



It's Another Girl!



THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN



Mom and the new baby.

(KEITH) At 11.05 on the morning of August 20th, in a cesarean section performed by Dr Spyros Kitromilis, **Sofia Ruth** joined us. While this signals an end to Devra's days as an only child, it'll still be quite some time before the Big Turd can pin the blame for anything on her younger sister.

With the planned c-section scheduled for 10.00a, we were told to be at the hospital by 7.00 so we could begin the traditional sacred ritual of "hurry up and wait." Since we figured there was no reason for *three* of us to be bored beyond all need of a laxative for three hours, Devra spent the night with her grandparents out in Fabius, where she could sleep later and be brought to the hospital just in time for the festivities.

When she arrived, she was particularly amused by the resident who came in with a form for Cheryl to sign allowing the hospital to dispose of any parts they took out during the surgery (like the placenta). Dev and I were both like, "No. Give them to me in a Baggie so I can take them home and look at them all the time."

There was a little delay because another c-section had to be squeezed in before us (hurry up and wait), but they came for Cheryl at around 10.30. Devra went out to the waiting area with Mima and Papa, and I put on my paper-thin, freezing scrub outfit while I waited for them to call me in to the operating room, which they did in a few minutes.

Once we were in the OR, there was a lot of pulling and tugging, and all kinds of weird sounds coming from behind the curtain (pay no attention to that man!), and then, at 11.05 we finally got the answer to the question of what we were having. It was a girl, a 7lb, loz, slimy, screaming girl!

When I went out to the waiting area to tell Dev and her grandparents the news, and she just grinned. Seems that despite saying that she didn't really care one way or another, Dev had really wanted a sister. Then she called her friend Julia to tell her the news, who put the phone down for a second and screamed "Yip-pee!". I think, from all the questions she's been peppering Devra with all through this pregnancy, that she's more excited about this baby than Devra is!

Everyone else had to wait a bit to see Sofie, because she was breathing funny, and they had to take her up to the neonatal ICU for observation, but we did get to see Cheryl. And this was where Dev got to see her first case of "new mother goofiness."

The nurse brought in the sheet of paper with Sofie's footprints on them, and Cheryl looked at them and said, "Oh, they're so beautiful!" When she heard this, Devra scrunched up her face and said, "It's just a footprint. That's like saying 'You have beautiful boogers.'" My Kid - she knows just how to cut right to the chase.

A little while later, they told us that Sofie had been moved down to the regular nursery, and that we could go look at her there. Devra couldn't hold her yet, but I took plenty of pictures.

Finally, around 1.30, we decided it was time to leave. Cheryl said she'd call us when she was in a real room and could actually hold the baby.

The first thing I did when I got home was to put up the baby's website, with a picture I had taken that morning, and email everyone. The second thing I did was to go to bed. When I woke up a few hours later, I had an amazing amount of reply email. I was also amazed at how many people wrote back saying "She's so beautiful!" I guess it just goes to show that people think that all newborns are beautiful, even if they do look like Winston Churchill. The picture I posted of Sofie is mostly wide open mouth and closed eyes, and everyone still says, "Oh, she's so beautiful!" Sort of makes me wonder if anyone has ever admitted to seeing an ugly baby.

Around 7.00p we got a phone call from Cheryl. She was in her room, and she wanted us to visit her. So we did. This time we were able to wheel Sofie out of the nursery and into Cheryl's room. In fact, Devra even got to hold her. She laughed and said that she was really squirmy.

It was also funny because we gave Sofie to Dev right after she'd finished snacking at the **Mom Café** and when we gave her to Dev, she figured she found another restaurant. We tried telling her it was pointless, but as Dev said, "She doesn't give up!" She kept right on reaching and grabbing, and making sucky faces.



Maybe if Dev held her in a different position, Sofie wouldn't get ideas?

Finally, Sofie fell asleep in Dev's arms, Cheryl fell back to sleep in her bed, and I figured it was time for the Big Turd and I to pack it up and go home. So I let Dev wheel her sister back to the nursery, and we left.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

(KEITH) The deal from way back in 1992 was that I got to name the first girl and Cheryl got to name the first boy. This also meant that whoever didn't get to name the first child definitely got to name the second.

This meant that it was Cheryl's turn to name the kid. She liked Sophia for a girl because it was Greek for "wisdom." Yeah, I know, like we really need one more wise guy in this house. Ruth came from her mother's middle name.

I was a little concerned about the name Sophia because I'd recently seen quite a few of them coming through MPH, and I remembered that one of the reasons I picked the name Devra was because you wouldn't be seeing a whole lot of duplicates - at least, not outside of Tel Aviv.

When I checked things out at **babynames.com**, not only was Sophia in the top 100 names for 2001, but at #44, it was in the top 50! It was a really popular name. So just to make it a little different, we decided to spell it with an "f" instead of a "ph."

Now, for one brief moment there, we had considered the name Elisa, which not only isn't anywhere at all in the top 100, but isn't even in the database (although Alyssa is #25). However when all was said and done, and I asked Cheryl what the kid's name was, she said, "Her name is Sofia Ruth."

And that's the way it is.



You are invited to the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for

Sofia Ruth Gatling

Sunday October 13, 2002 at 10.45a

**King of Kings Lutheran Church
8278 Oswego Road
Liverpool, NY**

Need more info on our latest addition? Check out her website at:

**home.twcny.rr.com/gatling/
sofia**

New pictures will appear on a regular basis.