

(L&S) STYLE JOURNAL

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL BY KENDALL MARTIN

Monica Epperson *Age: 34*

Occupation: Generalist, Schnake Turnbo Frank Public Relations; author, "A Heart with Two Homes"; and founder of Blended Love Inc., a nonprofit benefiting children of divorce

MOST HIGHLIGHTED BOOK?

The Bible.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR PROFESSION?

At the age of 12, I vowed to make a difference in the lives of children who experience divorce, and I am truly blessed to be given a chance at positive change.

FAVORITE PIECE OF FURNITURE?

My 6-year-old daughter Eden's baby cradle filled with all of her "lovies" and built by her Pops with love and anticipation.

FAVORITE PIECE OF ART? A little red saucer that sits next to my oven with Eden's hand traced and the number five right in the middle.

FAVORITE BEVERAGE? I like the whole beverage experience of Starbucks Coffee. I have no idea if I even like coffee, but I continue to order it for the experience.

STEREO OR IPOD? Call me crazy, but I still like the anticipation of hoping for a favorite song to come on, so I'd have to say my stereo with the radio setting.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER NOW? Hannah Montana – it's not my CD, I promise!

CHARITY OF CHOICE? The Salvation Army.

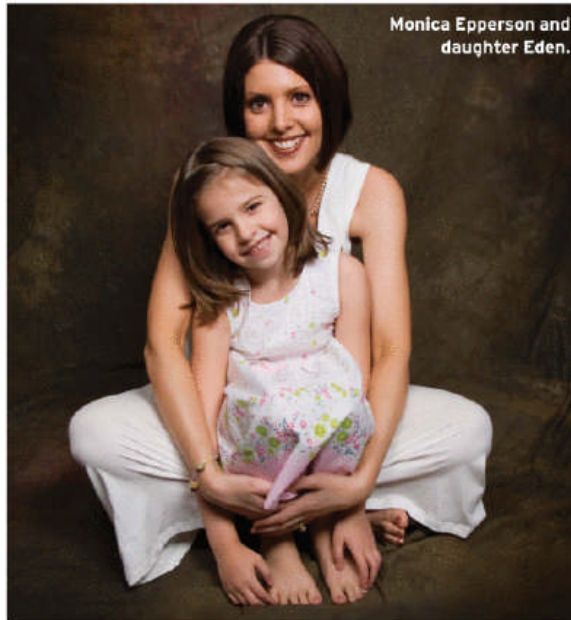
FAVORITE THING ABOUT TULSA? Our people and the deep roots.

WHAT MAGAZINES ARE ALWAYS ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE? TulsaPeople, of course, and Oprah's O Magazine.

DESCRIBE YOUR CLOTHING STYLE IN THREE WORDS. Major situational dresser.

WHAT'S YOUR STYLE ADVICE FOR READERS? Always be yourself in attitude and dress because personal integrity is more important than trends.

FAVORITE QUOTE? "I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no



Monica Epperson and daughter Eden.

path, and I will leave a trail." – Muriel Strode

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE? Hopefully Catherine Zeta-Jones on sheer looks, but most likely someone like Betty White for the humor.

BIGGEST FASHION BLUNDER? A few months ago, I wore a dress that I thought made me look smashing and totally put together. Apparently not, because a dear friend pointed out my need for a safety pin and complimented me on my bra choice.

GUILTY PLEASURE? Chocolate cures anger, depression and celebrates a moment. Yes, I am a true female.

SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I love the '90s power ballads.

FAVORITE HOLIDAY? I love my daughter's birthday. It commemorates a time of great joy for me and my family.

WHAT INSPIRED YOUR CHILDREN'S BOOK?

I had the privilege of sitting next to Union Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden on a bus ride in my first year of teaching. While talking to Dr. Burden, it became evident that writing this book would be a life goal for me and impacting the larger body of students through my own experiences would be my passion.

HARDEST PART ABOUT WRITING A CHILDREN'S BOOK?

The book came to me and was written in 10 minutes, but working with so many editors became the real challenge. I have never appreciated the English language as I do now.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A MOM? Just the title says so much. Each day I hear "I love you," each time I hear her laugh or sing or hold my hand, I am reminded that I have the greatest name on earth, Eden's mom. ■