tastes like. This is at our favorite park in Vernon Heights, about a 15 minute walk away in the middle of stately old mansion-like homes.

--This is Ellie chilling with her best friend, Nora on the couch.

--Singing at the park.

--Ellie pulling her freaking pigtails out. Those things don't last longer than 15 minutes!

-Ellie Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool - in the pool.





Memorial Day 2006 with Gma & Gpa Anderson

Darik's mom, Diana, came to stay for a week. At first I was a little nervous, but it was actually a really great experience. We went on a lot of walks and chilled out and talked . . . went shopping, etc.

I didn't do anything new and great but she just hung out with us in our normal lives. I did the cooking and our daily routine didn't change ~ it may sound like a selfish thing for me to do, but it was actually very fun. The only thing I can say I regret is not taking more pictures. Darik's dad came and dropped her off and picked her up at the end of the week, so he was there for Memorial Day, too. Here are a few great shots from that week

Wed Jul 12, 2006 | 01:48 PM |





May Was a Month of Firsts for Little Ellie . . .

1. Drinking from a sippy all on her own for the first time.
2. Discovering her love of the dishwasher and climbing on the door while it's open. We never did catch that with a camera, but we caught this . . . she has turned the whole bottom rack all the way around . . .
3. Feeding herself for the first time (not finger food, but a full-blown grownup meal) with her favorite food . .
4. Her first percussion lessons . . .
5. Attending her first baseball game . . .
6. Communicating with geese (she was quacking her head off, literally quacking right along with them) . . .
7. Enjoying her first time at the beach . . .
8. Having Towbyn try this move on her . . .
9. An extra Towbyn picture, I guess this is the one after he got shot down.

Wed Jul 12, 2006 | 02:02 PM |





Daddy's Girl

Daddy's Girl

I took this picture last month and I just love how Ellie is becoming more and more of a Daddy's Girl. Especially because I was so much growing up with my dad. The song below is the theme song for my dad and me and my sister -- we both sang it at a ward talent show once . . . and hope maybe Ellie and Darik will carry on the tradition in the future.

DADDY'S GIRL
Recorded by Red Sovine
Words and music by Glen Martin

I recall the night ... That you came into this world
I couldn't believe the doctor when he said, "It's a little girl."
I said, "Now Doc you must be wrong ... You see I want a boy."
"Then he laid you in my arms And my heart sang with joy.

(CHORUS)
Daddy's Girl ... Daddy's Girl ...
I'm the center of Daddy's world ...
I know I'm Daddy's number one
For he loves me like I was his son
Daddy's Girl.

I recall the day I took you to a baseball game
You brought along your baby doll and half its' baby things
We sat there a-playin' 'house, while the Dodgers played the Braves
And everyone in the bleachers, looked at us as if to say.

CHORUS

I recall the day I took you on a fishin' trip
You said, "Daddy won't that hook hurt the fishes' lip?"
And you said if they don't get air Those things in the can will die
So we turned the worms all loose And chased some butter flies.

CHORUS

I recall the day that your young man came to call
Seems like only yesterday, you swam and played football
But I know the time has come, that I must set you free
But no matter where you are, you know what you are to me.

CHORUS

Thu Jul 13, 2006 | 09:26 AM |



My jean quilt that turned into a picnic blanket.



I no longer collect jeans! I hated hauling them around for so long!

I'm Finally Done With My Freaking Quilt

This project has been a long time coming. I started saving my old jeans with holes in them when I was in high school, maybe like 16 or 17. And every pair since then I'm been stashing away waiting for the one day when I would have enough time to sit down and make a quilt out of them. Well that day has come. It took me a few months from start to finish but I'm so glad I'm not going to have any more freaking denim to cut or stacks of fabric squares or string that has fallen off the fabric just everywhere in our house Here is the final product:

Thu Jul 13, 2006 | 01:14 PM |





If You Build It, They Will Come . . .

So my family came in June, and it rocked my socks. My mom's side of the extended family (the Briscoes) were having a family reunion in Nauvoo starting on Wednesday, June 21, so my family came a few days early.

It was SO SO SO SO SO MUCH FUN to have them here. They were here for Father's Day (we kinged my dad and Darik for the day).

We also took them to the Amanas for the day

(the only picture we have from there is Ellie trying to steal a HUGE fluffy fuzzy green stuffed rabbit from when we were in the big toy store). I must say I was a bit disappointed in the Amanas. To get tours of anything you had to pay an arm and a leg, and the rest of stuff to see is either just looking out the window of the car at the farm/stuff or all the stores that also charge an arm and a leg for their stuff. We turned around after about an hour and came back home.

The second funnest thing we did with them here was go to the Science Station/Center here in Cedar Rapids. Mom got some cool pictures there with her disposable camera (one with her hair sticking straight up everywhere) and I wish I could post it here, so these will have to do. It is really fun there. The little kids had a room downstairs that had water games and bubble games and a puppet show that Ellie loved. The astronaut and robot stuff was pretty cool. Then the next room had a bunch of stuff about electricity and earthquakes and pulleys. The room upstairs was pretty fun. Who would have thought that to entertain the Miller family for the rest of eternity all you need is a set of circus mirrors. I cannot believe how long and hard we were laughing. As is tradition in my family, my brothers always make me laugh so hard I had to go scurrying to the bathroom in order to avoid an embarrassing accident. Also upstairs was all of the weather stuff. That was cool. We were there for almost two hours and it was time to get Ellie home.

We also had a lot of fun just hanging out with each other and watching movies and going on walks.





The best part of the few days before going to Nauvoo was going to the Field of Dreams.

We were all ready to go and had to pick up some video camera tapes for my parents at Walmart on the way out of town. So when we get to the Walmart parking lot we turn into the biggest dorks because there is some crazy jacked up clouds that looks like a funnel cloud is going to jump out at us any second. So we all jump out of the cars so we can stand in the parking lot and stare at the clouds. Oh, and we took pictures too! My family comes to Iowa and what do I do?? take them to the local Walmart to stand in the parking lot and stare at the clouds!

Anyway, so we're in the car on the way there and it's just raining pretty hard. And with how bad I think the Amana's bombed I just really wanted it to be a good day and the rain to clear up by the time we got there. Thankfully the car trip wasn't too long . . . about an hour, which gave James and Ellie a chance to get acquainted -- I love this 'Stink Eye' picture. And she was able to grab a nap on the way there, too.

So we get there and it's still freaking raining, and we all run under the shelter of the gift shop. There were about 10 other cars there and everyone was hiding out in their cars or under shelter-no one is out on the field. So I figure this is the only time I am going to have my family at the field of dreams and

I'm not freaking going to let this rain stop us from having a good time. So I just run out there onto the field and start running the bases. Then I go get some balls to throw around. Everybody starts catching on and pretty soon Darik busts out his bat and gloves and the Miller family is out there now in form. It seems like we can't do anything and have it be a memorable miller vacation without us doing something the whole rest of the world thinks is crazy. So we start playing ball. We made sure everybody got a chance to bat and run the bases. We spent some time in the bleachers and up by the old white house and out in the outfield by the knee-high corn (I know, it's just not quite the same effect). Ellie did great out there in the rain, enjoying it as much as us. But after a while and I had done everything and took all the pictures that I could I took Ellie in the car to get her diaper changed and to warm up and dry off. We were done. While we hung out my dad took my brothers one by one and went and had a "catch."

When we got home that afternoon we all dried off, ate homemade pizza, and watched the movie, "The Field of Dreams." That was fun too. The saga of Miller family vacation will continue in the next blog about the Nauvoo Reunion.

Fri Jul 14, 2006 | 07:43 AM |



