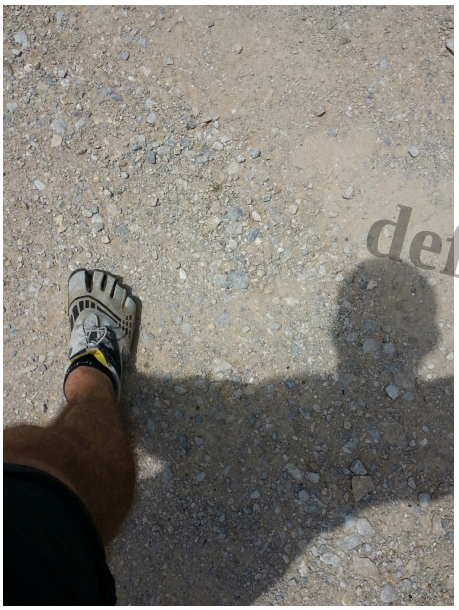
No Giant Tortoise for Fatherâ€™s Day

Description

The sound of my Vibram-clad feet running on a hiking trail with a light breeze whispering in my ears and the sound of grasshoppers flapping to move out of my path. This is how I spent part of my first Fatherâ€™s Day; alone and at peace enjoying a sweaty run on a nearby trail.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6.5 miles and 31 pushups, air squats, and burpees later, I was ready to go back to my beautiful girls to celebrate â€œmyâ€• day!

Post trail run selfie!

Before I left for my run, Going Mom made me a lot of coffee with the French press and gave me my Fatherâ€™s Day gift.

Pretty sure I drank a full carafe by myself!

Iâ€™m a sentimental kind of guy, and gifts from the heart mean more to me than something that can bought and wrapped up. Donâ€™t get me wrong, there are many things you can buy and wrap that do require thought and care, but I donâ€™t â€œneedâ€• those things and would rather have something made just for me.

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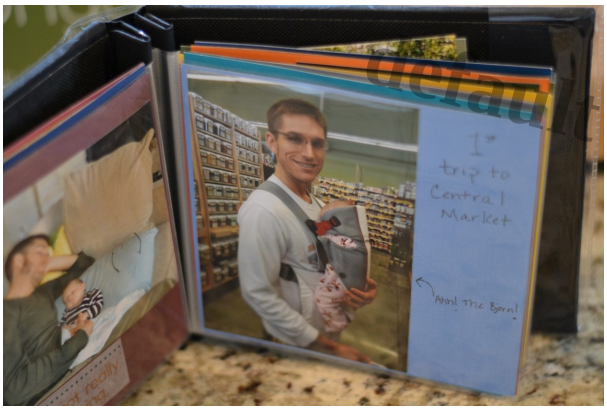
Kelley knows this and was spending a lot of time in our front room for the days leading up to Fatherâ€™s Day. She prohibited me from entering the front room for about a month since it also housed my 30th birthday gift. I was clueless what it could be, but instantly loved it when she gave it to me that morning.

A photo book with picture of just Avery and me starting at day 1 in the hospital and having our skin to skin time.

As I looked through, I relived each moment and joy filled my heart; I love it! Even this picture of me wearing Avery in the Baby Bjorn which I will never do again for the potential hip issues it causes babies, put a giant grin on my face.



Now I wear her in an Onya most of the time as well as an Ergo sometimes. Both are great options and seat the baby with their knees higher than their bottom and supports the hips. They are also more comfortable on you, the babywearer.

The time and thought my loving wife put into this means so much to me and (Iâ€™m looking at it now and smiling) makes me grateful for our small family. Even the card had to of taken some time and puts my homemade cards to her to shame!

Yep, I didnâ€™t get a giant toolbox from Sears with all of the coolest Craftsmen tools or a new tablet with a super-ultra-mega-pixel burn-your-eyes-out screen and a faster than lightning processor, I got

something better; a gift from the heart of someone I love dearly and canâ€™t be duplicated. Thank you, Kelley/Wife/Wonderful Mom!!

For a while, I played with the idea that maybe her and my mom (G-Ma) had gone in together to get me a giant tortoise for our back yard. Why the hell would I think that? It seems ridiculous to me now, but I had mentioned several times how I want a giant tortoise for our back yard. It was always just laughed off (me included) because that would be crazy and Iâ€™m pretty sure illegal here in Texas.

But then, my momâ€™s boyfriend, Paul, recently showed us a picture of his sonâ€™s new back yard tortoise. They kept talking about it and how they put a lot of work into their yard to make a great home for the big guy and it was awesome.

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Giant tortoise in back yard with their dog having a peek

For some reason, with the enthusiasm my mom and Kelley were telling me about the tortoise, I had thought they had something up their sleeve. Turns out, nope, nothing up their sleeve at all!

As cool as it would be, I was getting worried when I thought this was a reality; what in the world would I actually do with a giant tortoise in the back yard? We have a small box turtle, Tash, and sheâ€™s all we need. Plus, sheâ€™s the perfect size for Avery to watch and learn about.

After I returned from my better-than-therapy trail run, we spent the rest of the day together just enjoying each other. We did end up with a giant turtle in our back yard, but in the form of an inflatable pool, not a tortoise.

I didnâ€™t take a shot of the pool alone, but you can see it there behind our happy baby. I promise, she really is a girl, it just doesnâ€™t help when we choose blue and green. Oh well, we refuse to overwhelm her with pink!

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I couldnâ€™t get a smiling picture of her and me in the pool, but she flashed her rosy gums with mommy!

After getting enough of the outside, we all gathered back inside for the evening. G-Ma was with us to spend the night and we sat around the kitchen with food and drink just enjoying each otherâ€™s company. We even had a good Fatherâ€™s Day brew from a local brewery, Rahr and Sonâ€™s, to

share a cheers.

No, she didnâ€™t have any beer, but she was really loving on the cucumber we gave her. This was her first time trying, and Iâ€™d say it was a hit!

I had a wonderful first Fatherâ€™s Day and love our small family. Now that I have something to compare to, next year will be hard to beat! Hopefully thereâ€™s not giant tortoise then either!

Did you do anything for Fatherâ€™s Day? Get anything cool?

What would you do with a giant tortoise as a back yard pet?

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