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Andei Shawn Keough 15 Years of Photographs and Journal Reflections

Photographs by Patrick and Andei Keough selected photographs by Stacy Hall

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Journal Entry from June 11, 1992

Stacy had the baby Friday, June 11 at 12:24 p.m.. She was 6lbs 15 ounces. I was pleasantly surprised because I thought it was going to be a boy. The baby has red hair and the features of a Keough. She cries if she is taken away from her mother for a bath. Looking at the two of them last night reminded me of the Madonna and Child from a Renaissance painting - so peaceful and full of love. I am a very lucky and blessed man to have such a wonderful family and beautiful daughter.



6/14/92 - I want Andei to grow up in a good home surrounded by loving family and friends. I can't help thinking about my daughter's future. Things are so uncertain in this world. It worries me to bring her into a world with so much turmoil and uncertainty. I pray she enjoys a happy life.



8/30/92 - The beach is beautiful this time of the day. Stacy is nursing Andei on a wrinkled white sheet raked with textured shadows from the setting sun. Adam is boogie boarding and I'm soaking up the ocean air and enjoying a very special moment in time. I feel renewed.



7/10/92 - On the ferry to Ocracoke. I feel very relaxed and happy with my life. I have a wonderful family and a very special new baby. The sound of the waves crashing against the boat and the breeze caressing my face makes me feel so alive causing me to "re-think" everything in my life.



3/5/93 - Looks like a sunny, spring day. Birds are singing and Andei is looking out at them from the screen door. Stacy is home as well. We just don't get enough of these lazy days. I'm enjoying little Andei a great deal. She is such a happy and playful - curious child.



8/26/93 - We've been riding on the Amtrak since yesterday. Train travel isn't so bad, although it's hard on Andei being confined to her seat for long periods of time. She looks so cute sleeping on Stacy's lap.



I can't get over these wide open spaces of land we are traveling through. America is such a vast country. Andei enjoys just looking out the train window mesmerized by expansive landscape whizzing across her eyes.



It's the light that motivates me to photograph. It transforms my family and other subject matter into something magical and mysterious.



12/11/93 That Andei wants to get into everything. Whatever you are doing she wants to do it with you. You need a great deal of patience with children. Especially as they get older. I love to watch Andei – whatever she is doing. Eating, playing, walking. Her smile is so innocent and beautiful. I'm lucky and blessed to have her as my daughter.



3/28/93 - It was one of those magical - one of a kind photographic moments. I was brushing my teeth and I looked over and saw Andei by the sliding glass doors bathed in morning light. My Holga plastic camera was sitting on my desk in my office and I got 2 shots off before she moved.



12/12/93 - It's the present moment that is so precious to us and not the past. To live firmly in the present is so important because it's where happiness resides. I enjoy watching and/or photographing Andei play with her toys, being held by her mother or Adam kicking a soccer ball and Amberlei acting in a play is truly what life is all about.



7/6/93 - The light comes through our picture window in the dining room late in the afternoon. Andei was sitting in her high chair when I noticed the geometric shapes created by the shadows falling across the floor.



7/6/93 - The photographic experience is so fascinating. As I was shooting I noticed Adams shadow on the floor and Andei looking over at it. I zoomed out and photographed Andei in the foreground with Adam's shadow falling across the floor.



7/9/93

The light is the soul of photography- the heart- and the primary vehicle for expressing feelings and emotion. Without good light a photograph lacks impact. I captured this photograph in the National Gallery in Washington DC of Amber running around Andei's stroller. Use a slow shutter speed to create the illusion of motion.



7/9/93

Andei is probably going to be a musician or an artist. If she is not humming or singing a tune she is drawing. That child loves crayons and markers. She also enjoys looking at the art in the museums. I wonder where she gets that from? :-)



8/25/94

Things have settled down so much in my life. Life is not about enjoying and looking forward to big events. It's really about living for each and every moment and enjoying the little things like playing with Andei, building a go cart with Adam, making a photograph when I know the light is special and pierces through the façade of reality. It warms my heart to see Adam playing with Andei. There is no doubt he loves her a great deal.



8/25/94 cont. - Last night Adam put Andei to bed for the first time. I think he enjoyed it. The two of them get along real well. I only wish he would get along with Amberlei better. Andei is getting bigger everyday. She is putting sentences together now and understands just about everything we say to her..