

IN THE GUTTER

ONE OF MY DEAREST FRIENDS HAS A BLOG WHERE SHE SHARES HER JOYOUS JOURNEY THROUGH MOTHERHOOD. WELL, I WANT SOME OF WHATEVER SHE'S TAKING, BECAUSE LIFE IN OUR HOUSE NEVER RESEMBLES ANY OF THE CHERUB-Y BLISS SHE'S EXPERIENCING. OK, THERE ARE GLIMPSES OF NORMAN ROCKWELL, BUT THEY FALL IN BETWEEN COMPLETE CHAOS. THIS IS WHERE I TELL MY SIDE OF THE STORY....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

The down side of being a military wife

This morning, determined NOT to be addicted to blogging, I decided I would only pull in my email and then shut this Mac-baby down for the day. Things never quite work out how we plan, do they? (Yikes, I just did the [British "question thing!"](#) how funny).

Any who, I had an email from Heidi, of [Muddy H2O](#).

I discovered MH2O through one of my favorite blog sites, [Getinthecar!](#) Jen was having a give-away for a Chocolate face mask and well, if there's anything with chocolate involved, you can count me in! I immediately went searching for a place to order.

Living overseas can really be a great experience. However, when you're longing for a taste of home or in need of something that you can't find here, things can get a bit frustrating. Few places will ship to an APO address. What APO means is, you post the item to me. It travels to NY where the military takes over and sees it to it's final destination. You don't pay any more than if you were shipping to your Grandma, but you do have to fill out a customs slip-- which is mostly a check-the-box-and-sign type of form. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure it out, but it does take extra effort. Many Ebay sellers won't ship to APO, Target has never shipped anything to APO, Amazon can't send electronics or gourmet items (so much for belonging to the "Hot Sauce of the Month" club)

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TEMPLATE? GET YOUR
OWN HERE:

[Cutest Blog on the Block](#)

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a Book here.](#)

TAX TIME! [CLICK HERE
TO CHECK OUT THE FUN.](#)



PLAYLIST

My playlist is at the bottom in case you want to turn it down (or off).

FOR YOU ELLIOT
FANS...USO TOUR IN
ENGLAND

and I once spent an entire day uploading 600 pictures to Walmart only to be told at check-out that they wouldn't ship photos to an APO. You try to figure why.

So, when I contacted the MH2O company directly and asked how I could get my hands on a chocolate Muddy, Heidi told me she would ship it to me personally-- in support of my husband serving in the military. Regardless how you feel about the war or anything else with the military, you need to know that on a regular basis, we are bombarded by negativity from total strangers. Once on an Amazon chat, I noticed some idiot taking a verbal punch at a Veteran and even though I normally don't get involved with chats, I felt like I needed to this time. Needless to say, he then attacked me with comments about how joining the military was our choice or rather maybe we didn't have a choice (inferring I had a lack of education). Whatever, Einstein.

We did choose the military for reasons I won't go into here, and it's not always easy. The 15 months we have lived here in England, my husband has been away in one place or another for more than half of it. He has missed several birthdays, 4th of July celebrations, Thanksgiving, "Firsts" (like first day of school for two kids, baby milestones for two babies, teenage 'firsts' etc...). He has been gone when the house needed repairs, the tires have gone flat, vehicular accidents and most recently, for the High School Graduation and overseas move of our teenager. I am proud of him. He works hard, loves his family and loves his country. So I really like people like Heidi that recognize him and the sacrifice he makes in serving our country.

Today's email from Heidi went something like this:

"I mailed your box this afternoon. I ran into a little wrinkle when I attempted to ship the package. I naively believed that if I sent your package via an APO address and you were an American citizen then the package would not be considered "export merchandise". Hooooo Weeeeeee..... " "I got from the clerk a big, fat "You can't send this, Lady!" 'So, instead, I sent your package as a gift. Your Visa number has been shredded and will never see the light of



Thank you USO & Wordless Weds.

LOOKY HOW TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED I AM BECOMING!

My Photography Buzz Ranking Is

47

<http://www.cre8buzz.com/pr>

TANKS TO YOU!



A scooby snack from top blogger, Kathryn

LABELS

All Things British (20)

England (15)

children (8)

motherhood (7)

Christmas (5)

Military life (5)

photography (5)

photos (5)

day again. Please accept this gift from Muddy H2O as our show of appreciation for your husband serving in our military and your hard work at being "Mom" and "Wife". You deserve a little chocolate pampering.' "

Wow. I almost cried. I immediately thought, "What can I do to repay this lady who has never met me or my husband?"

And then it came to me.

All six of you reading this blog, no pressure, but what I am hoping you will do is 1.) If you've EVER done a facial in your entire life, would you please support this company and try one of theirs? They even have single packets, so you don't have to break the bank with this. and 2.) Could you send the link to every warm-blooded being you know so that THEY will support this company? They have retailers all through the West (that will ship to the East, not sure about Canada though, Tara).

If you're not sold on this product, click here to read [Jen's account](#). Her HUSBAND noticed.....

POSTED BY IMBEINGHELDHOSTAGE AT 2:02 AM 
LABELS: [CHOCOLATE](#), [ENGLAND](#), [MILITARY LIFE](#), [MUDDY MASKS](#)

5 CLEVER THINGS YOU WANT ME TO KNOW:

Tara said...

That is beautiful! I'm so glad you got a gift- you DO deserve it! I'm sure that being a military wife is a little like being a pastor's wife- both require a lot of support from a very understanding wife! And both have people say rude things to them about their husbands and their jobs- and they have NO right to do so.

You keep your head held high, your husband is doing noble work and SO ARE YOU!!!!

JANUARY 16, 2008 7:38 AM

Kathryn said...

I am not only thankful for your husband who is serving, but for your service as well. Military families serve their

scrap booking (5)
art (4)
Air Force (3)
American Idol (3)
Blogging (3)
Church (3)
Earthquake (3)
Elliott Yamin (3)
London (3)
family (3)
fog (3)
self-reflection (3)
British humour (2)
Harry Potter (2)
Home (2)
Husband (2)
Mac (2)
Moms (2)
Nativity (2)
Patience (2)
Pres. Hinckley (2)
USO (2)
acceptance (2)
age (2)
childhood friends (2)
chocolate (2)
doll's house (2)
frost (2)
man cold (2)
spider webs (2)
winter (2)
40's (1)
A scrapbook of who we are (1)
Air Traffic Controller (1)
American (1)
Antarctica (1)
Anxiety (1)
BBC (1)
Big Ben (1)

country just as much as the soldiers do. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are forever in your debt!

On a lighter note:

I love your music choices. I have many of the same on my site. This version of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" is my fav. I want it played at my funeral. Ok, maybe that part was a lighter note, but oh well.

JANUARY 16, 2008 3:00 PM

Tara said...

I tagged you on my blog today!

JANUARY 16, 2008 6:43 PM

Jen M. said...

OH MY GOSH this is a great story!!!! They really are wonderful at Muddy H2O and I just used the Macha Tea mask (you can put it UNDER your eyes and on your neck) and feel like a spring chicken today.

I am so thrilled that they recognized your family's gift of service to our country!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JANUARY 22, 2008 11:14 AM

dlyn said...

Thanks to your whole family for the sacrifices you make while your husband serves our country - and I will be buying from the website!

JANUARY 22, 2008 1:28 PM

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BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2008 (63)

▼ March (10)

Shhhh!

**I'll Miss you all... Thanks
for the Friendship**

**Hallelujah for Scrolling
Saturday!**

**Be Afraid, Be VERY
Afraid...**

Thievin' Thursday

**Wordless Wednesday-- My
man in a t-38 --SEXY**

I'm Prejudiced?!

Today's your Birthday...

**Mothering Sunday or, The
Plague is Coming!**

What A Retard

► **February (31)**

► **January (22)**

► **2007 (30)**

ABOUT ME



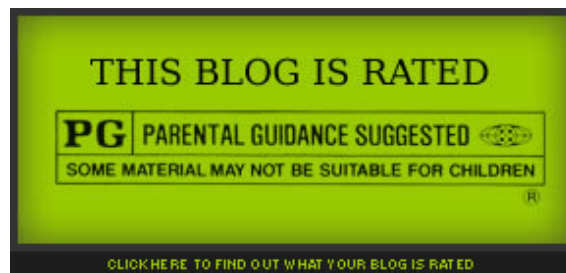
*IMBEINGHELDHOSTAGE
FARMLAND, NORFOLK,
UNITED KINGDOM*

I am an Air Force wido--oops-- wife. My husband, when he's not deployed or on a TDY (code for "away from the family yet again"), works shift work, so that leaves me the primary caregiver for 4 of our 5 children (one's nearly an adult!). I'm being held hostage by four little curtain climbers so I write at night. I'll post photos frequently, whinge a little and share glimpses of being an American in Norfolk, England.

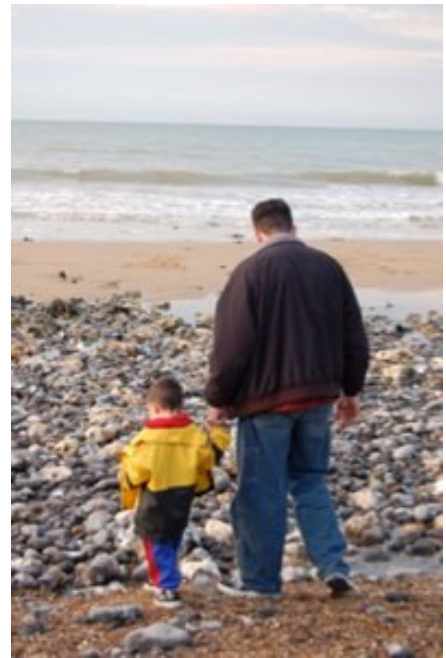
[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

CROMER BEACH 2006

APPARENTLY "FART" AND "RETARD" CAN STRIP YOU OF YOUR G-RATING :-)



GET YOUR GROOVE ON



HADRIAN'S WALL



Our trip to Scotland 2006

HARRY POTTER TRAIN



Scotland 2006

ALNWICK CASTLE



From the Harry Potter movies

*WHERE I LURK WHEN
NOT IN THE GUTTER....*

dyln

**Flea's World (Fred and Bessie's
adventures)**

Get In The Car!

Hanners Family Times

I Struggle and Emerge

On The Upside

Painted Maypole

Seeking Sanity

Such Simple Pleasures

Tara's View of The World

The Color of Home

The Davis Family

**Where Ever You Go, There Ewe
Are**

*WHERE IN THE WORLD
IS.....*



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The screenshot shows a music player interface for a playlist titled "Our House" on the website playlist.com. The player includes a progress bar at 00:00 / 02:59 and a list of tracks with "add" buttons. The tracks listed are:

- Our House -- Phantom Planet
- Piece by Piece -- Katie Melua
- Blues in the Night -- Katie Melua
- Everything -- Michael Buble
- Come in from the Cold -- Marc Broussard
- I Cried for You (Mary's Song) -- Katie Melua
- Keep Breathing (Extra) -- Ingrid Michaelson
- Nine Million Bicycles -- Katie Melua

At the bottom of the player, there are three buttons: "CREATE A PLAYLIST", "LAUNCH STANDALONE PLAYER", and "GET MUSIC TRACKS".

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