

# Happy 24th Kalissa!!

24 years ago today, I was in the hospital. I would likely have been holding a new little baby girl in my arms...This girl...who almost 4 years ago got married.



Kalissa is our fifth kid. In order it's two girls, Kelli and Kayla, then two boys, Kasjen (Buck) and Karl, then Kalissa.

At the time I was pregnant I prayed and prayed that she would be a girl. I remember the relationship I had with my mom as the youngest of five kids and I wanted to have my youngest be a girl too. At the time, Buck was 5 and Karl was two. They were super rambunctious and I needed someone a little calmer. I thought a girl might be a little calmer.

I imagined if she was a girl that I'd have more time with her...that she'd craft with me. I'd have someone to hang with once the rest of the kids moved out.

I did get my girl...and I did get a hang out buddy-she lives about five blocks from my house and we joke that she eats here at least once a day- but I didn't get a crafty girl. That's entirely okay though. She's made up for that in all sorts of

different ways.

Well that's not entire true. She does try to sew. See?



I think she does it more for me than for herself. I love her for trying.

Over the last four months, Kalissa has been amazing. Kramer and I would be lost without her. The other kids have been great but Kalissa, being she lives in town five blocks away and being she's a nurse, she gets the brunt of things. I can't tell you how many times we've called and she's been at the house within minutes.



Never once has she complained. Never once have I seen her roll her eyes or act like we were a burden to her. She has stepped up to the plate in a big way that we are so very thankful for.

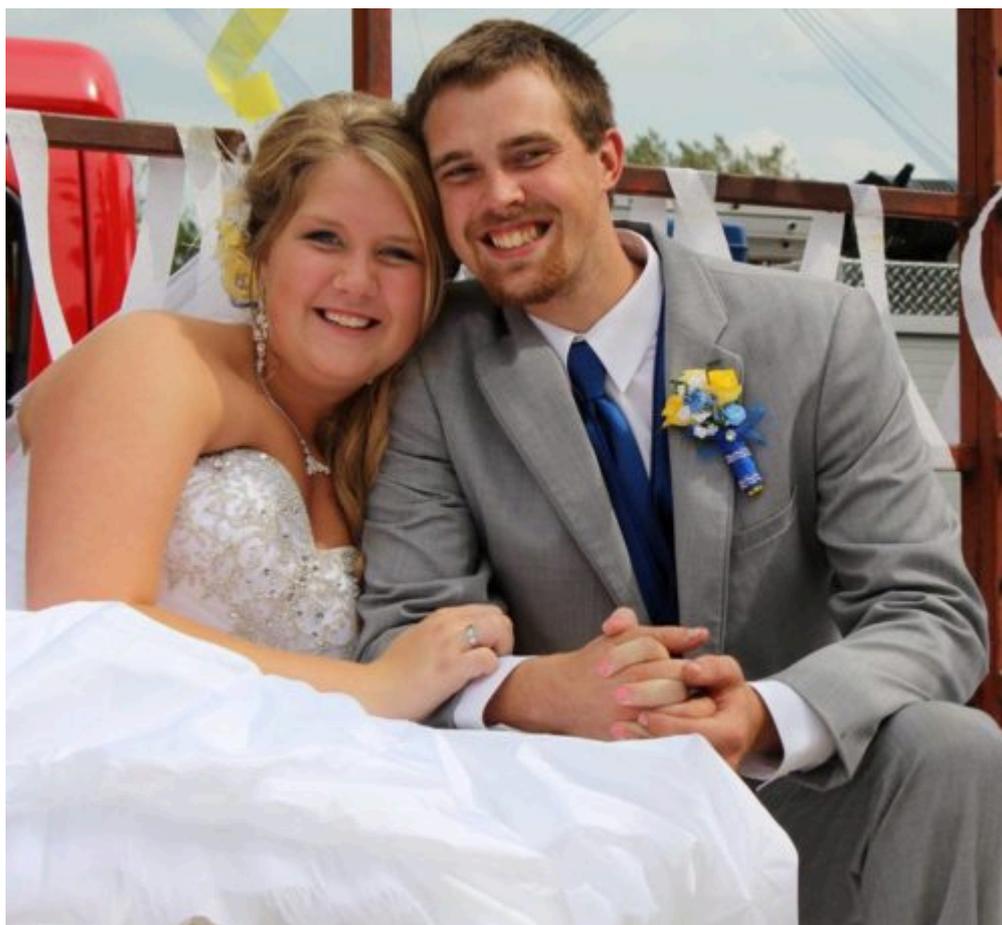


I remember myself at 24. Kalissa is so much more mature. Kalissa is so much more giving. Kalissa sees a problem and

doesn't stop until she finds a solution. That has been so helpful while Kramer has been going through his cancer journey.

Kalissa has a great ability to work with Kramer. She's supportive. She knows how to deal with his stubbornness. She is awesome at explaining the nursing side of things.

In 2015 she picked a GREAT guy...



...and they've made some wonderful babies.



I remember back in 1994, it was about this time of year. Our family was driving down the road to my niece's graduation party in Minnesota. The other kids were sleeping in the back of the car. I so vividly remember saying to Kramer, "What do you think? One more baby?" We talked about it and agreed that yes, one more baby would be great. That baby turned out to be Kalissa.

It was one of the best decisions we ever made.

So today I'm taking a minute to wish my baby girl a very Happy Birthday and thank her for being an awesome daughter and hang out buddy and friend. Seriously Peanut, you mean the world to me.