

September 25, 2005

Dear Nathan and Erin,

Congratulations on your new baby, Lauren Elizabeth. What a beautiful little girl she is!

I sincerely hope that you will all find joy in each other. I know that everyone is giving you advice right now, and probably all you want is to be left alone to enjoy your little girl. Well, unfortunately I have advice, too.

Now that my own daughter is grown I can see that there were not harder and easier times. All the times were both harder and easier. Sometimes in the day-to-day business of bringing up a child it feels like you are slogging through diapers and drinks. Sometimes I wished I could stop her from drinking so she wouldn't have as many wet diapers to change. Where were all those moments I dreamed of when we were pregnant? Those running through fields of daisies moments? The Kodak and Hallmark moments?

I promise you they will come. Some of them will come upon you unexpectedly. Some you will plan for. Some will come and go and you won't even realize they happened until later.

Oh, I certainly hope you both enjoy the days of Lauren Elizabeth's childhood with her. Her joys will be your joys, her sadness your sadness.

Congratulations on the safe arrival of your precious girl-child. I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Aline Smith