

# DOCTORS TOLD ME MY BABY GIRL WAS REALLY A BOY!

by SARAH DAVID-FORTEZ

MOTHERHOOD is wonderful. Although, being pregnant was not. All I recall was that the first six months consisted of nausea, sickness and throwing up, plus a growing, swollen belly. Luckily, I survived through it and was rewarded with a beautiful baby girl named Celina Nicole David Fortez. Although I have to admit that we thought that it would be a boy. In fact, everything from the bassinet, the socks, the sheets, the pacifier to the teddy bear was blue. Of course, either a girl or a boy, the baby is ours to love.

Of course, in the beginning, a newborn baby with the most powerful, deafening, screaming voice is not that cute. Especially since she would keep me up most of the night and make me look like a zombie by the daytime. As they say, raising a baby is a 25-hour job. However, I was able to survive this ordeal. One way to keep her voice down was to roll her over so that her chest was flat on the bed and her head was on her side. Amazingly, her vocal chords would weaken and she would eventually fall asleep. Of course, I made sure that she could breathe properly.

I also realized that babies are most of the time hungry. The moment you feed them milk, they calm down. And since most of the time, she would cry, I'd make sure that she'd get that milk going. Of

course, I realized that it was making my baby grow twice as big as she should have been. She really plumped up and grew long. Many are surprised that she is only three months old.

But one thing that amazes me is how a baby can burp like a full-grown teenager. I would bounce her around and she would suddenly let out this overwhelmingly loud burp that would startle a lot of people. Since I would be caught in an embarrassing situation, I'd pretend to scold her loud enough just so that the crowd would know that it's the baby who did the burping.

My baby looks a lot like her father. In fact, they would say that she looks like her father except for the eyes. But I didn't think that people would actually believe that she was a boy like her father. Some people would pinch her cheeks and giggle, "*Ang guapo!*" (how handsome). I'd just have to smile and say, "Yeah, she's pretty, right?" After a few more comments like that, I immediately had her ears pierced and dressed her up in clothes with laces and frills.

Oh well, I am still adjusting and learning new things about my baby every day. Don't get me wrong. It is not easy to raise a child, but it's definitely worth it. **LL**



## I REMEMBER WHEN...

by Rory Laico Packwood

### CHICHO...

- was just a voice in the dark, in the girl's room in a corner. He would be talking to Tonnette curled up in a corner and Ching would get so mad at him because he was disturbing her sleep, or because she wanted to use the phone too.

- would play basketball with his friends and Mommy would always say that Bombing was a good match for Bibot.

### PEEWEE...

- would hate to play the piano for guests whenever Mommy wanted to show her off. I felt sorry for her.

- would pick me up from my kindergarten class when she was only in the second grade and play big mommy to me and help me buy my cornnuts for recess.

- won a piano contest at thirteen and that's when it dawned on me that she must really be good.

- always had the most imaginative make believe furniture for her paper doll houses.